

# **SUPERBOOK**

"Roar"

Episode #107

By  
Mark Steel

Story Edited by  
Sean Roche

Sync Script  
7-14-11

**SYNOPSIS:** Chris is morally challenged, "to do the right thing," when a smaller boy is harassed by bullies at the skateboard park. SUPERBOOK whisks the kids off to an adventure where they meet Daniel and King Darius, as an edict is struck saying that no one shall worship anyone but the king, at the risk of death. Daniel is a spiritual man, and when his faith is challenged in this way, he never backs down for an instance. He does what he knows in his heart is the right thing to do. The kids' are stunned to watch as Daniel prays before an open window for all to witness. This action gets him hauled off and thrown into the lion pit. Our heroes try to do what they can but when it seems all is lost, God intervenes and Daniel is saved. As a result, the King has an epiphany and commands all to now worship Daniel's one true God. Chris understands that because Daniel had the courage to do what was right, he changed the people around him. When Superbook returns the kids to the skateboard park, Chris now has the inner strength to stand up for what he knows is right, where the younger boy and the bully are concerned. When you do what's right, God is your protector.

**TAKE-AWAY:** You should stand for what is right (for what you believe in) no matter how difficult it may seem.

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## REGULARS

1. Chris
2. Joy
3. Gizmo
4. Superbook

GUESTS

1. Tommy
2. Barry
3. King Darius
4. Daniel
5. Arsalan
6. Javeed
7. Parshan
8. Shakham
9. Wagon Owner
10. Guard #1
11. Guard #2

FADE IN:

EXT. SKATEBOARD PARK - TWILIGHT

ANGLE ON the evening sky with a few puffy, sunset clouds. A perfect evening. Suddenly, we hear...

\*

CHRIS (O.S.)  
WOOOOOOHHOOOOOOOO!!

CHRIS FLIES INTO FRAME, in mid-air, on a skateboard, wearing a helmet, knee pads and elbow pads. He also wears appropriate clothing for the sport. He is NOT DRESSED IN HIS SCHOOL UNIFORM. He does a spin and CAMERA FOLLOWS him downward as his board <THUNKS> on the deck...

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
(hard landing effort)

ANGLE ON A LARGE VERT RAMP - Chris ENTERS SHOT AT THE BOTTOM OF FRAME and speeds UPWARDS - EXTREME DUTCH CAMERA TRACKING HIM - to the very top, where he Ollie's, skateboarder 3 is watching at the top of the ramp (Note: THREE SKATE-BOARDING KIDS are seen in the B.G. One African American Boy (10), An Asian Girl (15) and an Indian Girl (8) ...

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
YEAAAAAAAHH!

... and exits out of frame down the vert ramp.

ON CHRIS exiting the Vert ramp and heading toward a rail.

ANGLE BELOW ON THE SIDELINES - JOY (wearing her backpack BUT NOT WEARING HER SCHOOL UNIFORM - perhaps slacks) and GIZMO cheer.

JOY/GIZMO  
(Ad-lib cheering for Chris -  
Alright, Chris! Big air!)

Chris jumps onto the rail and grinds down to the other side where he leaps off of the rail and onto a circular embankment. The camera tracks Chris around the embankment and over a hill. Chris jumps the hill while spinning his board in the air lands the jump and skates OC.

JOY/GIZMO (CONT'D)  
(Ad-lib cheering / applauding)

Chris slides back into frame with the nose of his board in the air coming to a stop in front of Giz and Joy.

JOY/GIZMO (CONT'D)  
(Ad-lib cheering / applauding)

PUSH IN ON CHRIS, JOY, AND GIZ

CHRIS  
Oh yeah! Just call me Chris "sweet  
air feet" Quantum! (Kissing sound)

\*

Chris flips his board into the air and catches it while it's spinning and kisses it. Joy smirks.

JOY  
(playfully nonchalant)  
Hmm, Not bad, Chris.

\*

She turns and heads away. Chris is taking off his helmet and reacts.

CHRIS  
*Not bad?*

Joy, Chris, and Giz are heading off camera.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Joy, I totally ollied that vert and  
choked out a...

ON WIDE SHOT OF SKATE PARK

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
360 Indy Grab across the gap.  
That's not easy, ya know.

\*

CUT TO JOY, GIZ, AND CHRIS STOPPING TO REST ON TOP OF A RAMP

Joy pulls herself up onto the ramp.

JOY  
(with a giggle)  
Neither is understanding what you  
just said.

Chris jumps up onto the ramp with her.

GIZMO  
I will translate for you, Joy.  
<clearing his throat> Chris is  
using common skateboard terminology  
to describe an aerodynamically -  
(he does quotation marks  
with fingers)  
"Off-the-hook" set of tricks  
that...

TOMMY (O.S.)  
(Jumping efforts) HEY GIMMIE,  
BARRY, IT'S NOT YOURS!

\*  
\*

The kids look - ANGLE ADJUST TO REVEAL - A large skateboard Punk, BARRY (14) is harassing a much smaller and younger boy, TOMMY (10). Barry holds Tommy's skateboard up so the kid can't reach it.

BARRY  
It *is* if I say it is, weenie  
wheels. (Taunting laugh)

ON BARRY AND TOMMY

TOMMY  
GIVE IT BACK! (Efforts)

BARRY (O.C.)  
OOOOH MAKE ME! (MENACING LAUGHTER)

ON NEARBY KIDS LOOKING IN TOMMY'S DIRECTION

The kids look in Tommy's direction but quickly turn back around so they don't have to get involved.

ON TOMMY

BARRY (CONT'D)  
COME ON COME ON! (LAUGHTER  
CONT'D)

\*  
\*

Barry skates by Tommy and gives him a shove.

BACK ON JOY AND CHRIS - She turns to him.

JOY  
Chris, you gotta do something.

CHRIS  
Me?! I don't even know them.

JOY  
What's *that* matter? You gotta stand  
up when someone smaller's in  
trouble.

