

***NightWorld***  
***a You Connection film***

THE FIRE KEEPERS:

Copper. . . .**Samuel Ea**  
Scarlet. . .**Catelyn Lawrence**  
Gizmo. . . .**Emma Rogers**  
Knuckles. . . **Josh Mahoney**  
Digit. . . .**Greyson Ea**  
Cork. . . .**Jae Alft**  
Calico. . . .**Emily Glover**

WICK'S GANG:

Wick. . . .**Andrea Malcolm**  
Nicknack. . . **Grant Malcolm**  
Page. . . .**Hadley Kate**  
Trinket. . . .**Elana Ebensberger**  
Sparrow. . . .**Kate Pritchett**  
Penny. . . .**Lainey Gerard**

THE FACULTY:

Headmaster Brimstone. . . .**Matt Kramer**  
Mrs. Dithers. . . .**Molly May Rockwell**  
Miss Bitter. . . .**Natalie Kramer**

THE MEAN GIRLS:

Griselda. . . .**Amelie Lopez**  
Gretel. . . .**Elyse Jewel**

THE KERYGMA REVOLUTIONARIES:

Magnesium. . . .**Ashley Tone**  
Ember. . . .**Cora Gordon**  
Flame. . . .**Jolie Lambert**  
Nimble. . . .**Jonathan Rizzo**  
Glow. . . .**Riley Unterbug**

## MUSICAL NUMBERS:

"Shine". . . . Copper (**Samuel Ea**)  
 Scarlet (**Catelyn Lawrence**)  
 Gizmo (**Emma Rogers**)  
 Knuckles (**Josh Mahoney**)  
 Digit (**Greyson Ea**)  
 Cork (**Jae Alft**)  
 Calico (**Emily Glover**)

"Thank You, Steven Engel". .Brimstone (**Matt Kramer**)  
 Mrs. Dithers (**Molly May Rockwell**)  
 Miss Bitter (**Natalie Kramer**)

"Starless Night". . . .Wick (**Andrea Malcolm**)

"All Fall Down". . . .Griselda (**Amelie Lopez**)  
 Gretel (**Elyse Jewel**)

"I Will Stand". . . .Scarlet (**Catelyn Lawrence**)

"Sing if You're Glad to Be Saved". . .Gizmo (**Emma Rogers**)

"Magnesium's Song". . . .Magnesium (**Ashley Tone**)

"Possibility". . . . Wick (**Andrea Malcolm**)  
 Scarlet (**Catelyn Lawrence**)  
 Nicknack (**Grant Malcolm**)  
 Page (**Hadley Kate**)  
 Trinket (**Elana Ebensberger**)  
 Sparrow (**Kate Pritchett**)  
 Penny (**Lainey Gerard**)

"Revolution Song". . . . Wick (**Andrea Malcolm**)  
 Nicknack (**Grant Malcolm**)  
 Page (**Hadley Kate**)  
 Trinket (**Elana Ebensberger**)  
 Sparrow (**Kate Pritchett**)  
 Penny (**Lainey Gerard**)

"This Light of Mine". . .Magnesium (**Ashley Tone**)  
 Ember (**Cora Gordon**)  
 Flame (**Jolie Lambert**)  
 Nimble (**Jonathan Rizzo**)  
 Glow (**Riley Unterbug**)

"All Fall Down - Reprise". . .Griselda (**Amelie Lopez**)  
Gretel (**Elyse Jewel**)

"At the End of the Day". . .**Molly May Rockwell**

## SYNOPSIS &amp; CHARACTERS:

NightWorld is a ruined dystopian city where the sun no longer shines and "Light" is strictly forbidden (other than moonlight and starlight). The students at the crumbling NightWorld Academy secretly believe in the Light Who Has a Name (their reference to Christ), and begin to revolt against the sinister Headmaster Brimstone (who also runs the town), culminating in a revolution and a final showdown between light and dark.

The story is a springboard for presenting issues of religious rights, personal rights, standing for your faith, and a social commentary on our modern society as a whole.

**"THE FIRE KEEPERS":**

**COPPER (SAMUEL EA)** - leader of a student club that secretly believes in the "Light Who Has a Name", passionate and courageous and anxious to become a true revolutionary

**SCARLET (CATELYN LAWRENCE)** - well-liked and popular, honor roll student and class president, who grows in her faith when she realizes that standing for the Light actually costs her more than she thought

**GIZMO (EMMA ROGERS)** - the new student, a "nerd" sort and the only one to wear bright colors; a nonconformist who doesn't mind being different and has the courage to take a stand

**KNUCKLES (JOSH MAHONEY)** - the tough, sarcastic, cynical one of the group; he wears a patch over one eye

**DIGIT (GREYSON EA)** - brainy and studious, he is the keeper of the fragments (essentially, the pages of the Bible)

**CORK (JAE ALFT) & CALICO (EMILY GLOVER)** - the easygoing ones of the gang, followers and not leaders, who nevertheless stand by Copper throughout the revolution

**"WICK'S GANG":**

**WICK (ANDREA MALCOLM)** - feisty, courageous, and strong, she's been locked in Permanent Detention for seven months because she stood up for her faith in class

**PAGE (HADLEY KATE)** - Wick's brainy, book-loving best friend who ends up discovering the evidence of Brimstone's wrongdoing

**NICKNACK (GRANT MALCOLM)** - Wick's excitable and overdramatic friend, finding enjoyment in adventure and revolution

**TRINKET (ELANA EBENSBERGER)** - an older student who works in the school library and joins Wick's gang once the revolution begins

**SPARROW (KATE PRITCHETT) & PENNY (LAINEY GERARD)** - two of Wick's classmates, with Sparrow being the negative type and Penny being the positive type

**"THE FACULTY/ON THE RADIO":**

**HEADMASTER BRIMSTONE (MATT KRAMER)** - a gnarled, twisted, sinister man with a raspy voice who is literally wasting away in the dark, the champion of all that is dark and evil

**MRS. DITHERS (MOLLY MAY ROCKWELL)** - a stuttering, insecure, and slightly fumbling teacher who is secretly searching for evidence to prove Brimstone wrong and ends up joining the revolution

**MISS BITTER (NATALIE KRAMER)** - Brimstone's evil counterpart, a sinister teacher who essentially takes Brimstone's place in the end; unlike Brimstone, her darkness is quite elegant and beautiful

**"THE MEAN GIRLS":**

**GRISELDA (AMELIE LOPEZ) & GRETTEL (ELYSE JEWEL)** - the cool clique in school, who are trying way too hard to be cool, with Griselda as the sort of leader of the two; they compulsively steal since they are never caught in the dark, but end up siding with the revolutionaries and delight in being taken prisoner when they realize all the "cool people" in the Bible were imprisoned for their faith, too

**"THE KERYGMA REVOLUTIONARIES":**

**MAGNESIUM (ASHLEY TONE)** - the passionate, no-nonsense leader of the Kerygma Revolutionaries, a more radical group than the Fire Keepers who have been spreading propaganda about the Light Who Has a Name

**EMBER (CORA GORDON)** - the intelligent one of the group, the thinker who plans and strategizes for the group

**FLAME (JOLIE LAMBERT)** - the tough and serious-minded one of the group, the sort of girl who can easily rough up a boy

**NIMBLE (JONATHAN RIZZO)** - the "spy" of the group, who sneaks into places around town gathering information for the revolution

**GLOW (RILEY UNTERBUG)** - a go-between student who is friends with *all* the revolutionaries and knows what each group is doing

**"Shine"**

*Copper, Scarlet, Gizmo, Knuckles, Digit, Cork, Calico*

COPPER:

Whether you push me down  
Or keep me inside the line  
Gonna keep on standing  
And the light inside me's gonna shine  
Whether you turn away  
In the dark  
Of the night  
It shines as bright as day

SCARLET:

Whether you let me go  
Or whether you tie me down  
Gonna keep proclaiming  
And the whole wide world will hear the sound  
I can still scream and shout  
I don't care  
What you say  
I gotta let it out

COPPER, SCARLET:

My light's turned on and it's always gonna shine  
And I'll believe till the day I die

COPPER, SCARLET, GIZMO, KNUCKLES, DIGIT, CORK, CALICO:

Whether you lock me up  
Or whether you give or take  
Gonna keep on singing  
Till the prison doors begin to shake  
Not gonna play your game  
Standing strong  
All night long  
With my eternal flame

My light's turned on and it's always gonna shine  
And I'll believe

SCARLET:

Even if I die

**"Thank You, Steven Engel"**

*Mrs. Dithers, Miss Bitter, Mr. Brimstone*

BRIMSTONE:

Remember that time in '62  
When we decided that we were through  
With boys and girls praying in their schools  
We don't want little children praying in their schools  
So a man named Steven Engel changed the rules

MRS. DITHERS, BRIMSTONE:

Thank you, Steven Engel  
For what you had to do  
All the chaos and the trouble  
And the wreckage and the rubble  
Can be traced right back to you  
Three cheers for Mr. Engel  
Your monument withstood  
Taking God away from school that day  
Really did us a world of good

MRS. DITHERS:

Remove one brick from out the wall  
And even though it's very small  
That one little thing makes a big effect  
And before you know it, everything is wrecked  
Till the mess is greater than you could expect

BRIMSTONE:

That butterfly effect was true  
When prayer was nixed back in '62  
Now it's up for grabs at the drop of a hat  
Plan your parenthood or be this or that  
And like it or not, that's where we're at

MRS. DITHERS, MISS BITTER, BRIMSTONE:

Thank you, Steven Engel  
For what you had to do  
All the chaos and the trouble  
And the wreckage and the rubble  
Can be traced right back to you  
Three cheers for Mr. Engel  
Your monument withstood  
Taking God away from school that day  
Really did us a world of good



Thank you, Steven Engel  
And thank the courtroom, too  
One decision may be little  
But there's never an acquittal  
For the actions that you do  
In darkness, Mr. Engel,  
Our children know what's true  
When we see our school on the front page news  
We'll be sure to think of you

BRIMSTONE:

We beg thy blessings upon us, Mr. Engel

**"Starless Night"***Wick*

WICK:

Wish upon a starless night  
Hope forever there  
Crying for the morning light  
Is it anywhere

Every day in a dungeon  
Feel the cold, feel the chill  
Running through my hair  
Every night longing for the stars in the sky

Dream upon a starless night  
Is there hope for me  
Praying for the one true Light  
Come and set me free

Sleeping in this starless night  
When does morning come

**"All Fall Down"***Griselda, Gretel*

GRISELDA:

There's lots to be said for fun and games  
Who cares if you can't see a thing  
Teasing and joking and calling names  
Why can't life be a fling

GRETEL:

There's lots to be said for laziness  
Who cares about finding what's true  
Ring around rosies  
Pockets of posies  
Pleasures for me and for you

GRISELDA, GRETEL:

London bridges falling down  
All fall down

GRETEL:

There's lots to be said for shirking off  
For squandering all of your days  
Instead of just spending it working off  
Your humble and virtuous ways

GRISELDA:

There's lots to be said for selfishness  
For playing the part of the fool

GRISELDA, GRETEL:

Ring around rosies  
Pockets of posies  
Dark doesn't have to be cruel  
London bridges falling down  
All fall down

GRISELDA:

There's lots to be said for introspect  
Stay home and take care of yourself  
Keeping your heart and your intellect  
Locked away on the shelf

GRISELDA, GRETEL:

There's lots to be said for snatching up  
For grabbing and hoarding the lot  
Just let the world die  
As long as I've  
Got all of the things that I've got

London bridges falling down  
Crumbling upon the ground  
Every sight and every sound  
All fall down

**"I Will Stand"***Scarlet*

SCARLET:

Stand, when the world is sitting  
 Stand, when they're all forgetting  
 Who He is and what He's done for us  
 Rise, when the world is falling  
 Rise, when You hear Him calling  
 "Follow Me, I am the Light that can set you free"

I will stand, having done all, stand  
 Having lived all, stand  
 I have kept the faith  
 I have run the race  
 Till I see Your face  
 I'll stand, having done all, stand  
 Having lived all, stand  
 Till You say "well done,  
 Good and faithful one"  
 I will take my place and stand

Fight, when the world is winning  
 Light at the world's beginning  
 Shining like a beacon from my heart  
 Stand, when they persecute you  
 And try to convolute you  
 Look and see, He is the Light that can set you free

I will stand, having done all, stand  
 Having lived all, stand  
 I have kept the faith  
 I have run the race  
 Till I see Your face  
 I'll stand, having done all, stand  
 Having lived all, stand  
 Till You say "well done,  
 Good and faithful one"  
 I will take my place and stand

I will stand, having done all, stand  
 Having lived all, stand  
 I have kept the faith  
 I have run the race  
 Till I see Your face  
 I'll stand, having done all, stand

Having lived all, stand  
Till You say "well done,  
Good and faithful one"  
I will take my place and stand

**"Sing if You're Glad to Be Saved"***Gizmo*

GIZMO:

Sing if you're glad to be saved  
Sing if you're happy this way  
Our times have changed, and now it's strange  
When you say that you're glad to be saved

Decency, courtesy, sanity  
Mistook it for Christianity  
But godliness isn't just being polite  
It's giving your heart to the one true light  
So,

Sing if you're glad to be saved  
Sing if you're happy this way  
Our times have changed, and now it's strange  
When you say that you're glad to be saved

Society never was what it seemed  
An imperfect world isn't what you've dreamed  
So call me a freak when I say what's true  
I'm despised and rejected, but Jesus was, too  
So,

Sing if you're glad to be saved  
Sing if you're happy this way  
And I don't care if you call me strange  
When I say that I'm glad to be saved

**"Magnesium's Song"***Magnesium*

MAGNESIUM:

So many people say "that's what I should have done"  
I had my place in the race and I should have won  
But who's gonna reach the unreachable  
Who's gonna teach the unteachable  
Will it be you

Are you gonna be the one  
To take the final stand  
To make the choice  
To be the voice  
In a dark and dying land  
Standing in the dead of night  
To say "yes, I'll go"  
Into all the world to be His light  
Are you gonna stand the night

