

*Paper Candles: How Courage and Goodness Triumphed
in an American Town*

SCENE THIRTEEN

Same street scene as in the opening, except now lighted menorahs appear alongside the Christmas lights.

ISAAC: What's that in the Nelson's window. *(pause)* Mom, it's a *menorah!*

MRS. SCHNITZER: It looks like one.

ISAAC: But the Nelsons aren't Jewish.

RABBI COHON: You're right, they're not.

RACHAEL: Look! There's another one *(turns around)* and another one ...

ISAAC: There's one in Matt Jorgen's window. I know *he's* not Jewish.

DR. SCHNITZER: No, but he *is* your friend, Isaac. Like the folks in the other houses ...

ISAAC: It's just like Mrs. MacDonald imagined it would be *(suddenly, he looks troubled)*. But suppose someone else gets their windows smashed ... or worse.

MRS. SCHNITZER: Isaac, the truth is, some people *have* been threatened ... their windows broken ... their car tires slashed. And you know what? It hasn't stopped them. They just got more determined. Rev. Torney and Mrs. MacDonald mimeographed thousands of pictures of menorahs, and the Billings Gazette printed a full page menorah and asked people to display it on a door or window in their homes. And they did, Isaac. They put up *tens* of thousands.

ISAAC *(pause)*: Mom, Dad ... er, Rabbi ... remember last year when I told you I wanted to bring some of my Hanukkah presents to school to show the other guys?

DR. SCHNITZER: Uh-huh.

ISAAC: Well... now don't be mad, but I didn't tell them they were Hanukkah presents. I felt funny. Nobody else gets Hanukkah presents. Everyone gets presents for *Christmas*.

MRS. SCHNITZER: So what did you do?

RACHAEL: He told everyone they were Christmas presents.

ISAAC: But not *this* year. This year, when I show my presents, everyone's gonna know I got them for Hanukkah.

MRS. SCHNITZER: I'm glad, Isaac.

ISAAC: Hey! Over there ... look, look!

DR. & MRS. SCHNITZER, and RACHAEL (*startled*): What? What?

ISAAC: Right there! (*points to a house with a handwritten sign with a menorah and a cross, and reads out loud*) For our friend Isaac. With love from Teresa and the Hanleys. (*grins broadly*) She didn't tell me. She didn't say a word ...

MRS. SCHNITZER: You know, honey, hate can make a lot of noise. Love and courage are usually quieter, but in the end they're the strongest.

Music begins as the entire cast comes together. Jeff stands alone, observing, at the edge of the stage.

Song – Paper Candles in Our Windows

Rev. Torney:

**It's easy to stay silent when your neighbors are in need
Especially when they're neighbors you don't know**

Mrs. MacDonald:

**So I took a chance on history
And I found what selfless love can breed
I'm sure we all agree**

Chief Inman:

**Any city or any town can be a target
But we didn't want to see that happen here
So we refused to fall asleep**

**And our city woke to take a stand and fight it
And we rose to victory**

Hanley Family (*except Teresa*):

**Paper candles in the windows of every house and every store
Paper candles burning brighter than the ones we used before
When our city's faced with evil we
Can light the flames that help us see
Paper candles in our windows**

Dr. Schnitzer:

**I couldn't comprehend how someone had the nerve
To damage people's homes they didn't know**

Mrs. Schnitzer:

**But we took this chance to teach our kids
To stick up for the rights that they deserve
The best lesson we can show**

All (*except Isaac and Teresa*):

**Paper candles in the windows of every house and every store
Paper candles burning brighter than the ones we used before
When our city's faced with evil we
Can light the flames that help us see
Paper candles in our windows**

Isaac:

**I was scared when I heard that rock come crashing through my window
To know these people out there were hiding in the shadows**

Teresa:

**But that's what friends are for, when you've had an awful scare
Through good times and bad, we'll always be there**

[*Note: At this point, Jeff turns and walks slowly off the stage*]

All:

**Paper candles in the windows of every house and every store
Paper candles burning brighter than the ones we used before
When our city's faced with evil we
Can light the flames that help us see
Paper candles in our windows**

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[Note: for a non-musical version this song can be deleted]

ISAAC (*pause*): C'mon. (*grabs his parents hands*)

MRS. SCHNITZER: What's the rush?

ISAAC (*with mock impatience*): Did you forget? It's time for me to light my menorah.

RACHAEL: Hey, wait for me!