\*

CLOSE ON CHRIS

CHRIS  
Why? So muscle thug there can pound  
the BOTH of us? No way.

OTS OF CHRIS ON JOY

JOY  
Come on, it's the right thing to  
do!

\*

CLOSE ON CHRIS

BARRY (OS)  
(Laughing) OH, COME ON!

ON BARRY AND TOMMY

TOMMY  
(Sobbing) QUIT IT!

Barry is circling Tommy on the skateboard.

BARRY  
Awww... crybaby! (laughing)

\*

BACK ON CHRIS, JOY AND -

JOY  
Chris, do something.

PUSH in on Chris as the TAUNTING ECHOES and he stands, not  
knowing what to do.

BARRY/TOMMY (O.S.)  
(echoing)  
(Ad-libs continue)

FADE OUT:

END TEASER

**ACT ONE**

FADE IN:

EXT. SKATEBOARD PARK - CONTINUOUS

ON BARRY AND TOMMY

BARRY  
(Taunting laugh) It's yours if you  
can take it. (As he holds it out of  
Tommy's reach)

Tommy puts the board down and skates off camera

ON CHRIS, JOY, AND GIZ

CHRIS  
Uh, Let's go home the other way. \*

JOY  
Chris!

He starts off around a wall. Joy and Gizmo are right behind. \*  
Once they are out of sight of the other kids <THE SUPERBOOK  
SFX> suddenly comes up out of Joy's backpack.

CHRIS AND JOY  
Superbook!

GIZMO \*  
Whoa! \*

CLOSE ON SUPERBOOK

It begins to rise out of Joy's backpack with its <SIGNATURE  
SFX>.

GIZMO (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Oh no! Chris, I'd rather "bail a \*  
slam!" - That's skateboard lingo  
for... HEEEELLLLLP!

Chris, Joy and Gizmo are PULLED INTO THE SUPERBOOK VORTEX.  
(**Joy's backpack remains behind on the ground by the bush.**)

INT. SUPERBOOK VORTEX - CONTINUOUS

Chris, Joy and Gizmo travel along as...

SUPERBOOK (V.O.)  
I am taking you to meet a man who  
stood up for what he believed was  
right, even though it was the most  
dangerous choice.

WIPE TO:

EXT. KING DARIUS' PALACE AND MARKET PLACE

THE CAMERA PANS DOWN AND DISSOLVES INTO

INT. KING DARIUS' THRONE ROOM - DAY

ON MS OF KING DARIUS

There is a flash of BLUE LIGHT behind a large drapery decorating one side of the room.

GIZMO (O.S.)

Oooops!

King Darius turns his head in the direction of the drapery but shrugs it off and turns back.

THE KIDS AND GIZMO peek out from behind a room dividing curtain - they see the king - and suddenly duck back out of sight.

CHRIS

Giz, where are we?

BEHIND THE CURTAIN

The kids hunker together and WHISPER....

Gizmo checks his wrist-mounter sensor.

GIZMO

It appears we are in ancient  
Babylon. Approximately 500 B.C.

\*

DANIEL (O.S.)

You summoned me, King Darius?

They turn towards the curtain opening.

ON DANIEL, who is kind, strong, and humble, enters. Daniel CROSSES to King Darius.

ON THE KIDS AS THEY PEER BACK THROUGH THE CURTAIN

KING

Daniel, my friend. You have found  
great favor with my court.

CAMERA ADJUSTS AROUND TO A TWO SHOT - (The King and Daniel face each other in front of the balcony opening. If the kids stepped out right now they would be seen by King Darius.)

KING (CONT'D)

You are wise above all men in my  
kingdom.

CLOSE ON KING

KING (CONT'D)

And I thank you for all you've  
done.



CLOSE ON DANIEL - he tips his head in humility.

DANIEL  
I am humbled, my Lord.  
(raising his head as...)  
But, my wisdom comes only from God  
Almighty...

OTS OF DANIEL ON KING

DANIEL (CONT'D)  
... who continually gives me  
strength as I pray to Him.

KING (O.C.)  
(interested)  
You speak so much of your God.

OTS OF KING ON DANIEL

DANIEL  
All that I have - all that I am -  
comes from Him.

OTS OF DANIEL AND KING

KING  
Ah, Daniel... (As he places his  
hand on his shoulder)-

\*

OTS OF KING ON DANIEL AND CUT TO WIDE SHOT OF DANIEL AND THE  
KING WALKING TOWARD THE BALCONY.

KING (CONT'D)  
...if only I could believe in  
anything as much as you believe in  
your God.

ON KIDS LOOKING OUT THE CURTAIN

CHRIS  
(whispering)  
Now's our chance to sneak out.

Chris, Joy and Gizmo duck out from behind the drapery and  
scoot out the King's chamber door.

INT. PALACE HALL - CONTINUOUS

Chris, Joy and Gizmo exit the King's chamber and freeze as  
they hear VOICES of people walking their way - just around  
the corner up ahead.

ARSALAN/JAVEED/PARSHAN (O.S.)  
(Murmuring wallah)

Chris looks upwards.

CAMERA TRACKS TO FOLLOW CHRIS' HEAD TO HIS POV LOOKING UP

CHRIS  
Time to grab some big air, Giz!

ON GIZMO - <FZZZZPPPTT> His hand shoots out of his arm,  
trailing a cable.

CUT TO GIZMO'S POV AS HIS ARM IS SHOOTING UP TOWARD THE  
OPENING

ANGLE ON THE LIP OF THE SKYLIGHT - Gizmo's hand SPEEDS INTO  
FRAME. It grabs the lip of the skylight. <METALLIC CLINK>  
The trailing line goes taut. <THWACK>

BACK ON GIZMO, JOY AND CHRIS - Gizmo is rising up on his  
"fist-line" as Chris grabs one of his boots and Joy grabs the  
other and they are hoisted upwards and O.C.

Three men comes around the corner and stop beneath. They are  
unaware that Chris, Joy and Gizmo hang fifteen feet overhead.  
The three are ARSALAN, JAVEED, and PARSHAN. They are advisors  
to the KING, and they do not appear pleased.