So many people lost in a hopeless dream  
Wandering, questioning what does this all mean  
So who's gonna go if we turn away  
Who's gonna be the one to say  
Will it be you

Are you gonna be the one  
To take the final stand  
To make the choice  
To be the voice  
In a dark and dying land  
Standing in the dead of night  
To say "yes, I'll go"  
Into all the world to be His light  
Are you gonna stand the night  
Lord, I am gonna stand the night



**"Possibility"**

*Nicknack, Page, Trinket, Sparrow, Penny, Wick, Scarlet*

NICKNACK:

It isn't that hard to believe in what you can't see  
Isn't that much of a stretch  
When you close your eyes you see  
The possibility  
Without the I or the M

PAGE:

It isn't that hard to have faith in what you don't know  
There isn't even a catch  
In your heart you believe and see  
The possibility  
When your eyes are on Him

NICKNACK, PAGE:

Impossibility, it's okay  
Just throw the I and the M away  
Then possibility isn't so hard to believe

NICKNACK, PAGE, TRINKET, PENNY:

Take a look at the wind when it blows  
Where it comes from nobody knows  
Do you say it's not there  
'Cause I can't see it with my eye  
But a bird can sure feel it  
When it starts to fly  
How do you know  
Because you believe

WICK:

It isn't that hard to believe in what you can't see  
When you get into the flow  
And you close your eyes and see  
The possibility  
There's just no other way

WICK, SCARLET:

It isn't that hard to have faith in what you don't know  
When you decide to let go  
Take a flying leap and see  
The possibility  
It's kinda crazy, but hey

WICK, SCARLET, NICKNACK, PAGE, TRINKET, PENNY:  
Impossibility, it's okay  
Just throw the I and the M away  
Then possibility isn't so hard to believe

SPARROW:  
Impossibility, it's okay  
Just throw the I and the M away

NICKNACK, PAGE, TRINKET, SPARROW, PENNY:  
Then possibility isn't so hard to believe

**"Revolution Song"**

*Wick, Page, Nicknack, Trinket, Sparrow, Penny*

WICK, PAGE, NICKNACK, TRINKET, SPARROW, PENNY:

Good evening, everybody  
Hope we haven't interrupted  
We know the game you're playing  
And it really isn't right  
When you're in the dark  
Then everything becomes corrupted  
Gotta find a way to get the Light

You can only be free when you turn the Light on  
Never will see till you turn the Light on  
Ready to fight for the one true Light  
Fierce and free 'cause we got the Light on

You think that those who find the Light  
Have given up their freedom  
But in the dark, you can't be free  
Because you cannot see  
Jesus said to spread the Light  
Disciple 'em and lead 'em  
Only then can you be really free

You can only be free when you turn the Light on  
Never will see till you turn the Light on  
Ready to fight for the one true Light  
Fierce and free 'cause we got the Light on  
We can see 'cause we got the Light on

**"This Light of Mine"**

*Magnesium, Ember, Flame, Glow, Nimble*

NIMBLE:

*This little light of mine  
I'm gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine  
I'm gonna let it shine*

**\* remainder of song sung a cappella \***

EMBER:

*This light of mine  
I'm gonna let it shine*

EMBER, MAGNESIUM, FLAME:

*This light of mine  
I'm gonna let it shine*

EMBER, MAGNESIUM, FLAME, GLOW:

*One thing they got so wrong  
When they wrote that song  
This light of mine isn't little  
My light is big  
My light is strong  
And you will see my light  
All night long*

**"All Fall Down - Reprise"***Griselda, Gretel*

GRISELDA:

There's lots to be said for doing right  
For finding the way that is straight  
That moment you finally see the Light  
And realize He's actually great

GRETEL:

There's lots to be said for sacrifice  
For giving it up for a friend  
Persecution's not always nice  
But you get a reward in the end

GRISELDA, GRETEL:

Silas and Paul really took a lick  
So in God we certainly trust  
If you wanna be cool in this godly clique  
It's Foxe's Book or bust

London bridges falling down  
Once were lost but now we're found  
In locks and chains we'll keep the world  
From falling down

**"At the End of the Day" (end credits)***Molly May Rockwell*

Do you hear the sound of abundance of rain  
I see the storm coming over us  
Down and down the rain comes down  
And the winds blow everything all around  
Did you built it on sand  
Or upon the rock  
At the end of the day  
Will you stand at the end of the day

Scn 1

A HAZE OF SMOKE. A LOW RUMBLE. FIRST WE HEAR SOFT, DISTANT CHANTING OF STUDENTS PRAYING THE SCHOOL PRAYER FROM THE FAMOUS CASE IN 1962:

STUDENTS (VOICEOVER): Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers, and our country.

WE NOW MAKE OUT THE IMAGE OF A DARK, RUINED CITY, FULL OF GARBAGE AND RUBBISH, AND CRUMBLING BUILDINGS- A MURKY, GRIM PLACE THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP CLEAN BECAUSE EVERYTHING IS IN SHADOW. IS THIS AN APOCALYPTIC FUTURE? IS THIS A DYSTOPIAN AMERICA? (THE LATTER IS STRONGLY IMPLIED THROUGH THE DIALOGUE AND A RECURRING RED, WHITE, AND BLUE COLOR ARRANGEMENT IN VARIOUS SPOTS ALL THROUGHOUT THE FILM.)

THE STORY THAT UNFOLDS IS HIGHLY STYLIZED, A DESATURATED, ALMOST COLORLESS WORLD FULL OF NARROW, CLAUSTROPHOBIC HALLWAYS, SCRATCHY IMAGES, DISTORTED ANGLES, ETC.

THE PEOPLE OF NIGHTWORLD ARE DRESSED IN DRAB, MUTED COLORS AND SLIGHTLY WORN CLOTHES, WITH WILD, UNKEPT HAIR, BECAUSE IT'S VERY HARD TO SEE IN THE DIM LIGHT.

WICK'S VOICE SOFTLY WHISPERS, QUOTING JOHN 3:20-21:

WICK (VOICEOVER): "Everyone practicing evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, or else his deeds might be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God." . . . There was a time when everything changed, and the land was covered in darkness. Where light was strictly forbidden. . . . My city. Or maybe yours. Maybe we all live in a place called NightWorld.

Scn 2

TITLE APPEARS, AND "SHINE" BEGINS.

Scn 2

AS THE OPENING SONG UNFOLDS, WE ARE INTRODUCED TO **COPPER (SAMUEL EA)**, SITTING AGAINST THE WALL, PROFILED:

COPPER:

Whether you push me down  
Or keep me inside the line  
Gonna keep on standing  
And the light inside me's gonna shine  
Whether you turn away  
In the dark  
Of the night  
It shines as bright as day

NEXT WE GO TO **SCARLET (CATELYN LAWRENCE)**, LEANING  
AGAINST THE WALL, LOST IN THOUGHT:

SCARLET:

Whether you let me go  
Or whether you tie me down  
Gonna keep proclaiming  
And the whole wide world will hear the sound  
I can still scream and shout  
I don't care  
What you say  
I gotta let it out

COPPER, SCARLET:

My light's turned on and it's always gonna shine  
And I'll believe till the day I die

AND AS THE SONG CONTINUES, WE CATCH GLIMPSES OF THE  
REST OF THE "FIRE KEEPERS" GANG, ALSO IN ISOLATED  
CORNERS OF THE SCHOOL HALLWAYS: **KNUCKLES (JOSH  
MAHONEY)**, **DIGIT (GREYSON EA)**, **CORK (JAE ALFT)**, **CALICO  
(EMILY GLOVER)**. AND WE ALSO SEE **GIZMO (EMMA ROGERS)**,  
THE NEW KID IN SCHOOL, WHO ALSO SINGS:

COPPER, SCARLET, GIZMO, KNUCKLES, DIGIT, CORK, CALICO:

Whether you lock me up  
Or whether you give or take  
Gonna keep on singing  
Till the prison doors begin to shake  
Not gonna play your game  
Standing strong  
All night long  
With my eternal flame

My light's turned on and it's always gonna shine  
And I'll believe



SCARLET:  
Even if I die

**Scn 3**

AS SCARLET FINISHES THIS LAST LINE IN CLOSEUP, WE CUT BACK TO REVEAL THE FIRE KEEPERS- COPPER, KNUCKLES, DIGIT, CORK, CALICO- ARE NOW MEETING, IN A CLUTTERED AND FORGOTTEN CORNER OF THE SCHOOL.

**Scn 3**

SCARLET: (SLIGHTLY HUSHED) Please say somebody found the final fragment.

KNUCKLES: Not yet. Could be anywhere.

DIGIT: We'll find it, Knuckles.

COPPER: Some fragments talk about Him being a savior. And others talk about light. It's obvious. He is the light. They're one and the same thing. I know it.

CORK: But we don't have proof, Copper!

CALICO: Yeah, and without proof, how can we possibly be sure?

SCARLET: The proof is in the final fragment. It's got to be here somewhere. . . .And we have to find it.

**Scn 4**

INT - SCHOOL HALLWAY

**Scn 4**

GIZMO STANDS IN A BLEAK, NARROW HALLWAY, LOOKING CONFUSED ON HER FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL AT NIGHTWORLD ACADEMY.

SHE NOTICES A SIGN ON THE WALL WITH CROOKED LETTERING, READING: CLASSROOM 1A, LEVEL 1, CLASSROOM 2A, LEVEL 2, ETC. GIZMO FINDS THE LOCATION OF CLASSROOM 3A, WHICH IS THE LOCATION ON HER SCHOOL SCHEDULE.

SHE HURRIES OFF.

Scn 5

EXT - NIGHTWORLD ACADEMY

Scn 5

SUBTITLE FLASHES UP: "NIGHTWORLD ACADEMY"

THE OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL IS A DISMAL, CRUMBLING BUILDING IN THE CENTER OF THE DARK, EERIE CITY. THE SCHOOL BELL RINGS, THOUGH THERE SEEMS TO BE VERY FEW PEOPLE ACTUALLY REMAINING IN THE TOWN, DESPITE FACTORY NOISE AND THE RUMBLE OF A SUBWAY- A CITY CAVING IN ON ITSELF.

Scn 6

INT - CLASSROOM 3A

Scn 6

GIZMO SITS DOWN IN THE ROOM, WHICH HAS CHAIRS CLUTTERED TOGETHER IN A DISORGANIZED WAY, AND ONLY A FEW STUDENTS, INCLUDING THE "FIRE KEEPERS", WHO ARE ALL TALKING TO ONE ANOTHER. GIZMO'S PRESENCE HASN'T BEEN NOTICED.

BUT ALSO SITTING DOWN IN THE ROOM ARE TWO COOL GIRLS, **GRISELDA (AMELIE LOPEZ)** AND **GRETEL (ELYSE JEWEL)**, WHO ARE OBVIOUSLY THE "MEAN GIRLS" OF THE SCHOOL.

GRISELDA: I totally can't believe we got flunked out of geology. I mean, I totally can't believe it.

GRETEL: Did we ever take geology?

GRISELDA: I don't know. Why do I always have to know everything? Why can't you ever know something?

GRETEL: Because I can't see anything in here. Ugh! I hate living in NightWorld!

GRISELDA: Um, hello? Earth to Gretel. We love living in NightWorld.

GRETEL: Oh, really? And why is that?

GRISELDA: Because you can get away with anything in the dark and nobody notices.

GRETEL GLANCES OVER AT GIZMO.

GRETEL: New kid.

GRISELDA GLANCES AT GIZMO, AND THROWS A PAPER WAD AT HER.

GIZMO: Hey!

GRISELDA: (SARCASTIC) Welcome to NightWorld Academy. Love the glasses.

GIZMO ROLLS HER EYES.

**MRS. DITHERS (MOLLY MAY ROCKWELL)**, A NERVOUS AND SOMEWHAT FUMBLING TEACHER, ENTERS THE ROOM.

MRS. DITHERS: Um, okay, can I have everyone's attention please? Everyone? Um, please?

THE STUDENTS FINALLY QUIET DOWN.

MRS. DITHERS: Well, welcome back. I hope everyone had a great summer. . . . I know I did. . . .

LONG PAUSE. DID ANYONE REALLY HAVE A GREAT SUMMER IN A LAND THAT IS ENDLESSLY DARK?

MRS. DITHERS: Well, before we begin, Mr. Brimstone would like to say a few words.

A MONITOR, HANGING CROOKED ON THE WALL, FUZZES TO LIFE, AND THE IMAGE OF **HEADMASTER BRIMSTONE (MATT KRAMER)** APPEARS. HE IS A GNARLED, CRIPPLED, MISERABLE HUMAN BEING WITH A SINISTER, RASPY VOICE.

THE STUDENTS FEAR HIM AND ARE ALSO REPULSED BY HIM.

BRIMSTONE: For those of you joining us for the new year, I am Headmaster Brimstone, and I want to welcome you to NightWorld Academy.

CUT TO TEACHER'S LOUNGE (WHERE BRIMSTONE IS ACTUALLY SEATED, DOING THE FEED).

BRIMSTONE: Your education is very important to us. But first and foremost, some house rules. We do not allow any light in this school, or in all of NightWorld, for that matter.

CUT TO ANOTHER CLASSROOM

THE VIDEO FEED IS SHOWING ALL OVER THE SCHOOL, INCLUDING ANOTHER CLASSROOM WHERE WE BRIEFLY MEET FIVE OTHER STUDENTS (WHOM WE WILL SEE LATER): **NICKNACK (GRANT MALCOLM), PAGE (HADLEY KATE), TRINKET (ELANA EBENSBERGER), SPARROW (KATE PRITCHETT), AND PENNY (LAINEY GERARD).**

BRIMSTONE: Moonlight and starlight are enough for us, as they are part of the night.

BACK TO CLASSROOM 3A

BRIMSTONE: Candles, lamps, flashlights are all strictly forbidden. The sun never shines in this corner of the world, and we are very thankful for it.

AS BRIMSTONE SAYS THIS OVER THE VIDEO FEED, GIZMO GLANCES DOWN AT THE FLASHLIGHT SHE HAS IN HER POCKET.

