

EXCERPT TITLE: Justice in Minor Keys: “Say Their Names” — A Turning Point

Context Paragraph: This excerpt from *Justice in Minor Keys* centers around a pivotal turning point in the musical where communal grief and historical erasure reach a crescendo. Titled “Say Their Names,” this emotionally charged sequence fuses poetic monologue, visual projections, and layered vocal arrangements to confront the legacy of racial injustice. At its core, the scene asks the audience to **see the human first—not the caste, not the race**. Through the voices of THE CONSCIENCE and THE WITNESS, and a collective musical cry, the piece challenges silence as complicity and invites the audience into moral reflection and active empathy. This moment marks the shift from mourning to movement—where remembrance becomes responsibility.

EXCERPT STARTS:

[ACT I: AWAKENING VOICES - OPENING SEQUENCE]

NARRATOR

(gently, reflective)

Have you ever run just because you could?

(Pauses)

Because the moon was calling and the night was yours?

(Reaches stage)

Tonight, we run with someone who did just that.

(Light shifts)

A young man. Running toward his dreams.

(Softer)

Until two men twisted freedom into suspicion.

["THE RUN" begins - Musical Number with full company]

[A crescendo leads into blackout, then the NARRATOR steps forward with a single handheld light.]

NARRATOR

When darkness descends, what do we reach for first? Light... always light.

[MUSICAL NUMBER: "LUCIÉRNAGAS"] (The stage glows with tiny lights as fireflies and voices echo resilience.)

THE CONSCIENCE

But even fear can fade... we can all find ways to make fear fade—like the fireflies do, holding back the dark.

THE WITNESS

By facing the shadows, we find the path forward.

[ENSEMBLE swells into final chorus:] **LIKE A FIREFLY, I'LL LIGHT UP THE NIGHT,
IN A DANCE, A DANCE FOR LIFE!**

[Blackout. Transition into ACT II.]

ACT II: RISING ACTION

NARRATOR

Light reveals truth.

And truth has names.

... In our journey toward justice, we carry their names.

THE CONSCIENCE

But silence is complicity. And we will not be complicit.

(A breath. A challenge.)

Will you?

[MUSICAL NUMBER: "SAY THEIR NAMES"]

SOLOIST 1

IN A WORLD SO COLD AND DARK...

... FULL COMPANY

FOR EVERY SOUL, IGNITE,

STAND, STAND, STAND, BE LIGHT...

ACT III: RESOLUTION

NARRATOR

In the wake of our pain, in the echo of these names, something begins to stir...

[MUSICAL NUMBER: "HEROES TOO"]

FULL COMPANY

YOU AND I, WE CAN BE, HEROES TOO...

THE CONSCIENCE

To rise, or not — that choice makes a hero.

GENERIC CHARACTER

Will you choose to be that hero?

[Transition to "GEORGE" and "THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE"]

NARRATOR

The path ahead is ours to choose. Do we echo the past—or forge a just future?

[MUSICAL NUMBER: "THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE"] FULL COMPANY

GO PRACTICE SOME MAGIC, BE TENDER AND KIND...

NARRATOR

Now go.

Be kindness practitioners.

Practice the magic.

The world is waiting.

[BLACKOUT. END OF MUSICAL.]