CLOSE ON THE THREE

JAVEED  
Arsalan, we *must* do something about  
how the King favors Daniel!

PARSHAN  
We have tried to find fault in  
Daniel's work. But there is none!

CLOSE ON ARSALAN

ARSALAN  
I have taken care of the matter.

Arsalan pulls out a rolled-up parchment and <BANGS> it on his  
open palm.

CLOSE ON JAVEED

JAVEED  
What do you mean?

CLOSE ON PARSHAN

PARSHAN  
(densely)  
You're gonna hit him with that?

MS ON THE THREE

ARSALAN  
No, I'm not going to *hit* him,  
Parshan!  
(he swats Parshan on the  
head to make his point.

ANGLE ON CHRIS, JOY, AND GIZMO HANGING ABOVE

ARSALAN (CONT'D)  
Daniel's fate shall be *far* worse.

CAMERA PUSHES IN ON THE KIDS

ARSALAN (CONT'D)  
For, I have convinced the King...

KIDS POV OF THE THREE

ARSALAN (CONT'D)  
... to sign *this* proclamation.

MS ON THE THREE

ARSALAN (CONT'D)  
Daniel thinks he's so pious -  
praying all the time. (Self-  
satisfied snicker) It is this very  
habit that is going to be his  
demise.

The three exit OS.

ANGLE ON THE THREE LEAVING THROUGH THE DOORWAY

After the three exit the kids descend back down into frame.

CHRIS  
Those guys are out to get the  
king's friend Daniel!

\*

JOY  
Chris, we should warn...

SHAHKAM (O.S.)  
HALT, TRESPASSERS!

A few feet from the ground, Chris, Joy and Gizmo crane their  
necks and look behind them.

CHRIS & JOY  
Huh?/GASP.

CAMERA WHIP PANS TO THEIR POV - SHAHKAM, the Commander of the Palace Guard is charging towards them.

BACK ON CHRIS, JOY AND GIZMO

GIZMO  
Going up! Next stop, rooftop! \*

ANGLE ON SHAHKAM WITH KIDS IN THE FOREGROUND

Gizmo retracts his arm-line with all haste <WHIRRRRR> - just as Shahkam dives INTO FRAME to grab them -

SHAHKAM  
(Diving roar)

They rocket upwards and Shahkam tackles nothing but air, <CRASHING> to the floor empty-armed.

SHAHKAM (CONT'D)  
(Impact grunt)

UP ANGLE AT KIDS

Chris, Joy and Gizmo speed upwards and right out the skylight opening.

ANGLE ON SKYLIGHT

CHRIS & JOY  
(Whoaaaaa!... Gizmooooo...!)

ON SHAHKAM - ON THE FLOOR - turning and looking up, shouting angrily and shaking his fist.

SHAHKAM  
When I catch you three, I'll have  
you thrown to the lions!!!

CUT TO:

EXT. MARKETPLACE OUTSIDE PALACE - CONTINUOUS

A market street lined with stalls runs along this palace wall. This wall of the palace contains a palace entry with a dozen steps leading up to the ornate arch opening. GUARD 1 and GUARD 2 are posted on either side of the entry. King Darius' balcony is at the other end of the palace wall. It looks down over the market. There is also a side street that runs perpendicular off the main market street.

(This is the street to Daniel's home) In the stalls are earthenware, vegetables, silks, leather goods, etc.

There is a HORSE DRAWN HAY WAGON parked near the palace wall between the front entry and the King's balcony. The WAGON OWNER is tugging on the reins of his stubborn horse.

WAGON OWNER  
(Tug effort)

He gives up and tosses the reins up - turning to the bemused STALL OWNER owner who is watching.

WAGON OWNER (CONT'D)  
Aw... what's the use? I can't get  
this old nag to move!

\*

CLOSER ANGLE ON HORSE - Gizmo plummets down INTO FRAME and lands backwards on the horse.

GIZMO  
Whoaaa...Oooof!

\*

The Horse <WHINNIES> and REARS

GIZMO (CONT'D)  
Whoaaa!!!!

Chris and Joy land in the hay wagon.

CHRIS & JOY  
(Short screams into impact hits)

The wagon starts O.C. with accompanying <HOOF BEATS>

CLOSE ON THE WAGON OWNER (HORSE AND WAGON FLY THROUGH FRAME REVEALING THE WAGON OWNER BEHIND)

WAGON OWNER  
Now that's more like it!

He realizes the horse and wagon are taking off with Joy and Chris in the wagon and Gizmo, riding backwards, atop the horse's back. <CONTINUED WHINNIES>

WAGON OWNER (CONT'D)  
Hey. Hey! Come back! Thieves!

\*

The wagon owner runs off screen in the direction of the horse.

EXT. ROAD INTO TOWN - CONTINUOUS

The wagon with the kids shoots up over the hill with the wagon owner trailing behind.

WAGON OWNER  
Thieves!

THE CAMERA TRACKS THE WAGON AS IT RUNS OFF DOWN THE ROAD OUT OF THE TOWN AND OVER THE HORIZON.

The sky grows darker. - TIME LATER -

The kids appear back over the horizon.

JOY (O.C.)  
We have to do something, Chris!

MS ON CHRIS AND JOY TRACKING LEFT TO RIGHT AS KIDS WALK.

JOY (CONT'D)  
Those guys we overheard in the palace are planning to harm Daniel and trick the King.

CLOSE ON CHRIS AND JOY

CHRIS  
Joy, you heard that guard! He'll feed us to the lions if he catches us in the palace again.

\*

JOY  
Then we need find Daniel and warn him.

She gets a determined look on her face as they gain O.C.

EXT. MARKETPLACE OUTSIDE PALACE - MOMENTS LATER

CLOSE ON WAGON OWNER

CAMERA PULLS OUT TO REVEAL KIDS

JOY  
Hi... um... Here's your horse and wagon back.

THREE SHOT OF KIDS

CHRIS  
Safe and sound. It was, uh - an accident. Sorry.