BRIMSTONE: Anyone who dares to mention the "L" word will be immediately placed in Permanent Detention. And you hardly want that, I assure you. After all, the benefits of-

A WHISPERED VOICE SUDDENLY ECHOES INSIDE THE ASSEMBLY HALL; NOBODY KNOWS WHERE IT IS COMING FROM.

WICK (VOICEOVER, WHISPERED, ECHOED): "In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. . ."  
(JOHN 1:5)

THE FIRE KEEPS ESPECIALLY EXCHANGE GLANCES, RECOGNIZING THOSE PASSAGES FROM THE FRAGMENTS.

BACK TO TEACHER'S LOUNGE

BRIMSTONE SEEMS TO HAVE HEARD THE VOICE AS WELL.

BRIMSTONE: (MOVING ON) After all, the benefits of living in the dark are much better.

"THANK YOU, STEVEN ENGEL" BEGINS.

BRIMSTONE: And you'll learn more about that this year at NightWorld Academy, where students start out enlightened and end up, well, in the dark, if you'll forgive the pun.

Scn 7

WE CUT TO A SERIES OF SHOTS OF THE FACULTY STARTING THE SCHOOL YEAR, ESSENTIALLY TEACHING WHAT THEY ARE SINGING ABOUT. DURING THIS WE MEET ANOTHER TEACHER, THE DARK AND MORBID **MISS BITTER (NATALIE KRAMER)**.

Scn 7

BRIMSTONE:

Remember that time in '62  
When we decided that we were through  
With boys and girls praying in their schools  
We don't want little children praying in their schools  
So a man named Steven Engel changed the rules

MRS. DITHERS, BRIMSTONE:

Thank you, Steven Engel  
For what you had to do  
All the chaos and the trouble  
And the wreckage and the rubble  
Can be traced right back to you  
Three cheers for Mr. Engel  
Your monument withstood  
Taking God away from school that day  
Really did us a world of good

MRS. DITHERS:

Remove one brick from out the wall  
And even though it's very small  
That one little thing makes a big effect  
And before you know it, everything is wrecked  
Till the mess is greater than you could expect

BRIMSTONE:

That butterfly effect was true  
 When prayer was nixed back in '62  
 Now it's up for grabs at the drop of a hat  
 Plan your parenthood or be this or that  
 And like it or not, that's where we're at

MRS. DITHERS, MISS BITTER, BRIMSTONE:

Thank you, Steven Engel  
 For what you had to do  
 All the chaos and the trouble  
 And the wreckage and the rubble  
 Can be traced right back to you  
 Three cheers for Mr. Engel  
 Your monument withstood  
 Taking God away from school that day  
 Really did us a world of good

Thank you, Steven Engel  
 And thank the courtroom, too  
 One decision may be little  
 But there's never an acquittal  
 For the actions that you do  
 In darkness, Mr. Engel,  
 Our children know what's true  
 When we see our school on the front page news  
 We'll be sure to think of you

BRIMSTONE:

We beg thy blessings upon us, Mr. Engel.

**Scn 8** CUT BACK IMMEDIATELY TO

**Scn 8**

INT - CLASSROOM 3A

MRS. DITHERS CONTINUES WITH HER CLASS.

MRS. DITHERS: Who can tell me what  
 collectivism is? Anyone?

GIZMO RAISES HER HAND.

MRS. DITHERS: Gizmo! Thank you for  
 raising your hand. This is Gizmo. She's  
 new to NightWorld Academy this year.  
 So, can you tell us what collectivism is?

GIZMO: (SARCASTIC BUT TRUE) It's being a part of the popular group instead of being yourself.

A GIGGLE FROM SOMEWHERE IN THE CLASS.

MRS. DITHERS: Um. . .Well, no. It's not quite like that. (LOOKS AT DEFINITION ON BOARD) It's the practice or principle of making a *group* the priority over the individual.

CALICO: But doesn't that mean this classroom is more important than my individual rights?

DIGIT:: Yeah, I mean, what if the whole group does something wrong? Does that mean I have to take the blame for something the entire group did?

CALICO: Is that even morally right?

MRS. DITHERS: (GETTING FLUSTERED) No! I mean, well, yes, it. . .Look, the point is, this is how NightWorld is able to function. We live together in the dark because we have collectivism. We think the same way and believe the same things.

COPPER: (HE KNOWS HE'S CONTRADICTING MRS. DITHERS) And if you don't believe what the rest of the group believes. . . . What then?

SCARLET, ALSO IN THE CLASS, LOOKS AT COPPER, THEN AT MRS. DITHERS. MRS. DITHERS IS A LITTLE STUMPED ON THIS ONE.

MRS. DITHERS: Well, I. . .Right. Chapter Thirty-three. . .

**Scn 9** INT - SCHOOL HALLWAY

**Scn 9**

SCARLET HEARS A COMMOTION, AND HURRIES UP TO WHERE GRISELDA AND GRETEL ARE BULLYING GIZMO.

GIZMO: Stop it, you guys!

GRISELDA: Well, hand it over like a good little girl and we will stop it!

SCARLET INTERVENES.

SCARLET: Hey, cut it out! Leave her alone!

GRISELDA: Oh, look, it's the grand exalted class president.

SCARLET: I said stop it, Griselda.

GRISELDA GLARES AT SCARLET, THEN LOOKS AT GIZMO.

GRISELDA: Thanks for the lunch money.

GRETSEL HANDS HER THE MONEY AND THE TWO GO STRUTTING OFF DOWN THE HALL. GIZMO SIGHS ANGRILY AND STARTS PICKING ALL HER BOOKS AND PAPERS FROM OFF THE FLOOR. SCARLET HELPS.

SCARLET: Hey, I'm sorry about all that.

GIZMO: What for? I'm the one who always gets picked on. This school is no different than the last one. . . .

SCARLET: I'm Scarlet, by the way.

GIZMO: Yeah, yeah, and I guess now I know you're class president, too. My life is surrounded by popular girls.

SCARLET: I'm not like Griselda and Gretel. (THINKS A MOMENT) Hey, do you want to come to the Fire Keepers club? We meet every Friday night. We'd love to have you.

SCARLET HANDS GIZMO A FLYER.

SCARLET: It's just a student club.

GIZMO: Sure, I always love a club with a swear word in it. Classy.



SCARLET: (GETTING UP) "Fire" isn't a swear word. Not in our neck of the woods, anyway.

SCARLET WALKS OFF. GIZMO IS ACTUALLY QUITE CURIOUS ABOUT THIS CLUB. ONCE SCARLET IS GONE, SHE SECRETLY PULLS OUT HER SMALL FLASHLIGHT, WONDERING IF THIS GROUP HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH "LIGHT".

GIZMO: (SARCASTIC, TO HERSELF) Well, Gizmo, what have you got to lose? You'll probably end up in Permanent Detention someday anyway.

Scn 10

CUT IMMEDIATELY TO "STARLESS NIGHT" CUE AS WE MOVE IN ON

Scn 10

THE LOCKED DOOR TO THE DETENTION WARD

AS THE SONG BEGINS, WE DISSOLVE TO:

INT - PERMANENT DETENTION

THE WARD IS A CLUTTERED, MESSY PRISON CELL WITH A MOUND OF DISUSED FURNITURE, AND SITTING THERE IS **WICK (ANDREA MALCOLM)**, A YOUNGER STUDENT THAN THE FIRE KEEPERS.

WICK:  
Wish upon a starless night  
Hope forever there  
Crying for the morning light  
Is it anywhere

Every day in a dungeon  
Feel the cold, feel the chill  
Running through my hair  
Every night longing for the stars in the sky

WICK PULLS OUT AN "OLD BOOK" (THE BIBLE) AND HOLDS IT CLOSE.

WICK:  
Dream upon a starless night  
Is there hope for me  
Praying for the one true Light  
Come and set me free

Sleeping in this starless night  
When does morning come

WICK STANDS UP, LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW. WE CUT TO

AN EXTERIOR LONG SHOT OF HER WINDOW, HIGH UP IN THE  
CRUMBLING ACADEMY BUILDING.

SHE GOES BACK TO HER SCHOOLWORK, WHEN THE SOUND OF THE  
DOOR SQUEAKING OPEN SIGNALS THE ARRIVAL OF MISS  
BITTER.

MISS BITTER: Have you finished your  
schoolwork, as you were told?

WICK: Yes, ma'am.

MISS BITTER TAKES WICK'S PAPERS AND LOOKS AT THEM.

MISS BITTER: Yes, this appears to be  
quite satisfactory. Mr. Brimstone would  
like a few words with you.

MR. BRIMSTONE ENTERS. WICK STANDS UP, LOOKING LIKE SHE  
IS BOTH AFRAID OF BRIMSTONE BUT ALSO PREPARED TO STAND  
FIRM.

MISS BITTER EXITS.

BRIMSTONE: Thank you, Miss Bitter. Well,  
well, if it isn't little Wick, all alone  
in Permanent Detention. Oh my goodness,  
what are we to do? Keeping busy with our  
assignments? They never end in Permanent  
Detention, all day, every day. Is it really  
worth all that trouble, one has to ask  
oneself?

WICK: I'm really busy, Mr. Brimstone. Is  
there something you wanted?

BRIMSTONE: Now, that sounds like the  
darling little Wick we all know and love.  
Straight to the point, as usual. The fact  
of the matter is, I did not come all the  
way to the detention ward simply for the  
pleasure of seeing your smiling face. I

came to issue a proposal which might relieve you of the obligations of your present situation. But those are big words for a young girl. Should I perhaps use smaller ones?

WICK: You want to strike a bargain with me.

BRIMSTONE: Clever girl. Yes, you understand my purpose entirely.

WICK: (PURPOSELY RESPONDING WITH A WORDY ANSWER) Well, I regretfully decline the particulars of your proposal at the risk of terminating the intended revocation of my present circumstance and obligations.

BRIMSTONE SMILES.

BRIMSTONE: Am I to take that as a no?

WICK: Take it any way you like, sir. For the final time, I will not deny my faith.

BRIMSTONE: You're a silly, stupid girl. Do you really mean to spend the rest of your life here in Permanent Detention? If you had a mother and father, I'm sure they'd have a thing or two to say about it. But what about your friends? I'm sure they miss you. It's not too late.

WICK REMAINS SILENT AND STRONG.

BRIMSTONE: Why are you in Permanent Detention?

WICK: Because I believe in the Light.

BRIMSTONE: And?

WICK: I believe the Light has a name.

BRIMSTONE: And?

WICK: His name is Jesus Christ.

BRIMSTONE: And when you learn never to mention that name in public, we'll let you out again.

Scn 11

INT - SCHOOL HALLWAY - CORNER

Scn 11

IN A CORNER OF THE HALL, IN AMONGST A CLUTTER OF STACKED CHAIRS, ARE TWO OF WICK'S BEST FRIENDS, NICKPACK AND PAGE, SURROUNDED BY BOOKS. PAGE IS EAGERLY READING, WHILE NICKNACK, ALSO READING, IS LOOKING VERY CONFUSED. SPARROW AND PENNY ARE ALSO READING BESIDE THEM.

NICKNACK: What are we doing again?

PAGE: Reading.

NICKNACK: Well, I know that! But why?

PAGE: We're trying to come up with a cunning plan to get Wick out of Permanent Detention.

NICKNACK: Oh.

NICKNACK THINKS ABOUT THIS SOME MORE. HE REALLY CAN'T SEE HOW READING BOOKS IS HELPING ANYTHING. HE TRIES GETTING THE ANSWER ANOTHER WAY.

NICKNACK: (WITH A LAUGH) Ha-ha, yeah, that's hilarious! For a second I thought we were just sitting here reading books while Wick is locked up in Permanent Detention! That's classic. . . .

PAGE: You got it, now shhh. I'm trying to read.

ANOTHER PAUSE. FINALLY NICKNACK IS FED UP.

NICKNACK: (OUTRAGED) Why are we reading books while Wick is locked up in Permanent Detention?! Will you just tell me?!!

PAGE: Because we're looking for evidence to prove they're doing something wrong. They've got no right to keep Wick a prisoner, and I know we can prove it. Legal documents, anything!

TRINKET APPROACHES, HANDING A HEAVY BOX OF BOOKS TO NICKNACK. NICKNACK BEGINS WOBBLING WITH THE LOAD OF HEAVY BOOKS.

TRINKET: Okay, this is all I could find in the library. I want to help Wick as much as I can, but I've really got to study for my exams.

PAGE: You're good, thanks.

NICKNACK: Aaagh!!

STRUGGLING WITH THE HEAVY BOOKS, NICKNACK TOPPLES OVER WITH A CRASH!

PAGE: (IRRITATED) I think we're due for a break, anyway.

NICKNACK, OFF-SCREEN, GROANS LOUDLY.

**Scn 12**

INT - TEACHER'S LOUNGE

**Scn 12**

MR. BRIMSTONE IS SITTING AROUND THE TABLE AT A TEACHER'S CONFERENCE, WITH MRS. DITHERS AND MISS BRITTLE.

MRS. DITHERS: Well, look, all I'm saying is, well, it might be a little unfair keeping Wick in Permanent Detention. I mean, it's been what, six months?

MISS BITTER: Seven months, but who's counting?

MRS. DITHERS: Well, you are, obviously.

MISS BITTER: You forget, Mrs. Dithers, it was during my class period that Wick refused to recite "A Requiem for Darkness", a classic poem, I might add. She said it "offended her beliefs". Wick is serving as a wonderful example of what happens in NightWorld when people decide not to conform.

BRIMSTONE: Was there anything else on the agenda, Mrs. Dithers?

MRS. DITHERS FUMBLES THROUGH HER PAPERS.

MRS. DITHERS: Oh! Um, hang on a sec, um. . . Well, it's a little hard to see. Has anyone got a li-

SHE CATCHES HERSELF.

MRS. DITHERS: I mean. . . Well, I'm sure it's nothing really important or anything, I mean, I. . . .

BRIMSTONE: Miss Bitter did follow correct school policy, Mrs. Dithers.

