

TEEN NOONIE

It's different now dad. You don't understand!

CLIFF leans in a little closer.

CLIFF

You don't think I understand what you doin? I get it! The world didn't give us many options over here did it! But we ain't trapped Noon. We ain't! You just haven't looked far enough ahead. You don't owe these streets your future. You got something in you this place hasn't broken yet. I'm doing it with a mop and bucket, but you gon do it with your mind Noon. You're sharp!

CLIFF places the mop back in the bucket and walks over to his son. CLIFF places his hand on TEEN NOONIE'S shoulder.

CLIFF (CONT'D)

You are my son. You gotta become the man Altgeld needs. I'm not just raising you to leave The Gardens. I'm raising you to be a reason for people to want to stay.

CLIFF hugs TEEN NOONIE and the embrace is endearing as if they'd never see each other again.

CLIFF (CONT'D)

I love you. And next time I hear about you hustlin I'm gon whip yo ass.

END FLASHBACK...

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INT. REC CENTER - LOBBY - NIGHT (2005)

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NOONIE (40s) stands in the lobby of the community center peering down the same hallway his father had that talk with him all those years ago. The march has ended and the building is near close. MS. ODESSA (60s, Black woman) walks up to NOONIE.

MS. ODESSA

We did a good thing today Noon. I'll close up here so you gone on home.