\*  
\*

OWNER CROSSES SCREEN AND CUT TO WIDE SHOT OF EVERYONE

GIZMO  
All's well that ends well, heh, I  
always say.

\*

The Wagon Owner makes sure the hay is packed in.

WAGON OWNER  
Stay out of wagons that don't  
belong to you.

ON MS OF THE KIDS

Joy elbows Chris to step forward and ask the man something.

CHRIS  
Uh, sir, we wondered if you knew  
the King's friend, Daniel?

\*

ON WAGON OWNER PACKING HAY

The Wagon owner turns and his face goes from gruff to  
curious.

WAGON OWNER  
You know Daniel?

\*

TWO SHOT ON CHRIS AND JOY

CHRIS  
Well... we've seen him... you  
know... around...

JOY  
He seems like a very good man.

MS ON WAGON OWNER

WAGON OWNER  
I hear he prays three times a day.

ON GIZMO

GIZMO  
Do you know where we can find him?

ON WAGON OWNER

The Wagon Owner points down the side street.

WAGON OWNER  
Last house...

\*

POV OF WAGON OWNER

WAGON OWNER (CONT'D)  
...on that street.

\*

THREE SHOT ON KIDS

A <TRUMPET BLAST.> Everyone turns and looks up at...

CAMERA PANS UP AS KIDS LOOK UP

THE PALACE BALCONY - Arsalan, Parshan, and Javeed stand looking out over the market. Arsalan steps forward and calls out.

ANGLE ON BALCONY

ARSALAN  
Hear ye, citizens of Babylon!

ANGLE ON STREET AS CAMERA JIBS DOWN TO STREET LEVEL

ARSALAN (CONT'D)  
A decree from King Darius!  
(reading parchment)

ON BALCONY

ARSALAN (CONT'D)  
Anyone who prays to any god or man during the next thirty days except to the king, shall be thrown into the lion's den. And so it has been decreed this day.

\*

BACK ON CHRIS, JOY AND GIZMO - <TRUMPET BLAST>

JOY  
Oh no! Come on!

They turn heels and run down the street to Daniel's house.  
ANGLE TOWARDS WAGON OWNER - He grabs the reins of the horse but still can't get it to move.

CUT TO:



SKY, SUNLIGHT SHINING THROUGH THE CLOUDS, CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL DANIEL PRAYING AT THE OPEN WINDOW. THE CAMERA THEN PUSHES IN AND ROUND TO DANIEL'S FACE, VIEW FROM OUTSIDE THE WINDOW. \*

There is a <KNOCK> - Daniel gets up and goes to opens the door.

CLOSE ON DOOR KNOB

Daniel opens the door and CHRIS, JOY, and GIZMO hurry in.

JOY  
Daniel, you have to listen to us!

ON DANIEL WITH KIDS IN FOREGROUND

Daniel reacts in surprise.

DANIEL  
I do? And who might you be? \*

JOY  
We're friends.

CHRIS  
And you're in great danger!

CLOSE ON DANIEL

DANIEL  
How is it that you know my name,  
but I do not know yours? \*

CHRIS  
You have to listen!

WIDE SHOT ON KIDS STANDING IN THE DOORWAY AS DANIEL LISTENS TO THEM.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
There's a plot to have you killed!

Daniel shuts the door.

JOY  
The King just issued a decree that  
says if anyone prays, EXCEPT TO  
HIM...

THREE SHOT ON KIDS

JOY (CONT'D)  
...they'll be thrown into the  
lion's den!

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL DANIEL

DANIEL  
(a sigh) - Yes, I learned of this  
proclamation before leaving the  
palace.

OTS OF CHRIS ON DANIEL

DANIEL (CONT'D)  
It is not the King's doing, but  
rather, Arsalan and his friends.

MS ON KIDS

JOY  
What are you going to do?

ON DANIEL

DANIEL  
What I have been doing.

ANGLE ON WINDOW

Daniel kneels and folds his hand, about to pray once more.  
Chris reacts.

MS ON KIDS

The kids look at each other in fear.

ANGLE ON WINDOW

CHRIS  
Um, maybe you should pray - like,  
in secret?

Chris crosses and quickly closes the window shutter. Daniel  
smiles at Chris.

CLOSE ON DANIEL

DANIEL  
If I am afraid of what others will  
say or do, when I...

\*

OTS OF DANIEL ON CHRIS, CAMERA TRACKS UP AS DANIEL STANDS TO  
HIS FEET

DANIEL (CONT'D)  
... do what is right...  
(reaching up - opening the  
shutter)

ON DANIEL

DANIEL (CONT'D)  
... then I have no strength at all.

ON CHRIS

Chris looks at Daniel in confusion.

ON CHRIS AND DANIEL IN FRONT OF THE WINDOW

Daniel flings the shutters back open and the lights streams in.

ANGLE ON KIDS - Joy is drawn to Daniel. As she steps closer the rays of LIGHT now illuminate her in the same way.

JOY  
I wish I had your strength.

FAVOR CHRIS as he watches this.

CHRIS  
(softly)  
Joy...

Chris' eyes open slightly wider - he pauses -- then he realizes he does not have the same strength. His eyes close and his head lowers as he turns away. He knows he can't be this strong yet.

ANGLE UP ON DANIEL AS JOY ENTERS FRAME

DANIEL  
Kneel with me. I will teach you how  
to pray.

ANGLE ON WINDOW AS THEY KNEEL DOWN TOGETHER

(STAGING NOTE - Joy should be kneeling - she is lower than the window frame and is hidden from the street view - so that she would NOT be visible outside the window. Only Daniel would be visible to passersby on the street below.)

DANIEL (CONT'D)  
God wants you to tell Him...

FAVOR JOY WITH DANIEL IN THE FOREGROUND

DANIEL (CONT'D)  
... what is truly on your heart,  
Joy.

ON GIZMO AS HE WATCHES AMAZED

Chris enters frame with a distraught face.

DANIEL (CONT'D)  
He loves you and wants you to be  
honest with Him always...