MISS BITTER LOOKS PLEASED AT THIS, AS IF SHE ENJOYS BEING THE STAFF MEMBER WHO IS ALWAYS ON BRIMSTONE'S SIDE.

BRIMSTONE: These are the laws that we abide by in NightWorld. And we must keep them. We're a city that thrives on darkness, a people who delight in living their lives under the cloak of shadows. Wick is far too intelligent, and she doesn't just believe in Light. She knows His name. And we can't have that. If light and dark ever faced one another in this city, it would mean a revolution far greater than anything the world has ever seen.

THIS SPARKS A FEW CURIOUS THOUGHTS IN MRS. DITHERS' MIND.

MISS BITTER: Mrs. Dithers, do you have a list of all the student clubs?

MRS. DITHERS HANDS HER A PIECE OF PAPER.

MISS BITTER: Thank you, dear.

MRS. DITHERS: Is there. . .Why do you want to know about the clubs?

MISS BITTER: (WITH A COLD SMILE) Only curious.

DISSOLVE TO:

**Scn 13**

INT - HALLWAY

**Scn 13**

ZOOM IN ON A POSTER FOR THE "FIRE KEEPERS" STUDENT CLUB.

DISSOLVE TO:

A BACK ROOM SOMEWHERE IN THE SCHOOL

SITTING IN A CIRCLE IN A DARK, LONELY ROOM IN THE SCHOOL, IS THE "FIRE KEEPERS" CLUB- COPPER, SCARLET, KNUCKLES, DIGIT, CORK, AND CALICO- ALONG WITH GIZMO.

COPPER: Right, well, the meeting of the Fire Keepers has begun, and let's welcome our newest member. I think we all know Gizmo.

CALICO: Yeah, the school nerd.

CORK: Okay, I can't believe you just said that, Calico.

CALICO: No, I didn't mean- Like in a good way! I mean, we're nerds, too.

CORK: Excuse me? Who says I'm a nerd?

CALICO: Oh. Well, I don't know how to tell you this, Cork, but half the football team says that you-

CORK: Who cares?! I don't even play sports!

SCARLET: (CHANGING SUBJECTS) Hi, Gizmo, it was good of you to come. No matter what label you want to give yourself. (GLARES AT CORK AND CALICO)

CALICO: Yeah, hey, look, I didn't mean to offend you with-

GIZMO: It's okay, I'm used to it. No prob. So, you guys believe in the Light?

THERE IS A SHARP SILENCE; THEY WEREN'T EXPECTING GIZMO TO CATCH ON SO QUICKLY AND DON'T KNOW WHAT HER RESPONSE WILL BE.

KNUCKLES: (SARCASTIC TO SCARLET) Uh-oh. Nice goin', Scarlet. Try screening these people before you bring them into the club.

GIZMO: No, no, it's okay! (PULLS OUT FLASHLIGHT) I believe in the Light, too. I just can't believe that. . .Well, I mean, this is illegal, and worse, it's totally against school policy.

COPPER: We got the okay to use the word "fire" because it's scientific. So far nobody knows what we really talk about in this club.

GIZMO: You talk about Him? The Light Who Has a Name?

COPPER: You got it.

GIZMO: (EAGERLY) But do you guys believe He really exists?

DIGIT PULLS OUT A WHOLE PILE OF PAPER FRAGMENTS.

DIGIT: Of course we do. These are fragments from an old Book that was banished from NightWorld a long time ago. . . .A Book about the Light Who Has a Name.



SCARLET: There's one missing fragment that we can't seem to find. It'll give us the proof we need.

COPPER: Yeah, well, how would you like it if I told you I found the final fragment?

HE PULLS OUT A SMALL CRUMPLED PAPER.

CALICO: Copper! Why didn't you say so from the start?

KNUCKLES: Anybody could forge a fragment. How do you know it's the real thing?

COPPER: Are you always in a bad mood, Knuckles, or is it just on Friday nights?

KNUCKLES: Look, I'm just saying, all right-

COPPER: (OVERLAPPING) Of course it's the real thing!

SCARLET: Shhh! What do you think, Digit?

DIGIT EXAMINES THE FRAGMENT.

DIGIT: Looks authentic to me. (READING IT)  
"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

THIS EXCITES THE GROUP, LIKE FINDING THE FINAL PIECE TO A PUZZLE.

COPPER: So it's true. He said it from His own mouth. He's the Savior and He's the Light. We keep following Him and He'll put an end to darkness forever.

GIZMO: Whoa, whoa, what are you talking about? A revolution or something?

COPPER: If it comes to that, yeah! We at least need to make some kind of statement or something!

KNUCKLES: What are we stating, exactly?

COPPER: Our belief in the existence of the Light Who Has a Name!

KNUCKLES: You're willing to get sent to Permanent Detention, or even jail, just to make a statement about our faith?

COPPER: Why not? The Kerygma Revolutionaries have been doing it for years!

KNUCKLES: We don't even know who they are.

COPPER: Well, what about Wick? She's younger than all of us here, and she wasn't afraid to stand up! We've left her locked up in Permanent Detention all this time and I'm sick of it!

SCARLET: Look, I've got a great compromise. The speech tournament tomorrow. We can do any topic we want, right? So I'll do my speech about Light. This way we can make our statement but not get in trouble.

COPPER: Who cares if we get in trouble? Wick didn't care when she was-

SCARLET: Wick isn't class president, either. I have a perfect school record, Copper, I really need to keep it up. . . .Let's do it one step at a time, okay?

COPPER DOESN'T SEEM WILD ABOUT THE IDEA. NEITHER DOES GIZMO. THEY BOTH SEEM TO THINK IT'S TOO "SAFE".

**Scn 14**

INT - PERMANENT DETENTION

**Scn 14**

WICK IS ON HER HANDS AND KNEES, READING SOFTLY FROM HER OLD BOOK. WE NOW SEE THE REASON HER WHISPERED VOICE WAS HEARD EARLIER IN THE ASSEMBLY HALL: SHE IS KNEELING IN FRONT OF A FLOOR GRATE (SO THAT HER VOICE TRAVELS THROUGH THE GRATE).

WICK: (READING EXODUS 14:13-14) "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. The Egyptians who you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you will hold your peace. . . ."

**Scn 15**

INT - SCHOOL HALLWAY

**Scn 15**

WICK'S VOICE ECHOES THROUGH THE AIR VENT IN THE HALLWAY AS SHE CONTINUES HER PRAYER.

MISS BITTER HEARS THE VOICE, LOOKING UP AT THE AIR VENT, AND SEEMS TO BE PUTTING THE TWO AND TWO TOGETHER ON WICK, THE GRATE, THE AIR VENTS. SHE WALKS ON.

GRISELDA AND GRETEL ARE ALSO IN THE HALLWAY. GRETEL IS TRYING TO FIX HERSELF UP BUT IS HAVING TROUBLE SEEING HERSELF IN HER MAKEUP MIRROR.

GRETEL: How does my hair look?

GRISELDA: (WITHOUT LOOKING) Fine.

GRETEL: You're not even looking at it!

GRISELDA: Well, what do you want me to get? Night vision goggles?

GRETEL: (SIGHS IRRITABLY) I can't believe they won't even let us use flashlights.

GRISELDA: (SARCASTIC) Uh-oh, Gretel said a naughty word.

THIS IRRITATES GRETEL.

GRETEL: Light, light, light! Hey, world! I said light!

GRISELDA: Cute.

GRETEL SIGHS AND THINKS.

GRETEL: It's so unfair that Scarlet got to be class president. I mean, we're supposed to be more popular than her, but she ends up getting everything.

GRISELDA: Gretel, you take life way too seriously. Look at it this way. Society is going down the drain anyway, so just go down with it. Have fun, do what you want, and enjoy the fact that nobody can see what you're getting up to.

GRETEL: Yeah, yeah, I guess you're right.

GRISELDA: Of course I'm right. I'm always right.

"ALL FALL DOWN" BEGINS.

GRISELDA STEALS ONE OF GRETEL'S MAKEUP ITEMS WHILE SHE ISN'T LOOKING.

GRISELDA:  
There's lots to be said for fun and games  
Who cares if you can't see a thing  
Teasing and joking and calling names  
Why can't life be a fling

GRETEL:  
There's lots to be said for laziness  
Who cares about finding what's true  
Ring around rosies  
Pockets of posies  
Pleasures for me and for you

GRISELDA, GRETEL:  
London bridges falling down  
All fall down

THE REST OF THE SONG REVEALS THAT GRISELDA AND GRETEL BASICALLY HOARD AND STEAL, WHILE NEVER GETTING CAUGHT SINCE IT'S TOO DARK FOR OTHERS TO SEE WHAT THEY'RE DOING.

GRETEL:

There's lots to be said for shirking off  
For squandering all of your days  
Instead of just spending it working off  
Your humble and virtuous ways

GRISELDA:

There's lots to be said for selfishness  
For playing the part of the fool

GRISELDA, GRETEL:

Ring around rosies  
Pockets of posies  
Dark doesn't have to be cruel

London bridges falling down  
All fall down

GRISELDA:

There's lots to be said for introspect  
Stay home and take care of yourself  
Keeping your heart and your intellect  
Locked away on the shelf

GRISELDA, GRETEL:

There's lots to be said for snatching up  
For grabbing and hoarding the lot  
Just let the world die  
As long as I've  
Got all of the things that I've got

London bridges falling down  
Crumbling upon the ground  
Every sight and every sound  
All fall down

**Scn 16**

INT - SCHOOL HALLWAY - THE NEXT DAY

**Scn 16**

COPPER CATCHES UP TO SCARLET AS SHE PREPARES FOR HER  
SPEECH.

COPPER: Scarlet!. . . Hey, listen,  
I really think we need to do this  
together. You know, safety in numbers.

SCARLET: Copper, relax. They said I can do my speech about anything. . . . Look, I'm class president. I'm allowed to do what I want.

**Scn 17** INT - PERMANENT DETENTION

**Scn 17**

MISS BITTER COVERS THE OLD BOOK AND THE FLOOR GRATE WITH A BLANKET.

SHE HAS WICK TIED TO A CHAIR AND GAGGED SPECIFICALLY FOR THE OCCASION.

MISS BITTER: Perhaps you'll learn not to say your prayers quite so loudly in future. I'll return as soon as the speech tournament is over.

MISS BITTER HEADS OUT. WICK, FURIOUS BY THE INJUSTICE OF IT, GIVES AN ANGRY STOMP WITH HER FOOT.

**Scn 18** INT - ASSEMBLY HALL

**Scn 18**

BRIMSTONE, MRS. DITHERS, AND MISS BITTER SIT IN A DARKENED HALL, WITH A PODIUM BEFORE THEM. A YOUNG STUDENT, **GLOW (RILEY UNTERBUG)**, IS FINISHING HER SPEECH FOR THE SPEECH TOURNAMENT.

GLOW:. . .And without the bravery of those seven workers, the industry of this city wouldn't be what it is today.

MRS. DITHERS IS THE FIRST OF THE THREE TO CLAP. MISS BITTER CLAPS EVER SO SLIGHTLY. BRIMSTONE DOESN'T AT ALL.

MRS. DITHERS: Thank you, Glow. That was wonderful.

GLOW SMILES AND STEPS OFF THE PODIUM. MRS. DITHERS LOOKS AT HER LIST.

MRS. DITHERS: Scarlet Tennyson?

SCARLET STEPS UP TO THE PODIUM.

IN ANOTHER HALLWAY

COPPER IS WATCHING SCARLET ON ONE OF THE FUZZY SCREENS  
IN THE HALLWAY.

BACK TO ASSEMBLY HALL

SCARLET HESITATES A MOMENT BEFORE SHE BEGINS.

SCARLET: What is Light?

MRS. DITHERS GASPS. BRIMSTONE ESPECIALLY KEEPS HIS  
EYES FIXED ON SCARLET.

THE GASP THROWS SCARLET OFF, BUT SHE KEEPS GOING. GLOW  
STANDS NEARBY, LOOKING VERY INTRIGUED BY WHAT SCARLET  
IS SAYING.

SCARLET: Is it truth? Or is it a myth?  
For many years, people have concluded  
that Light is only a fairy tale. . .

CUT TO THE SCREEN IN THE HALLWAY

SCARLET: But what if there really is a Light  
Who Has a Name, the Light who was there  
before the very foundations of the world-

BACK TO ASSEMBLY HALL

MRS. DITHERS HURRIES UP TO THE PLATFORM.

MRS. DITHERS: Scarlet! What are you. . .?!  
What are you doing?!

SCARLET: I'm doing my speech. You said  
we could do any topic-

MRS. DITHERS TAKES THE SPEECH AND SCARLET'S HANDS AND  
ANXIOUSLY CRUMPLES IT UP, GLANCING NERVOUSLY AT  
BRIMSTONE AND MISS BITTER.

BRIMSTONE: Bravo, my dear. An immaculate performance. You may set about revising your speech in Permanent Detention.

SCARLET: What?!

IN THE HALLWAY

COPPER: No!

BACK TO ASSEMBLY HALL

SCARLET: You said the speech could be about anything!

BRIMSTONE: Except that. Mrs. Dithers?

IN THE HALLWAY

ON THE SCREEN, MRS. DITHERS IS SEEN PULLING SCARLET AWAY FROM THE PODIUM.

SCARLET: But, I- This won't go on my record, will it? I was just doing a speech about Light!

AMONG THE STUDENTS WATCHING THIS SPECTACLE ON THE SCREEN IS **MAGNESIUM (ASHLEY TONE)**, SECRET LEADER OF THE "KYRIGMA REVOLUTIONARIES", ALONG WITH FELLOW REVOLUTIONARIES **FLAME (JOLIE LAMBERT)** AND **EMBER (CORA GORDON)**. GLOW ALSO HURRIES UP TO THEM, WHISPERING ABOUT WHAT JUST HAPPENED.

THEY ARE WATCHING THE PROCEEDINGS WITH GREAT INTEREST, AS IF SURPRISED TO DISCOVER THAT THE EVER POPULAR SCARLET IS A BELIEVER IN LIGHT.