FAVOR JOY WITH DANIEL IN THE FOREGROUND

DANIEL (CONT'D)  
... even in times of trouble.

Daniel fold his hands to pray and Joy follows his lead and closes her eyes. A beat... suddenly, there is a <BANGING> on the door.

ON THE DOOR

Chris enters frame

CHRIS (O.S.)  
JOY! It's them!

\*

CLOSE ON GIZMO AND CHRIS

Chris bolts O.C. Towards Joy and Daniel as...

GIZMO  
I am going to guess that is NOT  
what they were praying for!

ANGLE ON DANIEL AND JOY - CHRIS runs INTO FRAME, grabbing Joy and zipping off into the other room with GIZMO.

ANGLE ON ENTRY DOOR - The door is kicked open. <KEERRASH>  
Shahkam, Arsalan, Javeed and Parshan charge in.

DANIEL remains kneeling in prayer.

ARSALAN  
Daniel! I hereby...

ANGLE ON MEN STANDING IN THE DOOR

ARSALAN (CONT'D)  
... arrest you under the highest  
authority.

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL DANIEL

Daniel as he opens his eyes.

DANIEL  
You may arrest me. But, it is not  
by the highest authority.

CLOSE ON MEN (They looked shocked at what Daniel is saying)

Shahkam storms toward DANIEL.

SHAHKAM  
You're coming with us!

OTS OF JOY LOOKING OUT THROUGH THE CURTAIN

Shahkam grabs Daniel.

CLOSE ON KIDS (They have looks of fear and disbelief)

CHRIS & JOY  
Oh no!/(GASP)

When the men exit, the door <SLAMS>. CHRIS JOY AND GIZMO step  
out of the side room and run to the window. They look out to  
see Daniel being dragged into view and down the street.  
Arsalan leads the way, calling out as a citizens scatter out  
of their way.

THE CAMERA TRACKS IN FRONT OF THE KIDS AS THEY RUN TO THE  
WINDOW.

JOY (O.C.)  
Wait!

ANGLE ON STREET

CUT TO STREET LEVEL

As Daniel is drug through the streets and off camera with we  
hear...

ARSALAN  
(calling to citizens)  
Let this be a lesson to any who  
would pray to a man or a god who is  
not our King Darius!

PUSH IN ON THE KIDS WHO STARE IN HORROR...

FADE OUT:

**ACT TWO**

FADE IN:

INT. DANIELS' HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The kids and Gizmo watch Daniel hauled down the street and around a corner.

CHRIS

It was almost like he didn't care  
that he was going to get thrown to  
the lions for praying.

\*

CLOSE ON CHRIS AND JOY - Her expression changes to resolve.

JOY

Daniel did what he believed was  
right, Chris, regardless of the  
consequences.

\*

AS CAMERA PUSHES IN ON JOY

JOY (CONT'D)

And it's time we did the same!

Joy heads out the door. Chris and Gizmo follow her out.

GIZMO

Uh, Where are we going?

\*

MS ON KIDS

They are all out the door.

JOY

To tell King Darius exactly what's  
going on.

CUT TO:

INT. PALACE CORRIDOR - A SHORT WHILE LATER

ANGLE FROM ABOVE

Shahkam is dragging Daniel down the hall on his knees.  
Daniel's wrists are now bound with rope. Arsalan, Javeed and  
Parshan follow.

ON KING

KING (O.S.)  
What is the meaning of this  
outrage?!

ON ARSALAN, AND JAVEED

ARSALAN  
We caught Daniel...

WS ON MEN APPROACHING THE KING

ARSALAN (CONT'D)  
... praying to his god... and not  
to you.

PUSH IN ON THE KING

The King's eyes soften, knowing he is caught in a tough  
dilemma. \*

KING  
Daniel...

ON DANIEL - He slowly raises his gaze to meet the KING's.

PAN UP TO ARSALAN.

ARSALAN  
The preparations for the execution  
have been ordered, my lord.

FAVOR KING

KING  
Daniel is my friend.

PUSH IN ON DANIEL

CLOSE ON Arsalan- feigning final resolve with King in  
foreground.

ARSALAN  
A decree set forth by the King,  
after all, is the law. It cannot be  
undone.

King Darius turns and walks - he steps a few feet away and  
then turns, rubbing the back of his neck - caught in a  
dilemma. \*

WS ON KING

CLOSE ON KING

KING

(low)

There *must* be a way!

Arsalan raises his hands in an innocent shrug.

ARSALAN

My Lord - it was your doing.

CLOSE ON ARSALAN

ARSALAN (CONT'D)

What is done is done.

\*

The KING enters frame and faces Arsalan, nose-to-nose, as he whispers.

KING

(low)

You are terribly quick to have justice served when we speak of a loyal friend's life.

ARSALAN

(low)

I consider only you, my king. If we are not swift with the first offender - you will appear... weak.

The KING backs off slowly.

TWO SHOT OF KING AND ARSALAN

ARSALAN (CONT'D)

(normal level)

And the Kingdom will not give you your due respect.

- The KING pierces Arsalan with his glare. Daniel looks up at the men as the King turns to him.

ON DANIEL

DANIEL

(softly)

I respect you with all my heart, my king. But I will respect no decree or law that prevents me from praying to the One True God.

\*

ON KING

KING

Your god means this much to you?



OTS OF THE KING ON DANIEL

Daniel rises - hands still bound. He looks into the King's eyes. \*

DANIEL

He does.

Shahkam pushes Daniel off as the others follow. PUSH IN ON THE KING. \*

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MARKETPLACE OUTSIDE THE PALACE - CONTINUOUS

WIDE SHOT ON PALACE AND MARKET PLACE

STREET LEVEL OF MARKET PLACE

Joy peeks around the corner of a market stall. Chris' head appears above hers. Then Gizmo's head (elongated neck) appears above Chris. \*

CLOSE ON CHRIS AND JOY

CHRIS

The King'll never believe us if we tell him we overheard those guys plotting against Daniel.

THEIR POV - THE PALACE - GUARD 1 and GUARD 2 are posted atop the steps.

JOY (O.S.)

How will we know unless we try?

GIZMOS HEAD ENTERS FRAME

Gizmo glances back in their direction.

GIZMO

Try what?!

ON STALL

Joy looks around the stall for something.

CLOSE ON JOY as she picks up two three foot sticks.

JOY

You guys create a distraction so I can get inside. \*  
\*

WIDE SHOT OF KIDS

Joy hands one to Chris and one to Gizmo.

CHRIS

Oh, great. The palace guards have  
gigundo metal swords and we're  
going to fight them with *sticks*?

\*

FAVOR JOY - she throws her hands on Chris and Gizmos'  
shoulders.

JOY

You're not going to fight them.

CLOSE ON KIDS

JOY (CONT'D)

You're going to fight each other!

CHRIS/GIZMO

WHAT?!

JOY

You're going to keep them so  
distracted, I'll be able to slip  
past without being noticed. - EN  
GUARDE, BOYS!

\*

Joy shoves them both O.C. with their sticks flailing.

ANGLE DOWN ON PALACE STEPS

Chris and Gizmo enter frame at the bottom of the steps.

Chris and Gizmo do just as Joy has instructed and "play"  
sword fight, at the bottom of the steps. The GUARDS take  
notice.

CHRIS/GIZMO

(Sword fighting ad-libs)

ON JOY SNEAKING AROUND THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STAIRS.

ON CHRIS AND GIZMO FIGHTING ON THE STAIRS

CHRIS/GIZMO (CONT'D)

(sword fight ad-libs -- Ha! Take  
that scoundrel!... You'll never  
defeat me! Touche! Owww... En guard  
etc... --Record enough to carry  
through the guards' next speeches)

CAMERA PANS UP THE STEPS TO GUARDS

The guards move away from their posts - down a few steps to shoo the kids away.

GUARD 1  
Off the palace steps, you little  
beggars!

CLOSE ON STEPS GIZMO AND CHRIS ENTER FRAME

Chris and Gizmo continue to sword fight as...

CHRIS (O.S.)  
I'll never join you. You killed my  
father!

\*

GIZMO (O.S.)  
No! I am your father!

PAN UP STEPS TO GUARDS AND FAVOR JOY - She sneaks by and into the palace entrance, unseen. Chris and Gizmo can be heard sword fighting OFF CAMERA.

GUARD 2  
What? He's too young to be his  
father!

\*

\*

FAVOR ON JOY - Unseen, she slips into the shadows beyond the front entrance and INTO THE PALACE PROPER.

CHRIS/GIZMO (O.S.)  
(making light saber sound effects  
with their mouths)

Guard 1 unsheathes his sword. <SHRENNK>

CLOSE ON CHRIS AND GIZMO

GUARD 1 AND 2 (O.S.)  
(Charging yells - record enough to  
carry through THE next several  
shots of chase)

ON GUARDS

The Guards race down the steps at Chris and Gizmo with swords raised overhead.

CLOSE ON CHRIS AND GIZMO - They stop sword fighting and spot the Guards speeding down the steps towards them. They turn tail and flee O.C.

CHRIS/GIZMO  
(Comical screams of fear)

CUT TO:

INT. PALACE CORRIDOR

Joy peers around the corner. She zips back around the corner and sneaks through the palace.

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON CHRIS AND GIZ RUNNING

CHRIS  
I think we lost 'em, Giz!

\*

WIDE SHOT ON CHRIS AND GIZMO RUNNING IN THE DIRECTION OF THE LION PIT.

ANGLE UP INSIDE PIT

Chris and Gizmo come crashing towards the camera into the pit.

\*

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
WHAAAAA!

```
GIZMO  
YIIIIIIIIIIIII!!!!!!
```

<CRASH-BANG>...

CUT TO:

INT. LIONS DEN - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE ON CHRIS

CHRIS sits up in the darkness.

WIDE SHOT OF DEN

GIZMO is knocked out cold beside him.

CLOSE ON CHRIS as he rubs his head.

Suddenly, we hear a <LOW GROWL> Chris whirls...

\*

POV - FOUR FIERCE LIONS. They are licking their chops.

ON CHRIS FROM GIZMOS POV

CHRIS  
Giz.....! Wake up!!

PAN DOWN TO GIZMO

CLOSE ON GIZMO

TWO SHOT ON GIZMO AND CHRIS as Chris sets Gizmo up.

GIZMO  
(eyes open wide -  
screaming)  
LLLLLLLLIOOOOONS!

CLOSE ON LIONS as camera pans across them.

CLOSE ON GIZMO'S BOOTS - Chris' shoes land down on them.

CHRIS (O.S.)  
BOOT-STERS BLAST!!!!

Gizmo's boosters FIRE UP.

WIDE ON CHRIS AND GIZMO

DOWN ANGLE ON CHRIS AND GIZMO

CAMERA TRACKS as they zoom upwards as lions leap after them  
swiping wildly. <LION GROWLS SNARLS>

CLOSE ON LIONS LEAPING

ANGLE UP AS CHRIS AND GIZMO SHOOT THROUGH THE OPENING

CHRIS/GIZMO  
(WAHOOOOOO/screams into impact  
grunts)

CUT TO:

DUST CLOUD

As dust cloud clears we see...

CHRIS sits up - grateful.

CHRIS  
(Panting) You okay, Giz?

\*

CLOSE ON GIZMO

GIZMO  
<MOANING>

GIZMO wipes his facial screen with windshield wipers and shakes his head.

They suddenly hear something O.C. and turn...

ARSALAN (O.S.)  
It is hereby decreed that  
Daniel...,

ON WIDE SHOT OF PLACE

ARSALAN (CONT'D)  
... found in contempt of the edict  
of the King...

ANGLE ON KING DARIUS - he enters the area, followed by the advisors, and Shahkam, who is prodding DANIEL along.

ARSALAN (CONT'D)  
... and in direct disobedience to  
his charge, shall be thrown to the  
lions.