Scn 19

INT - SCHOOL HALLWAY

Scn 19

IN A CORNER OF THE HALLWAY, COPPER STANDS FURIOUSLY WITH KNUCKLES, DIGIT, CORK, CALICO, AND GIZMO. COPPER KNOCKS OVER A CHAIR.



COPPER: I knew we shouldn't have done it that way! I knew it!

KNUCKLES: Better her than us, man.

COPPER: Say that again and I'll ram my fist down your throat, Knuckles!

KNUCKLES: Whoa, whoa, back off, okay? I only meant Scarlet is class president. She's the most popular girl in school. They'll get her out of Permanent Detention.

DIGIT: Maybe we should just keep quiet for now. I can hide all the fragments somewhere safe.

CORK: Yeah, I mean, what good would it do if we all ended up in detention?

AGAIN, COPPER IS ANXIOUS FOR ACTION BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT. GIZMO, STANDING TO ONE SIDE, ALSO SEEMS ANXIOUS FOR ACTION.

GIZMO: We can protest on public property, you know.

COPPER: What?

GIZMO PULLS OUT A CRUMPLED PAPER MARKED WITH ALL THE PUBLIC PROPERTY POINTS IN TOWN.

GIZMO: I learned about it in political science yesterday. Certain street corners are public property. Let's protest. Let the whole city know about what they're doing to us in here. They're taking away our rights. . . Unless you guys want to be scared. (SARCASTICALLY CORRECTING HERSELF) I mean, "be safe".

GIZMO WALKS ON. COPPER LOOKS AT THE REST OF THE GROUP.

CALICO: We can't risk it, Copper. If they did it to Scarlet, they'll find a way to do it to us.

Scn 20

INT - PERMANENT DETENTION

Scn 20

SCARLET IS TAKEN INTO THE DETENTION WARD BY MRS. DITHERS AND BRIMSTONE, AND IS SHOCKED TO SEE WICK TIED AND GAGGED (NOT BELIEVING THAT THE TREATMENT IN DETENTION WAS THAT SERIOUS).

WICK GIVES HER A SARCASTIC "WELCOME TO MY WORLD" LOOK. BRIMSTONE SITS DOWN IN A CHAIR NEARBY.

BRIMSTONE: Welcome to Permanent Detention, my dear Scarlet. I hope it's cozy enough for you.

SCARLET: Mr. Brimstone, I was just doing my speech about Light! What's the point of free speech if you're not free to speak?

BRIMSTONE: Free speech is more of a pleasant idea than a reality these days, I'm afraid. "To the manor born, it is a custom more honored in the breach than in the observance", as Hamlet once remarked. We do not tolerate hate speech in this school.

SCARLET: Hate speech?!

BRIMSTONE: Yes. Hate speech. You said something that I hate. Therefore it qualifies as hate speech. . .Mrs. Dithers, I don't believe Wick will be disturbing anyone with her prayers. Let her get something to eat in the other room.

MRS. DITHERS STARTS TO UNTIE WICK. BRIMSTONE STARES HARD AT SCARLET.

BRIMSTONE: Do you think I do not know? Do you think I have not observed? Miss Bitter finds your Fire Keepers club most fascinating.

MRS. DITHERS REACTS TO THIS A BIT ANXIOUSLY.

BRIMSTONE: She will be looking into it further. If you will revise your speech, you may leave Permanent Detention.

WICK IS ESPECIALLY CURIOUS TO SEE WHAT SCARLET WILL SAY TO THIS. THERE IS A MOMENT OF THOUGHT.

SCARLET: No. I won't revise my speech. It's a violation of my rights.

BRIMSTONE: It's also a violation of the laws of NightWorld. Darkness is what we are. It's what we've become. As a people, we've turned our backs on Light and all that is righteous and good. . . .Your position as class president will be awarded to someone else. And oh yes, this will go on your school record, my dear.

SCARLET IS HORRIFIED BY THIS, NEVER DREAMING THAT SHE WOULD RECEIVE SUCH A PUNISHMENT.

BRIMSTONE: Unless you retract your speech.

WICK: (AS SHE IS TAKEN OUT) Don't do it! Keep on standing, Scarlet. No matter what!

MRS. DITHERS AND WICK EXIT. IT'S SCARLET AND BRIMSTONE FACING OFF.

SCARLET: You can't do this to me, Mr. Brimstone! It's- It's just one little speech! One little speech about Light!

BRIMSTONE: As an honor roll student, I thought perhaps you would have paid better attention in class, Miss Tennyson. Have we not taught you about Steven Engel and the Engel vs. Vidal case back in 1962, when the world as we know it was a different place? They removed prayer from public schools. One little revision from the courts. That was all. But the effect was enormous. From that moment on, chaos grew and morality drained in all areas of society. The statistics are there. Look it up if you like. Light and truth have a way of bringing order to a

disorderly world. But without the Light, darkness prevails.

SCARLET: You always taught us that was a good thing.

BRIMSTONE: Well, it was a good thing for those who oppose the Light. And after all, what about the rights of all those students who didn't believe in an "Almighty God"? Why force them to pray a prayer they didn't want to pray? Religious freedom has to be extended to all religions, you know.

SCARLET: If they wanted it to be fair, then just let everyone pray the prayer they want to pray. Instead, you gave freedom to some by taking away freedom from others!

BRIMSTONE: Yes, we just reversed it. Flipped it round. In those days it was the atheists on the outside looking in, and now it's the Christ followers who are locked out in the cold. The ol' switcheroo. Greatest trick in the book.

SCARLET: So even you know His name.

BRIMSTONE: Yes I do. I know it very well. But the ripple effect can work both ways. One little speech about Light is enough to set off a whole forest fire. And the embers are already glowing in this school. If you will revise it, and talk about anything other than Light, then you may go free.

SCARLET IS SILENT.

BRIMSTONE: We will give you some time to think about it.

CUT TO:

Scn 21

SCARLET HAS BEEN LEFT ALONE IN PERMANENT DETENTION.  
SHE SEATED IN A CHAIR, WITH HER HANDS TIED BEHIND HER.

Scn 21

SHE IS STILL SHOCKED, CONFUSED, AND SHAKEN BY THE WHIRLWIND OF EVENTS THAT HAVE JUST HAPPENED.

"STAND" BEGINS, IRONICALLY, WITH SCARLET FORCED TO STAY SITTING DOWN.

SCARLET:

Stand, when the world is sitting  
 Stand, when they're all forgetting  
 Who He is and what He's done for us  
 Rise, when the world is falling  
 Rise, when You hear Him calling  
 "Follow Me, I am the Light that can set you free"

I will stand, having done all, stand  
 Having lived all, stand  
 I have kept the faith  
 I have run the race  
 Till I see Your face  
 I'll stand, having done all, stand  
 Having lived all, stand  
 Till You say "well done,  
 Good and faithful one"  
 I will take my place and stand

Fight, when the world is winning  
 Light at the world's beginning  
 Shining like a beacon from my heart  
 Stand, when they persecute you  
 And try to convolute you  
 Look and see, He is the Light that can set you free

I will stand, having done all, stand  
 Having lived all, stand  
 I have kept the faith  
 I have run the race  
 Till I see Your face  
 I'll stand, having done all, stand  
 Having lived all, stand  
 Till You say "well done,  
 Good and faithful one"  
 I will take my place and stand

SCARLET WRIGGLES, AND MANAGES TO FREE HER HANDS. WITH THE ROPE IN HAND, SHE FINALLY STANDS UP.

SCARLET:

I will stand, having done all, stand  
 Having lived all, stand  
 I have kept the faith  
 I have run the race  
 Till I see Your face  
 I'll stand, having done all, stand  
 Having lived all, stand  
 Till You say "well done,  
 Good and faithful one"  
 I will take my place and stand

EXT - NIGHTWORLD ACADEMY

AS THE SONG ENDS, WE FADE TO BLACK OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL.

WHILE BLACK, THE "NIGHTWORLD RADIO JINGLE" PLAYS, WITH  
 THE ANNOUNCEMENT "NIGHTWORLD RADIO".

FADE IN TO:

**Scn 22** INT - RADIO STATION

**Scn 22**

**BLACK ONYX** IS THE GLAMOROUS RADIO HOST; SHE AND THE  
 WHOLE SETUP LOOKS LIKE VERY OLD-FASHIONED RADIO FROM  
 THE 1930s.

BLACK ONYX: (INTO MIC) It's yours  
 truly, Black Onyx, your voice in the  
 dark, and here's more music to keep  
 your nights cool and calm.

SHE SWITCHES OFF THE MIC, AND TOSSES HER PAPER OVER  
 HER SHOULDER, LIKE OLD-TIME RADIO, AS MUSIC PLAYS. NOW  
 WE SEE THAT BRIMSTONE IS SEATED ACROSS FROM HER.

BLACK ONYX: I don't have a lot of time.  
 We're on the air.

BRIMSTONE: You're always on the air, Miss  
 Onyx. But no matter. I'll be brief. There's  
 a slight rumbling in the school over the  
 subject of Light. The students are getting  
 a bit agitated. Some of them have discovered  
 a loophole. Public property. They can protest

without being arrested. As chairman of the city council, I can see that little freedom is revoked, but it may take time.

BLACK ONYX: Didn't know we still had a city council.

BRIMSTONE: Darkness hasn't swallowed everyone up just yet, Miss Onyx. But until that great day arrives, we have to take appropriate steps. I want to see your notes, if you please.

BLACK ONYX DOESN'T SEEM TO LIKE BRIMSTONE BEING THERE, BUT SHE HANDS HIM HER PAPERS, AND HE TAKES A LOOK AT THEM.

BRIMSTONE: Now, let's see. . . .

AS HE IS DOING THIS, A YOUNG BOY, **NIMBLE (JONATHAN RIZZO)**, HAS CRAWLED THROUGH A PIPE IN THE WALL, AND CAN BE SEEN PEERING OUT OF THE GRATE.

BRIMSTONE: Yes. . .Yes. . .Ah, I see you have a news item about the Kerygma Revolutionaries. We don't want you to report any more stories about them.

BLACK ONYX: Well, the city council-

BRIMSTONE: Let me rephrase that. I don't want you to report any more stories about the Kerygma Revolutionaries. We don't know who they are, but they've spent the last few years spreading illegal propaganda about Light, not to mention the incident at summer camp. No, leave that out in future. And furthermore, I do not want you covering any of the protests. If students are standing on public property, trying to make their voices known, I do not want anyone else in NightWorld knowing about it.

NIMBLE, MEANWHILE, GRABS A HANDFUL OF THE PAPERS ON THE FLOOR THAT BLACK ONYX HAS TOSSED ASIDE, AND HE DISAPPEARS.

BRIMSTONE HAS TAKEN A PEN AND MARKED THROUGH THESE THINGS ON THE PAPERS, AND HE HANDS THE PAPERS BACK.

BRIMSTONE: You're not here to report the truth, Miss Onyx. You're here to say whatever we want people to believe. . . . But I. .I don't think there's anything to worry about. No harm in one or two little protests.

**Scn 23**

EXT - STREET CORNER

**Scn 23**

ON A PUBLIC STREET CORNER, WITH A PICKET SIGN READING "NO LIGHT IS NOT RIGHT", STANDS GIZMO, FIRVENTLY SINGING "SING IF YOU'RE GLAD TO BE SAVED".

GIZMO'S PROTEST IS LARGELY TO NO ONE, EXCEPT FOR BLACK ONYX, WHO SITS DOWN ON A NEARBY PARK BENCH AND HAPPENS TO NOTICE GIZMO'S PROTEST.

GIZMO:

Sing if you're glad to be saved  
Sing if you're happy this way  
Our times have changed, and now it's strange  
When you say that you're glad to be saved

Decency, courtesy, sanity  
Mistook it for Christianity  
But godliness isn't just being polite  
It's giving your heart to the one true light  
So,

Sing if you're glad to be saved  
Sing if you're happy this way  
Our times have changed, and now it's strange  
When you say that you're glad to be saved

Society never was what it seemed  
An imperfect world isn't what you've dreamed  
So call me a freak when I say what's true  
I'm despised and rejected, but Jesus was, too  
So,

Sing if you're glad to be saved  
Sing if you're happy this way  
And I don't care if you call me strange



When I say that I'm glad to be saved

BLACK ONYX HAS BEEN LISTENING TO WHAT GIZMO HAS BEEN SAYING, AND SHE STARTS WRITING IT DOWN.

**Scn 24** INT - PERMANENT DETENTION

**Scn 24**

WICK IS KNEELING DOWN, SAYING HER USUAL PRAYERS.

SCARLET IS NOW ANGRY AND ANXIOUS, FIGETING AND LOOKING IRRITABLY AT WICK. IT SEEMS AS IF HER BOLD FEELINGS OF STANDING UP ARE NOW DRAINING, AND THE REALITY OF HER SITUATION IS CLEAR, ESPECIALLY NOW THAT SHE'S LOST EVERYTHING FOR IT.

SCARLET: (WHILE WICK IS READING ALOUD)  
Straight A's. . .perfect record. . . .  
class president. . . .

WICK: (READING ALOUD) "Blessed are the poor  
in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of  
heaven. Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they shall be comforted. Blessed  
are the meek, for they shall inherit the  
earth. Blessed are those who- "

SCARLET: (SNAPPING) Could you be a little  
quieter, please? I'm trying to work this  
out.

WICK GLARES AT HER. AND CONTINUES.

WICK: . . ."who hunger and thirst after  
righteousness, for they shall be filled."

SCARLET: How can you pray at a time like  
this?

WICK IS A LITTLE IRRITATED AT THIS, GROWING IMPATIENT  
WITH SCARLET.

WICK: Because it's what we do, in case  
you don't know.

SCARLET: Yeah, well, the Light Who Has a Name sure has a funny way of showing His gratitude. I take a stand for Him in front of the whole school and look at what's happened to me! I had a perfect record, I was class president, and now it's all gone!

WICK: Thought you wanted to make a statement about Light.