CAMERA STAYS ON ARSALAN AND ARCS AROUND HIM.

ARSALAN (CONT'D)  
Oh Daniel. How the favorite has  
fallen.

CLOSE ON ARSALAN

ARSALAN (CONT'D)  
Where is your God now?

UP ANGLE ON DANIEL FROM INSIDE THE PIT

<LION ROAR O.C.>

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL THE LIONS JUMPING TOWARD THE  
OPENING AND GROWLING.

DOWN ANGLE ON LIONS as they look angry and hungry.

UP ANGLE ON DANIEL FROM INSIDE THE PIT

DANIEL  
The lion's roar may be mighty...,

DANIEL raises his gaze and looks Arsalan square in the eye.

CLOSER ON DANIEL - His hands are bound. Arsalan reads from a scroll.

DANIEL (CONT'D)  
... Arsalan. But my God is  
mightier.

\*

CLOSE ON ARSALAN

ARSALAN  
(SMUG LAUGH)

CLOSE ON DANIEL

Daniel turns to look towards the king

THE CAMERA PANS UP TO THE KING - He looks towards Daniel.

KING  
(NLT)  
May your God, whom you serve so  
faithfully, rescue you.

The king exits OC.

ON JOY RUNNING TO THE WINDOW to see that she is too late.

CAMERA PULLS BACK to reveal Chris and Gizmo watching in horror.

ON PIT OPENING

Daniel is lowered into the pit by GUARDS 1,2,3 and 4. We hear the <LIONS' ROAR and SNARL> They let the end of the rope fall completely in.

CLOSE ON JOY

JOY  
I was too late!

CLOSE ON STONE as it begins to be slid into place

ANGLE UP FROM INSIDE THE PIT

Arsalan smugly waves goodbye as the rock covers the opening.

DUTCH ANGLE ON Arsalan and his pals.

ARSALAN  
(self satisfied)  
And that is the end - of Daniel.

ANGLE ON CHRIS AND GIZMO WITH JOY UP IN THE WINDOW IN THE BACKGROUND.

They stare in dismay and horror.

FADE OUT.

**ACT THREE**

FADE IN:

WIDE SHOT OF PLACE AND MARKET

OTS OF JOY ON THE KING

She sees the King standing, gazing out the window.

ON JOY PEEKING AROUND THE CORNER

JOY eases out from the corner

TWO SHOT OF KING AND JOY

and approaches... The King hears her and whirls.

KING  
Who approaches?

OTS OF KING ON JOY

Joy suddenly kneels and bows

JOY  
(whispering - hurried)  
A friend of Daniel's. May I speak  
with you, my lord?

CLOSE ON KING

The KING is perplexed. Impatiently. Looking around to see if anyone is with her.

KING  
You risk your life to speak to me?

\*

WIDE SHOT ON JOY AND KING

The KING approaches joy.

KING (CONT'D)  
What could possibly be so  
important?

ON JOY



JOY  
Doing the right thing.

OTS OF JOY ON KING

KING  
Pardon me?

Joy rises to her feet.

\*

JOY  
Your highness...,

OTS OF KING ON JOY

JOY (CONT'D)  
... do you know that the men who  
asked you to enforce that decree  
are evil?

The KING walks away.

TWO SHOT ON KING AND JOY

KING  
I know they conspire for power.

The KING looks off - lost in his thoughts.

KING (CONT'D)  
Sometimes...,

CLOSE ON KING

KING (CONT'D)  
... even a King can be uncertain  
about what is right.

The king exits OC

KING (CONT'D)  
I will not sleep this night.

CLOSE ON JOY

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. COURTYARD - NIGHT

WIDE SHOT OF PALACE

ANGLE ON STONE with guards standing by a fire nearby.

ON KING'S PALACE LOOKING TOWARD WINDOW

The KING enter frame and falls to his knees at the window.

CLOSE ON KING as he looks up toward the moon.

ANGLE ON MOON

THE CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL joy entering the courtyard and kneeling behind the stone over the pit.

ANGLE ON JOY hands clasped for prayer

Chris and Gizmo join Joy. They hunker down together. \*

WIDE SHOT ON THE KIDS PRAYING TOGETHER

CAMERA PANS UP AND PUSHES IN ON THE KINGS WINDOW

INT. PALACE - KING'S CHAMBER - NIGHT (MONTAGE)

The King tries to sleep but tosses and turns and then sits up in his bed.

THE CAMERA PUSHES INTO THE WINDOW ON THE NIGHT SKY

Sky turns to day.

EXT. COURTYARD

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL The guards and the kids waking from their sleep as the KING and his men enter the courtyard.

CHRIS AND JOY  
(Waking up ad-libs, wha... what was that?)

ARSALAN  
Why do we hurry, your highness?

CLOSE ON MEN COMING DOWN THE STAIRS

ARSALAN (CONT'D)  
Daniel is most certainly dead.

ANGLE ON KING WALKING TO THE STONE

The KING whirls around to face Arsalan.

KING  
We will find out whether or not  
Daniel's God is real.

OTS OF KING ON ARSALAN looking stunned

The KING turns back around and heads toward the stone and Arsalan gets a smug look on his face.

ANGLE ON KING

KING DARIUS sees JOY, CHRIS, and GIZMO peering around the rock.

KING (CONT'D)

You!

POV OF KING

KING (CONT'D)

Come to me.

PULL BACK TO OTS OF KING ON KIDS

CHRIS, JOY, and GIZMO hesitantly step out into the sunlight. Shahkam is aghast and sticks his spear out.

SHAHKAM

My King, those are the ones that  
have been making all the trouble!

OTS OF SHAHKAM ON KING

The KING grips Shahkam's spear and glares eye-to-eye with Shahkam.

KING

Those two and *that* girl - have my  
pardon.

CLOSE ON SHAHKAM

SHAHKAM

(jaw dropping)

Wha...

Shahkam is speechless as CHRIS, JOY, and GIZMO walk directly past him to the KING.