SCARLET: I did! But I didn't expect to lose everything for it! My grades, my achievements, everything I've slaved for! I want to go somewhere in my life! My reputation in this school is vital! I mean, I love the Light Who Has a Name! I want to stand for Him, it's just. . . .

SHE GLARES AT WICK, WHO IS STILL LOOKING AT HER OLD BOOK.

SCARLET: (SIGHS AGAIN) Oh, you wouldn't understand.

WICK SLAMS THE BOOK DOWN ON THE FLOOR AND STANDS UP, ANGRY AND PASSIONATE.

WICK: Oh, really?! You're going to sit there and preach to me about it?! Well, let me tell you a few things that you don't understand! Sacrifice! What do you know about it? I lost everything, too. Sympathy? You and your Fire Keeper friends have left me here for seven months! I stood up for your cause and I got nothing from you at all! Just carry on with your Friday night meetings and forget all about me, why don't you?

SCARLET IS SURPRISED, AND ASHAMED, AT THESE SUDDEN PERSPECTIVES.

SCARLET: Look, Wick-

WICK: (PASSIONATE ALMOST TO TEARS) I've been stuck here, all alone, by myself, day after day, praying and praying for someone to come and get me out of here! And you're going to complain to me about one little inconvenience in your life? Believe me, Scarlet, I do understand!

SCARLET IS NOW ALMOST TOO SHAKEN TO RESPOND. SHE REMAINS LOOKING DOWN.

SCARLET: (SOFTLY) I'm sorry. . . . If it had been up to Copper, he would have gotten you out. I was the one who wanted to play it safe. . . My reputation was. . . everything.

WICK: (STILL A LITTLE DEFENSIVE) Difficult time always shows you what you've been worshipping. That's why I keep my focus on the Light Who Has a Name. He's all you got left when everything else in your life has broken into a thousand pieces.

**Scn 25**

INT - SCHOOL HALLWAY

**Scn 25**

COPPER GOES FOR HIS PILE OF BOOKS, WHEN HE NOTICES A NOTE SITTING ON TOP. HE OPENS IT UP. IT READS: "MEET US IN THE MAIN HALLWAY, 3:30".

COPPER GLANCES AT THE CLOCK ON THE WALL. IT'S 3:25. HE GETS UP AND WALKS DOWN THE HALLWAY A BIT.

THEN HE STOPS, AS IF HE HEARD SOMETHING. HE LISTENS. AND THEN, A PAIR OF HANDS GRAB HIM AND PULL HIM OUT OF VIEW.

INT - BACK ROOM

COPPER IS PRACTICALLY TOSSED INTO A CLUTTERED BACK ROOM, WHERE A GROUP OF STUDENTS ARE ASSEMBLED.

IT IS MAGNESIUM, FLAME, EMBER, AND GLOW.

GLOW: (SHE KNOWS HIM ALREADY) Hi, Copper.

COPPER: (GROANING) Hey, how's it going?

COPPER STUMBLES UP, LOOKING AT FLAME, WHO APPARENTLY WAS THE ONE WHO TOSSED HIM INTO THE ROOM.

COPPER: You got a good throw.

FLAME: (CRACKING HER KNUCKLES) Thanks.  
That's what they all say.

COPPER: Did you want to see me about something, or do you just like throwing people around the room?

MAGNESIUM: (SMIRKS) Welcome to life in Classroom 5B. It's a little different when Miss Bitter is your homeroom teacher. My name is Magn-

COPPER: I know who you are. Magnesium. The troublemaker. That's what we hear in Classroom 3A.

MAGNESIUM: I'm cool with that. . . .  
Look, I'm sorry we had to be rough, but we're running out of time and we really wanted to meet you. If it wasn't for your friend Scarlet, we wouldn't have ever known.

COPPER: What are you talking about?

THE OTHERS EXCHANGE GLANCES.

EMBER: Have you ever heard of the Kerygma Revolutionaries?

COPPER LIGHTS UP WITH INTEREST.

COPPER: You're the Kerygma Revolutionaries?!

FLAME: What's left of it. We've had a lot of idiots defecting over the last year.

MAGNESIUM: We didn't know the Fire Keepers were on our side. Not until Scarlet gave her speech. We had no idea you believe in the Light Who Has a Name. . .the Man named Jesus Christ. He was here before the darkness came and He'll be here when it's gone.

COPPER LOOKS AWAY.

MAGNESIUM: What's the problem?

COPPER: I should have been the one to do the speech. Not Scarlet. They all thought I was going to be the one to lead the revolution. . .Seems like everybody's standing except me.

FLAME: Look, we all have a part to play, all right? You got a whole group of students following the Light. Scarlet and her speech. Gizmo protesting on the streets.

COPPER: Yeah, but it's not doing any good.

MAGNESIUM: It's done a world of good, Copper. You've got to prime the pump before you can expect to get any water to come out. That's what Kerygma's been doing for years. . .Biding our time and getting everybody ready.

COPPER: For what? Revolution? You've tried it. We've tried it. They'll just send us all to Permanent Detention.

EMBER: Look, we've got to be logical about this. I keep telling you guys. The revolution isn't working because we're all split up. We can't stand up against Brimstone or the city council unless we stand up together.

MAGNESIUM: That's why we had to talk to you, Copper. We tried leading a revolution at summer camp last year but half our gang chickened out at the last minute.

EMBER: If we had organized it like I suggested, that never would have happened.

MAGNESIUM: (JABS EMBER FOR INTERRUPTING)  
But like Ember said, with all of us standing together, the Fire Keepers, the Kerygma Revolutionaries. . .

COPPER: You mean an actual revolution?

NIMBLE, THE BOY WHO TOOK THE PAPERS FROM THE RADIO STATION, COMES HURRYING UP. HE IS OBVIOUSLY A PART OF THE KERYGMA GANG.

NIMBLE: I got more news from the radio station! And it's really bad!

EMBER: Shhh! Alert the whole world, why don't you.

MAGNESIUM: (TO COPPER) Nimble. Our secret agent. He can get into anywhere. Especially Radio One.

NIMBLE: Mr. Brimstone has issued a "leaf and depressed" order for the radio and the newspaper!

CONFUSED, EMBER TAKES THE PAPER IN NIMBLE'S HANDS AND READS IT.

EMBER: A "cease and desist" order. It means people have to stop doing whatever it is they're doing.

NIMBLE: Yeah, well, nobody's supposed to talk about any of the protests. Mr. Brimstone has ordered them to be completely silent. I heard him talking about it at the radio station.

MAGNESIUM: He doesn't want word to spread around town. . . (AMUSED AT THIS) He must be scared.

NIMBLE: But that means if we do a revolution, nobody's even going to know about it! Where's the fun in that?

EMBER: Um, excuse me? Who said anything about this being fun?

FLAME: If we do a revolution, people will know about it. Believe me.

GLOW: And don't forget about Wick. I know a lot of her friends. They're trying to prove her innocence. They said they might have finally found some real evidence. If that's true, then we can use that against Brimstone, too.

FLAME: And we all know Wick is the greatest revolutionary in the whole entire world.

MAGNESIUM SEEMS TO HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR WICK.

MAGNESIUM: You're right about that. . . And she's suffered the consequences for it longer than any of us.

A MOMENT OF SILENCE.

COPPER: So what do we do? I mean, what's next?

MAGNESIUM: We'll join you at your meeting tomorrow night. You can make us honorary members of the Fire Keepers. We can decide what to do then.

FLAME: As long as they don't shut down the student clubs. Miss Bitter's been watching us for a long time.

EVERYONE LOOKS AT ONE ANOTHER, AND SEEMS TO BE IN AGREEMENT.

Scn 26

COPPER EXITS, AND THE OTHERS BEGIN TO DISPERSE.  
 "MAGNESIUM'S SONG" BEGINS.

Scn 26

MEGNESIUM TAKES HER SCHOOLBOOKS AND BEGINS WALKING  
 DOWN THE HALLWAY.

MAGNESIUM:

So many people say "that's what I should have done"  
 I had my place in the race and I should have won  
 But who's gonna reach the unreachable  
 Who's gonna teach the unteachable  
 Will it be you

Are you gonna be the one  
 To take the final stand  
 To make the choice  
 To be the voice  
 In a dark and dying land  
 Standing in the dead of night  
 To say "yes, I'll go"  
 Into all the world to be His light  
 Are you gonna stand the night

So many people lost in a hopeless dream  
 Wandering, questioning what does this all mean  
 So who's gonna go if we turn away  
 Who's gonna be the one to say  
 Will it be you

Are you gonna be the one  
 To take the final stand  
 To make the choice  
 To be the voice  
 In a dark and dying land  
 Standing in the dead of night  
 To say "yes, I'll go"  
 Into all the world to be His light  
 Are you gonna stand the night  
 Lord, I am gonna stand the night

EXT - NIGHTWORLD ACADEMY

END WITH A LONG SHOT OF THE SCHOOL.



**Scn 27**

INT - SCHOOL HALLWAY

**Scn 27**

MISS BITTER STANDS WITH GRISELDA AND GRETEL.

MISS BITTER: You two are absolutely certain of that?

GRISELDA: Yeah, totally. No offense, ma'am, but the whole school knows the Fire Keepers actually worship the L-I-G-H-T Who Has a Name.

MISS BITTER'S SUSPICIONS ARE CONFIRMED.

MISS BITTER: Well, you two are always quite a help to me. I'll see that you pass this year in spite of your grades.

MISS BITTER WALKS OFF.

GRISELDA: (AS SHE GOES) Hey, yeah, I mean, we love it here. Dark is what all the cool people are doing.

**Scn 28**

INT - TEACHER'S LOUNGE

**Scn 28**

MISS BITTER HAS GIVEN THE NEWS TO BRIMSTONE ABOUT THE FIRE KEEPERS.

BRIMSTONE: Worshippers of Light? Well, I think we rather suspected that from the start. After all, Scarlet's speech was far more than simply coincidental. And isn't one of their club members protesting on public property? Gizmo, is that the name?

MISS BITTER: Yes, well, now we have proof. Shall we send them all to Permanent Detention?

BRIMSTONE: I think not. We don't want to make martyrs out of them. Not yet, anyway. No, no, there's a much easier wartime tactic. We cut down on their oxygen supply, in a manner of speaking. Tell them

what they can and cannot do. That way we keep everyone in line, and in our control.

HE THINKS A MOMENT. WE NOW SEE THAT MRS. DITHERS IS ALSO IN THE ROOM, AND IS LISTENING TO THE WHOLE CONVERSATION.

BRIMSTONE: Suspend all student clubs for the remainder of the school year.

**Scn 29**

INT - PERMANENT DETENTION

**Scn 29**

SCARLET AND WICK ARE BOTH ON THE FLOOR, WORKING ON SCHOOLWORK. SCARLET IS THINKING, TAPPING HER PENCIL ON THE PAPER.

AS THEY ARE SPENDING MORE TIME TOGETHER, THEY ARE GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER, AND WICK HAS A MORE LIGHTHEARTED TONE WHEN SHE SAYS:

WICK: Why do you always tap your pencil whenever you're thinking? That drives me crazy.

SCARLET: Why do you sigh whenever you're thinking? That drives me crazy, too.

WICK: (WITH A GIGGLE) I don't sigh when I'm thinking.

SCARLET: Yes, you do. . .

AND LET'S HAVE AN ADLIB MOMENT OF SCARLET SHOWING WICK HOW SHE SIGHS WHEN SHE'S THINKING, AND WICK SHOWING SCARLET HOW OBNOXIOUS HER PENCIL TAPPING IS, BOTH AT THE SAME TIME, ALL IN GOOD FUN.

**Scn 30**

INT - SCHOOL HALLWAY

**Scn 30**

PAGE IS ANXIOUSLY WAITING IN THE HALLWAY WITH SPARROW AND PENNY.

PENNY: What are we doing again?

PAGE: We're waiting for Nicknack to come back from the library. Oh, please say he finds it! Please!

PENNY: What is it, a book or something?

SPARROW: He probably won't. You know Nicknack. He makes a mess of everything.

PAGE: He does not, Sparrow! Well, not much, anyway.

AT THIS POINT NICKNACK COMES HURRYING UP.

NICKNACK: All right, you guys! I've come back!

PAGE: Well, we can see that. Did you get the book?

BUT NICKNACK IS FEELING VERY COURAGEOUS AND IS ACTING VERY OVERDRAMATIC.

NICKNACK: Just listen. It was very exciting and I almost didn't make it out alive. See, what I did was (ACTS IT OUT DRAMATICALLY) I crept into the library, see? Very secret agent-like! And I crept up to the bookshelf, see? And can you believe what I did next? I took the book from the bookshelf!

PENNY: Does he always act like that?

NICKNACK: So like I was saying-

SPARROW: Usually after lunch.

NICKNACK: So like I was saying!. . .I took the book from the bookshelf, and do you know what it was?

HE PULLS OUT A BOOK.

NICKNACK: The NightWorld Book of Laws and Regulations!

PAGE: You got it! You really got it!  
Oh, thank you, Nicknack!

PAGE HUGS NICKNACK.

NICKNACK: (NOT WANTING THE HUG) No!  
Page, you don't have to-

PAGE: This is it, you guys! It's what  
we've been looking for all this time!  
This'll get Wick out of Permanent  
Detention, we've just got to find the  
right chapter!

TRINKET APPROACHES PAGE.

TRINKET: Did you finally find what  
you were looking for?

SPARROW: We've been trying for months  
to get Wick out of Permanent Detention.  
It's never going to happen.

NICKNACK: Why do you always have to be  
such a grump, Sparrow?

SPARROW: Because it's impossible! That's  
why!

NICKNACK: Of course it's impossible!  
Nobody ever had faith doing something  
possible! That's the whole point!

"POSSIBILITY" BEGINS, AS WICK'S GANG PREPARES TO GO  
AND GET WICK OUT OF DETENTION.

NICKNACK:  
It isn't that hard to believe in what you can't see  
Isn't that much of a stretch  
When you close your eyes you see  
The possibility  
Without the I or the M

PAGE:  
It isn't that hard to have faith in what you don't know  
There isn't even a catch  
In your heart you believe and see

The possibility  
When your eyes are on Him

NICKNACK, PAGE:  
Impossibility, it's okay  
Just throw the I and the M away  
Then possibility isn't so hard to believe

NICKNACK, PAGE, TRINKET, PENNY:  
Take a look at the wind when it blows  
Where it comes from nobody knows  
Do you say it's not there  
'Cause I can't see it with my eye  
But a bird can sure feel it  
When it starts to fly  
How do you know  
Because you believe

INT - PERMANENT DETENTION

WICK:  
It isn't that hard to believe in what you can't see  
When you get into the flow  
And you close your eyes and see  
The possibility  
There's just no other way

WICK, SCARLET:  
It isn't that hard to have faith in what you don't know  
When you decide to let go  
Take a flying leap and see  
The possibility  
It's kinda crazy, but hey

CUT BACK AND FORTH FROM DETENTION TO WICK'S GANG  
APPROACHING.

WICK, SCARLET, NICKNACK, PAGE, TRINKET, PENNY:  
Impossibility, it's okay  
Just throw the I and the M away  
Then possibility isn't so hard to believe

SPARROW:  
Impossibility, it's okay  
Just throw the I and the M away

NICKNACK, PAGE, TRINKET, SPARROW, PENNY:  
Then possibility isn't so hard to believe

THE SONG ENDS WITH NICKNACK PUSHING OPEN THE DOOR TO  
THE DETENTION WARD, AND WICK'S FRIENDS STUMBLING INTO  
THE ROOM.

WICK: Page! Nicknack! What are you  
guys doing here?

**Scn 31**

INT - SCHOOL HALLWAY

**Scn 31**

A NOTE ACROSS THE STUDENT CLUB POSTERS READS: "ALL  
STUDENT CLUBS SUSPENDED".

COPPER IS LOOKING AT IT. HIS MIND IS MADE UP. HE  
HURRIES OFF.

**Scn 32**

INT - PERMANENT DETENTION

**Scn 32**

PAGE IS SHOWING WICK THE BOOK OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

PAGE: You see? Page ninety-seven in  
the Book of Laws and Regulations.  
"While Light is a sensitive topic in  
NightWorld Academy, a student is not  
allowed to be disciplined only on the  
basis of his or her faith. Such actions  
constitute a violation of personal rights,  
under penalty of NightWorld law."

SCARLET: So it is a violation of personal  
rights! I have the right to talk about  
Light in my speech, and Wick had the  
right to talk about it in class seven  
whole months ago!

NICKNACK: They've been lying to us this  
whole time. It's illegal to keep you  
locked up in Permanent Detention.

TRINKET: But how could they get away with  
something like that?

WICK: Fear. . .As long as everyone's afraid,  
they can do anything they want. They didn't  
think anyone would bother to read this book  
in the dark.

THEY ALL ANXIOUSLY LOOK TOWARD THE DOOR AT THE SOUND  
OF MRS. DITHERS ENTERING. THE GROUP FREEZES.

MRS. DITHERS: What are you all doing in  
here?

PAGE: Getting Wick and Scarlet out of  
Permanent Detention, that's what. Page  
ninety-seven. Look it up.

PAGE TOSSES THE BOOK TO MRS. DITHERS, WHO READS THE  
REGULATION. THEN SHE LOOKS BACK UP AT THEM.

MRS. DITHERS: You finally found it. . .  
The evidence I've been looking for. . .  
Thank you. . . .

NICKNACK: You mean you're one of us?

MRS DITHERS: You can use this against  
them, but you've got to hurry.

WICK: (SHE'S BEEN WAITING FOR THIS)  
Revolution time. . .

**Scn 33**

"THE REVOLUTION SONG" BEGINS. WICK AND HER GANG GRAB  
BROOMS AND MOPS AS THEIR "WEAPONS".

**Scn 33**

WICK, PAGE, NICKNACK, TRINKET, SPARROW, PENNY:  
Good evening, everybody  
Hope we haven't interrupted  
We know the game you're playing  
And it really isn't right  
When you're in the dark  
Then everything becomes corrupted  
Gotta find a way to get the Light

QUICK CUT TO SCARLET JOINING THE REST OF THE FIRE  
KEEPERS AS THEY PREPARE TO TAKE TO THE STREETS.

WICK, PAGE, NICKNACK, TRINKET, SPARROW, PENNY:  
You can only be free when you turn the Light on

Never will see till you turn the Light on  
 Ready to fight for the one true Light  
 Fierce and free 'cause we got the Light on

QUICK CUT TO MAGNESIUM AND HER GANG CREATING PROTEST  
 SIGNS.

WICK, PAGE, NICKNACK, TRINKET, SPARROW, PENNY:  
 You think that those who find the Light  
 Have given up their freedom  
 But in the dark, you can't be free  
 Because you cannot see  
 Jesus said to spread the Light  
 Disciple 'em and lead 'em  
 Only then can you be really free

You can only be free when you turn the Light on  
 Never will see till you turn the Light on  
 Ready to fight for the one true Light  
 Fierce and free 'cause we got the Light on  
 We can see 'cause we got the Light on

**Scn 34**

CUT AND DISSOLVE TO THE NOW QUIET CORRIDORS OF THE  
 ACADEMY, THE QUIET CORNERS OF THE CRUMBLING CITY, THE  
 DARK ALLEYS, THE SHADOWY RECESSES. EVERYTHING STILL.  
 EVERYTHING QUIET.

**Scn 34**

EXT - PUBLIC PROPERTY

THE STREET IS EMPTY. AND THEN, THE REVOLUTIONARIES  
 APPEAR, CONVERGING ON THE ONE PAVEMENT ISLAND THAT IS  
 PUBLIC PROPERTY.

VICTORIOUS MUSIC PLAYS. THE FIRE KEEPERS AND WICK'S  
 GANG ARE THERE- COPPER, SCARLET, KNUCKLES, DIGIT,  
 CORK, CALICO, GIZMO, WICK, PAGE, NICKNACK, TRINKET,  
 SPARROW, AND PENNY. BUT ALSO, MRS. DITHERS HAS JOINED  
 THEM.

THE KERYGMA REVOLUTIONARIES ARRIVE- MAGNESIUM, FLAME,  
 EMBER, GLOW, NIMBLE.

THE MOMENT IS TRIUMPHANT, AS IF A CIVIL WAR HAS BEGUN.  
 EVERYONE IS EXCITED. SCARED. TRYING TO STAND STRONG.



WICK: (SIGHS) This is going to be a long night.

COPPER: You said it, Wick.

MAGNESIUM OVERHEARS THIS.

MAGNESIUM: Wick? Which one of you is Wick?

EVERYONE LOOKS AT WICK.

MAGNESIUM APPROACHES WICK, AND KNEELS IN FRONT OF HER, LIKE A SOLDIER ON THE BATTLEFIELD ADDRESSING A GREAT HERO.

MAGNESIUM: You stood up for the Light Who Has a Name long before this revolution ever began. As leader of the Kergyma Revolutionaries, it's an honor to stand beside you tonight. The world needs more heroes like you, Wick.

WICK, NOT KNOWING WHAT TO SAY TO THIS GREAT ACKNOWLEDGMENT IN FRONT OF THE WHOLE GROUP, SIMPLY SMILES AND NODS.

COPPER: Okay, as long as we stay on public property, they can't arrest us. Got it? No stepping off the pavement.

GIZMO: So if nature calls, tough it out.

COPPER: Yeah, thanks, Gizmo. (TURNS TO MRS. DITHERS) Did they get our demands?

MRS DITHERS: I put them in the teacher's lounge on my way out. . .I wish I could see the look on their faces.

**Scn 35** INT - TEACHER'S LOUNGE

**Scn 35**

MISS BITTER IS ALREADY READING THE DEMANDS AS BRIMSTONE ENTERS.

MISS BITTER: The students are revolting.

BRIMSTONE: Of course they're revolting. They're students, aren't they?

MISS BITTER: The students are leading a revolt. And here are their demands.

SHE HANDS BRIMSTONE THE NOTE.

MISS BITTER: And your precious Mrs. Dithers has turned in her notice as well. They're all turning against us.

BRIMSTONE IS PERUSING THE DEMANDS.

BRIMSTONE: Ah, they've discovered page ninety-seven in the Laws and Regulations. How very clever. . . The right to talk about Light. Use of flashlights during class time. Freedom to publicly worship the Light Who Has a Name. . .

HE CRUMPLES UP THE PAPER.

BRIMSTONE: Well, let the game begin. Let them protest to their hearts content, Miss Bitter. I've already instructed the radio and the newspaper not to broadcast it. Nobody in NightWorld will ever know.

MISS BITTER STARES HARD AT BRIMSTONE, AND ALMOST SEEMS TO BE MOCKING WHEN SHE SAYS:

MISS BITTER: You seem to be absolutely certain the world is going to do your bidding, Mr. Brimstone. For your sake, I hope it does. I suggest you start praying to whatever god you serve, and hope your god is stronger than theirs.

MISS BITTER, LOOKING ALMOST SMUG, TURNS AND LEAVES.  
BRIMSTONE DOESN'T LOOK QUITE AS CONFIDENT AS HE PRETENDS. HE GRABS THE TELEPHONE.

BRIMSTONE: (INTO PHONE) Get me the chief of police. . . Well, if we don't have one anymore, then get me someone in charge!

Scn 36 INT - HALLWAY

Scn 36

GRETEL HURRIES UP TO GRISELDA, WHO SEEMS A LITTLE LOST IN THOUGHT. IS SHE FEELING A LITTLE GUILTY?

GRETEL: Okay, what is going on around here? What's everybody doing out on the street?

GRISELDA: We ratted on them and now they're protesting about it. . .

GRETEL: But what are they going to do? Riot or something?. . .They won't try to beat us up, will they?

GRISELDA: Who knows? Maybe we deserve it. . . .

THEY ARE STARTLED AT MISS BITTER'S VOICE BESIDE THEM.

MISS BITTER: You two. . .I have a job for you.

AT THE OTHER END OF HALLWAY

MISS BITTER HAS GRISELDA AND GRETEL STATIONED AT A DOOR.

MISS BITTER: Keep watch over the door. If any of the revolutionaries try to get in, inform me at once and I'll have them arrested. (HARSHLY) Understood?

GRISELDA: Yeah, yeah, sure, I mean. . .

MISS BITTER LEAVES. GRISELDA AND GRETEL EXCHANGE GLANCES. ARE THEY STARTING TO FEEL LIKE MAYBE THEY'RE ON THE WRONG SIDE?

Scn 37

EXT - PUBLIC PROPERTY

Scn 37

COPPER: (CALLING OUT) All right, Brimstone!  
We're not leaving till you give us back  
our rights! The right to believe in the  
Light Who Has a Name!

SCARLET: We're not afraid to stand,  
Brimstone! And we're not afraid of you!

WICK: (HOLDING LAW BOOK AND NIMBLE'S  
RADIO PAPERS) We've got all the proof we  
need, and there's nothing you can do  
about it!

THEY ALL STAND STARING AT THE ACADEMY. WAITING FOR ANY  
RESPONSE. FOR A MOMENT THERE IS NOTHING.

THEN, THE CRACKLING OF A LOUDSPEAKER.

BRIMSTONE: (OVER LOUDSPEAKER) I can see  
you, revolutionaries. I need no illumination  
to see in the dark. Welcome to the  
revolution you've so desperately fought  
for all these years.

INT - ACADEMY - TEACHER'S LOUNGE

BRIMSTONE IS SPEAKING INTO A MICROPHONE.

BRIMSTONE: The confrontation between the  
light and the dark. And I must say you've  
been frightfully clever. According to  
NightWorld law, you are perfectly safe  
so long as you're standing on public  
property.

BACK TO THE STREET

BRIMSTONE: (OVER LOUDSPEAKER) But we  
have you surrounded. They're watching you  
in the dark. The moment you step off that  
pavement, you will be arrested and brought  
to Permanent Detention, or perhaps even  
jail.

COPPER: You're the one breaking the law,  
Brimstone!

BRIMSTONE: (OVER LOUDSPEAKER) I am the  
law!

INT - TEACHER'S LOUNGE

BRIMSTONE: I am the final word in this  
world now, a world that has long forgotten  
the truth. I make the truth! You are  
alone in this battle. There is no one  
left in NightWorld who comprehends light.  
No one left who cares.

**Scn 38** BACK TO THE STREET

**Scn 38**

BRIMSTONE: (OVER LOUDSPEAKER) You will  
remain on that pavement until you either  
surrender, or starve to death. The choice  
is yours.

THE LOUDSPEAKER SHUTS OFF, AND THE GROUP STANDS THERE  
IN SILENCE. THEY ARE TRAPPED. THERE'S NO WAY OUT. AND  
THEY KNOW IT.

DIGIT PULLS OUT ONE OF THE FRAGMENTS, AND FINALLY  
BREAKS THE SILENCE BY READING:

DIGIT: "If it seems evil to you to  
serve the Lord, choose for yourselves  
this day who you will serve. . .As for  
me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

THIS SEEMS TO BE IT. THERE IS NO OTHER CHOICE.

COPPER: Well. . . .get comfortable.  
We're going to be here a while.

SOME PEOPLE SIT DOWN. SOME REMAIN STANDING. EVERYONE  
IS TRYING TO STAY CALM.

DISSOLVE TO:

TIME HAS PASSED. THE REVOLUTIONARIES REMAIN ON THE PAVEMENT WITH THEIR PICKET SIGNS, BUT THEY ALSO REMAIN STILL, CONSERVING ENERGY.

WICK: (TO HER GANG) Don't worry. He can't leave us out here for good.

**Scn 39**

INT - ACADEMY - BACK DOOR

**Scn 39**

GRISELDA AND GRETTEL REMAIN AT THE BACK DOOR OF THE SCHOOL. GRETTEL THINKS A MOMENT.

GRETTEL: Do they really have police watching everyone outside?

GRISELDA: Yeah.

GRETTEL: The police wouldn't arrest us, would they?

GRISELDA: No, just the protesters.

A PAUSE.