CLOSE ON SEAL

KING

The seal is still unbroken.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL KING

The king turns toward the guards

KING (CONT'D)  
Move the stone.

ANGLE ON KING WITH GUARDS MOVING STONE IN FOREGROUND

The GUARDS heave the stone away and a cloud of dust emanates from the dark pit.

ANGLE FROM INSIDE PIT AS STONE IS MOVED AWAY

The KING and the children stand at the edge. They see nothing but dust. The KING searches with his eyes.

CLOSE ON KING

KING (CONT'D)  
Daniel?

ON MEN

ARSALAN  
(derisively)  
Heh, He talks to the dead.

MEN  
<SMUG CHUCKLE>

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

UP ANGLE ON KING AND KIDS

The KING is persistent.

KING (CEV)  
Daniel, you were faithful and  
served your God. Was he able to  
save you from the lions?!

There is a moment of silence...

QUICK CUTS AROUND - EXPECTANT FACES --- Chris... Joy...

DANIEL (O.S.) (NLT)  
Long live the king!

FAVOR ARSALAN

ARSALAN  
WHAAAAAAT?! IMPOSSIBLE!

JOY, CHRIS, and GIZMO are overjoyed, as is KING DARIUS.

CHRIS, JOY, GIZMO & KING DARIUS  
(OVERJOYED AD-LIBS - He made it!  
Etc..)

POV DOWN INTO THE PIT - DANIEL is kneeling peacefully among sleeping lions. SHAFTS OF MORNING LIGHT BATHE HIM IN GLORY. He steps out into the light.

DANIEL (NLT)  
My God sent his angel to shut the  
lions' mouths so that they would  
not hurt me...,

WS FROM WITHIN THE PIT

The lions are beginning to move around.

DANIEL (CONT'D)  
... for I have been found innocent  
in his sight. And also, Oh King, I  
have done no wrong before you.

\*

CLOSE ON KING with a smile on his face

KING DARIUS looks to the GUARDS.

KING  
Lift him out!

ANGLE ON DANIEL IN THE PIT as a rope is dropped down for him.

KING (CONT'D)  
I command everyone in my kingdom to  
worship and honor the God of  
Daniel!

ON ARSALAN, JAVEED, AND PARSHAN

Arsalan, Javeed, and Parshan are horrified.

ARSALAN/JAVEED/PARSHAN  
(ad-lib protests)

ON KIDS

KING (CEV)  
He is the living God, the one who  
lives forever.

PAN TO GUARDS lifting Daniel out

KING (CONT'D)  
His power and His wisdom will never  
end.

The king enters frame and places his shoulder on Daniel.

KING (CONT'D)  
He rescues people and sets them  
free...

CLOSE ON KING

KING (CONT'D)  
... by working great miracles.

The KING turns to Arsalan and the advisors.

KING (CONT'D)  
As for you...

OTS OF ADVISORS ON KING

KING (CONT'D)  
... you will discover exactly how  
mighty the lion's roar can be.

UP ANGLE ON MEN LOOKING SHOCKED AND SCARED

ANGLE ON CHRIS JOY AND GIZMO - At that moment, THE SUPERBOOK  
SFX COMES UP --- The trio steps behind the large stone.

JOY  
Chris! Gizmo! Superbook's taking us  
home!

\*

The blue light fills the screen. The <SUPERBOOK SOUND MIXES  
WITH THE SOUND OF LIONS GROWLING AND SNARLING>

SUPERBOOK  
DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SKATEBOARD PARK GATE - DAY

Chris, Joy and Gizmo appear out of a BLUE LIGHT.

ON KIDS standing by while Barry picks on Tommy.

BARRY is skating around on TOMMY's skateboard while TOMMY  
sits alone on the sidelines, crying. The other kids look on -  
but no one does anything.

BARRY  
(Laughing) Ah come on and get it,  
BABY!

ON CHRIS JOY AND GIZMO

Chris has an angry and determined look on his face.

CHRIS  
Right back where we left.

CHRIS and JOY, glance at each other.

CLOSE ON CHRIS

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
If Daniel could do the right thing,  
so can I.

\*

ANGLE ON BARRY

CHRIS stands in BARRY's path, forcing BARRY to skid the skateboard to a stop.

BARRY  
What's your deal?

WS of Chris, Barry, and Tommy

CHRIS points to TOMMY.

CHRIS  
**He's** my deal. Give him back his  
skateboard. -- Give it back now.

CLOSE ON TOMMY

TOMMY sees this and is in awe.

BARRY balls his fist and gets right in CHRIS' face.

BARRY  
Says who?

CAMERA PANS UP TO CHRIS AND BARRY IN EACH OTHERS FACES

CHRIS  
Says... me.

BARRY  
YEAH?! AND WHO ELSE?

PULL BACK TO REVEAL JOY

JOY  
Me.

BARRY laughs this off.

BARRY  
(Laughing) You?

CLOSE ON TOMMY

TOMMY suddenly scampers up.

TOMMY  
Oh! Oh! Oh! And ME!

MS OF FOUR

TOMMY (CONT'D)  
Me too, yeah!

OTS OF CHRIS AND TOMMY ON BARRY

Barry is starting to get a little worried.

Suddenly, we hear the sound of many others.

ALL (O.S.)  
(scattered, not unison)  
Yeah and ... US TOO.

BARRY's eyes grow wide and he takes a step back.

CAMERA JIBS UP TO and we see that all of the kids have decided to do the right thing.

CLOSE ON JOY AND CHRIS

CHRIS looks to JOY. Both smile.

WS OF EVERYONE

BARRY caves quickly.

BARRY  
Hey - I was just messing around.  
The kid can't take a joke. Is that  
my problem?

\*

BARRY hands the skateboard back to TOMMY. TOMMY is suddenly a comic ball of fire - in BARRY's face. BARRY backs away.

MS OF BARRY AND TOMMY

TOMMY  
Don't call me KID!!

Chris steps into frame.

CHRIS  
(sotto)  
Tommy? - not a good time.