GRETTEL: (SIGHS) I hate Mr. Brimstone. I hate living in the dark.

GRISELDA: Me, too. . . .

GRETTEL: It'd be a lot more cool if we were out there protesting instead of sitting in here.

GRISELDA THINKS ABOUT GRETTEL'S EARLIER REMARK.

GRISELDA: The police wouldn't arrest us. . . They think we're working for Brimstone. . .

**Scn 40**

EXT - PUBLIC PROPERTY

**Scn 40**

"THIS LIGHT OF MINE" BEGINS AS THE GROUP TRIES TO STAY WARM IN THE NIGHT.

NIMBLE:

*This little light of mine  
I'm gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine  
I'm gonna let it shine*

EMBER:

This light of mine  
I'm gonna let it shine

EMBER, MAGNESIUM, FLAME:

This light of mine  
I'm gonna let it shine

EMBER, MAGNESIUM, FLAME, GLOW:

One thing they got so wrong  
When they wrote that song  
This light of mine isn't little  
My light is big  
My light is strong  
And you will see my light  
All night long

DISSOLVE TO:

**Scn 41**

THE WIND WHISTLES DOWN THE DARK STREET. SOME OF THE GROUP HAVE DOZED OFF. OTHERS ARE HUDDLING TOGETHER. THE WORLD IS SILENT.

**Scn 41**

PAGE: I'm freezing, Wick. . . .

THE SITUATION IS HOPELESS AND EVERYONE KNOWS IT. THEY CAN EITHER SURRENDER OR SIMPLY STARVE THERE ON THE STREET. THE REVOLUTION HAS FAILED.

VARIOUS MEMBERS BEGIN A SOFT-SPOKEN RECITATION, MOSTLY TO THEMSELVES:

COPPER:

Is this what I stood in faith to do?

SCARLET:

Is this what I thought was really true?

WICK:  
He said in this world I would suffer, too

NICKNACK:  
Help me to do what I have to do

CALICO:  
I want to have faith but I don't know how

MAGNESIUM:  
What would my mom think about me now

EMBER:  
Is this what I get for doing what's right

DIGIT:  
Is this what it means to stand for Light

MISS DITHERS:  
How did we come to this?

**Scn 42**

INT - ACADEMY - TEACHER'S LOUNGE

**Scn 42**

BRIMSTONE SITS, LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW AT THE  
REVOLUTIONARIES BELOW. THE RADIO BESIDE HIM WARBLER  
ON.

BLACK ONYX: (ON RADIO) It's yours truly,  
Black Onyx, the voice in the dark. And  
in other news, the students of NightWorld  
Academy are leading a revolt.

BRIMSTONE LOOKS AT THE RADIO IN ALARM.

BLACK ONYX: (ON RADIO) Allegedly the  
students claim their right to talk about  
Light was violated. You all remember  
Light. It's the opposite of dark.

INT - RADIO STATION

BLACK ONYX: (LEANS CLOSER TO MIC) And  
we here at Radio One enact our right to  
freedom of the press, page ninety-four,  
paragraph three, Mr. Brimstone.



BACK TO TEACHER'S LOUNGE

BRIMSTONE KNOCKS OVER THE RADIO IN A RAGE.

EXT - ROOFTOP

WE HEAR RADIO STATIC AND FREQUENCY TUNING, AND VARIOUS RADIO VOICES INDICATING THAT WORD IS SPREADING ACROSS NIGHTWORLD ABOUT THE REVOLT.

**Scn 43**

EXT - PUBLIC PROPERTY

**Scn 43**

COPPER AND WICK ARE TWO OF THE FEW WHO HAVE NOT DOZED OFF TO SLEEP.

COPPER IS HOLDING A SMALL RADIO UP TO HIS EAR, LISTENING TO THE NEWS.

COPPER: They're talking about us on the radio.

WICK: (HOPEFUL) It's working. The revolution's working.

COPPER: At least people know what's going on. . . We can't stay here forever. Brimstone's going to have to listen to us.

IN THE DARK ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STREET, GRETEL APPEARS. SHE LOOKS AROUND A MOMENT, AND THEN LOOKS AT COPPER AND WICK.

GRETEL: (WHISPERING) Mr. Brimstone wants to talk to you.

SHE URGENTLY WAVES THEM TO COME, LOOKING VERY SINCERE.

WICK: She's trying to trick us into moving off the pavement.

COPPER: Wait. . . .I don't think so.

**Scn 44**

INT - SCHOOL HALLWAY

**Scn 44**

GRISELDA AND GRETEL QUICKLY USHER COPPER AND WICK INTO THE HALLWAY.

COPPER: Why does Brimstone want to see us?

GRISELDA: He doesn't. We just made that up to get you inside. The police think we're working for Brimstone. That's why they didn't come out and arrest you. Look, you got the goods on Brimstone, so go and confront him. Now's your chance.

WICK: Why are you guys doing this for us?

GRISELDA: Because we're sick of the dark, okay?

GRETEL: We'll keep Miss Bitter distracted. Now go!

COPPER NODS AND HURRIES OFF. WICK LOOKS AT THEM.

WICK: Thank you.

SHE HURRIED OFF AFTER COPPER.

GRETEL: So I guess we're good guys now, huh?

GRISELDA: Guess so.

THERE IS THE SOUND OF THE DOOR OPENING AT THE OTHER END.

GRETEL: It's Miss Bitter. How do we distract her?

GRISELDA: We. . .We give ourselves up.

GRETEL: What?

THEY WHIRL AROUND AS MISS BITTER APPROACHES.

MISS BITTER: What are you doing? Why are you not at your post?

GRISELDA: Because we're revolting against you, that's why! (LOOKS AT GRETEL)

GRETEL: Oh! Yeah! We're joining the Light because, well. . .you're just totally not cool!

MISS BITTER: (A COLD SMILE) I really don't want to have to chain you down in Permanent Detention. It will take far too much time, you know.

OF COURSE, THIS IS WHAT GRISELDA AND GRETEL ARE PURPOSELY DOING.

GRISELDA: Yeah, I guess it will. Has anyone ever told you that's a really ugly hairdo?

THIS INFURIATES MISS BITTER.

**Scn 45**

DOWN THE HALL

**Scn 45**

MEANWHILE, COPPER AND WICK ARE ABLE TO CREEP OFF DOWN THE HALLWAY TOWARD THE TEACHER'S LOUNGE.

**Scn 46**

INT - PERMANENT DETENTION

**Scn 46**

GRISELDA AND GRETEL HAVE BEEN PUT IN PERMANENT DETENTION. THEY ARE SITTING ON THE FLOOR, TIED UP IN ROPES AND CHAINS TO KEEP THEM THERE.

GRISELDA IS READING WICK'S "OLD BOOK" WITH FASCINATION.

GRETEL: Well, we certainly distracted Miss Bitter. That's what counts, right?

GRETEL LOOKS AT THE ROPES AND CHAINS, AND THINKS.

GRETEL: I'm not going to steal anything anymore.

GRISELDA: Can you believe what all these people had to go through? The believers in the Light Who Has a Name. Lots of them were thrown into prison, just like us.

GRETEL: So?

GRISELDA: So, do you know what this means? We're two of the coolest people in the history of the faith! It's cool to get persecuted in this group!

"ALL FALL DOWN - REPRISE" BEGINS.

GRETEL TAKES THE BOOK.

GRETEL: Really?

GRISELDA: Yeah, look.

GRISELDA:  
There's lots to be said for doing right  
For finding the way that is straight  
That moment you finally see the Light  
And realize He's actually great

GRETEL:  
There's lots to be said for sacrifice  
For giving it up for a friend  
Persecution's not always nice  
But you get a reward in the end

GRISELDA, GRETEL:  
Silas and Paul really took a lick  
So in God we certainly trust  
If you wanna be cool in this godly clique  
It's Foxe's Book or bust

THEY STAND UP IN TRIUMPH.

GRISELDA, GRETEL:  
London bridges falling down  
Once were lost but now we're found  
In locks and chains we'll keep the world  
From falling down

Scn 47

INT - TEACHER'S LOUNGE

Scn 47

COPPER AND WICK, MEANWHILE, HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SNEAK THEIR WAY TO THE TEACHER'S LOUNGE.

THEY ENTER, AND LOOK AROUND FOR BRIMSTONE.

BRIMSTONE: (OFF-SCREEN) I was wondering when you'd turn up.

COPPER AND WICK WHIRL AROUND TO SEE BRIMSTONE WAITING FOR THEM IN A CHAIR.

BRIMSTONE: I knew it was only a matter of time before you'd find your way in here somehow. We don't have much of a police force anymore. Law and order's gone down the drain. That's what darkness does to a society. It slowly eats away every fiber of its being until only chaos and anarchy remain. It's quite dreadful, you know. But I have, what you might call, a hopeless addiction to all that is dark and perverse in this world, and I will fight to defend it until my dying breath, which might not be long in coming. . .It will not surprise you to learn that I am a very sick man.

WICK: You can say that again.

BRIMSTONE: Ah, that's my little Wick. Snappy comeback, as usual. Darkness kills, my dear revolutionaries. It drains the life out of your heart and soul.

WICK: You can't get rid of Light, Mr. Brimstone. He's everywhere! He's the air we breathe, the bread of life, the light of the world, living water. . . . Oxygen, food, light, and water. Everything you need to survive. All you have to do is submit.

BRIMSTONE: Ah, but I don't want to submit. In darkness, I don't have to submit.

COPPER: It's over, Brimstone. You can't win. We have the Book of Laws and Regulations. We have papers from the radio station proving you've been lying to everyone.

BRIMSTONE: Laws can be changed.

COPPER: You think so? You can take away my rights. You can take away my freedom. But you can't take away my faith. No matter where you go, you will hear our voice! In prison, on the streets, or in the gallows! Everywhere you turn around, the revolution will be there, shining the Light right back in your face!

BRIMSTONE STARTS TO STAND UP.

BRIMSTONE: Yes, and that's something I simply cannot allow, and do you know why? It's all quite simple. . . I hate the Light. I hate the Light Who Has a Name. He shines upon the secret places. He illuminates the darkest corners of the soul.

BRIMSTONE GRABS A HEAVY CANE.

BRIMSTONE: You Christ followers have been the scourge of this land long enough. We are no longer a Light-fearing nation.

BRIMSTONE BEGINS WILDLY SWINGING THE CANE AT COPPER, WHO PUSHES WICK BEHIND HIM AND DEFLECTS THE SWINGS.

BRIMSTONE: We do not acknowledge our dependence upon Thee!

SWING! SWING!

BRIMSTONE: We do not beg thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers, and our country!!

BRIMSTONE LUNGES AT COPPER, WHO GRABS THE CANE AND TRIES PUSHING BRIMSTONE BACK. WICK RUNS AROUND TO THE BACK OF BRIMSTONE.

WICK: Get off him!!

SHE GRABS HOLD OF BRIMSTONE'S BACK, AND HE STAGGERS BACKWARD. AND THEN STOPS SUDDENLY. AND GASPS.

THE ACTIVITY WAS TOO MUCH. BRIMSTONE'S FRAIL CONDITION COULDN'T TAKE IT.

HE COLLAPSES IN A HEAP, AND PERISHES.

**Scn 48**

EXT - PUBLIC PROPERTY

**Scn 48**

SCARLET AND GIZMO ARE THE FIRST TO WAKE UP. THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER, AND THEN THEY LOOK UP, AND ARE SURPRISED TO SEE. . .

A SMALL RAY OF SUNLIGHT COMING THROUGH THE DARK CLOUDS!

LONG FADE TO:

**Scn 49**

A SCHOOL BULLETIN BOARD

**Scn 49**

POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IS A SIGN READING: "NEW RULES REGARDING LIGHT AT NIGHTWORLD ACADEMY", AND IT LISTS THE PROVISIONS THAT THE REVOLUTIONARIES HAD DEMANDED.

INT - TEACHER'S LOUNGE - A FEW DAYS LATER

MRS. DITHERS IS SITTING AT THE TABLE, ON THE TELEPHONE.

MRS. DITHERS: (INTO PHONE) Yes, I'm actually the new headmistress now, but I'll forward your message to our admissions department.

MISS BITTER ENTERS, SETTING HER NOTICE DOWN ON THE TABLE.

MISS BITTER: My notice. I will not serve under the likes of you, Mrs. Dithers.

MRS. DITHERS: Oh, I'm very sorry to hear that.

WHEN MISS BITTER TURNS TO LEAVE, MRS. DITHERS QUICKLY STICKS HER TONGUE OUT AT HER.

MISS BITTER TURNS BACK AROUND.

MISS BITTER: I will be starting up my own school, you know. I will teach my students nothing but darkness. The battle has only just begun. . .my dear Mrs. Dithers.

**Scn 50**

INT - SCHOOL HALLWAY

**Scn 50**

COPPER AND SCARLET SIT TOGETHER. COPPER IS LOST IN THOUGHT.

SCARLET: We got Griselda and Gretel out of Permanent Detention. . .We're allowed to talk about Light in our student clubs and school papers. . . .I think our first revolution went pretty well. And with Mrs. Dithers now running the school. . . .

SHE GLANCES OUT THE WINDOW.

SCARLET: At least we got a little bit of Light back into NightWorld. We even made headlines.

COPPER: Still pretty dark out there. I don't know. . . .Seems like we still have a long way to go.

SCARLET: We'll stand, Copper. Together?

SHE HOLDS UP A HAND.

COPPER: Together.

HE TAKES HER HAND.



DISSOLVE TO:

**Scn 51**

REVOLUTION MUSIC IS BUILDING AS WE CUT TO SHOTS OF THE CITY OF NIGHTWORLD, AND FINALLY TO COPPER AND SCARLET, RETURNING TO A STREET CORNER IN THE STILL-DARKENED RUINED CITY.

**Scn 51**

COPPER HOLDS UP A WOODEN, HANDMADE CROSS HIGH IN THE AIR, AND WE FREEZE ON THIS IMAGE UNTIL WE

CUT TO BLACK AND BEGIN END CREDITS ("AT THE END OF THE DAY")