

10A

INT. COMMUNITY THEATRE - LOBBY - DAY (2005)

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NOONIE comes through the doors to people smiling, hugging, and with no signs of a shooting anywhere. NOONIE whips his head around scanning the scene to make sure he didn't miss anything.

NIA bursts through the doors just after him. NOONIE looks confused and grabs his head. She's seen this before and knows how to approach him. She gathers herself and walks toward him.

NIA
Everyone's safe Noon. It's ok.

NOONIE
Nia, (Pause) I saw him.

NIA
Saw who?

NOONIE takes a beat and breath to mouth his name.

NOONIE
Malik. He was in the theatre.

NIA is speechless. Her eyes say it all...she knows MALIK and NOONIE'S history.

NOONIE gathers himself. A LITTLE GIRL walks up to NOONIE and gives him a sign that says "FOR ATLGELD". She smiles and runs back into the crowd. NOONIE takes a look at the sign freshly made and given to him.

NOONIE (CONT'D)
I haven't seen him since I been out
Nia. It's been years.

The LITTLE GIRL motions for NOONIE to follow the crowd of protesters outside.

LITTLE GIRL
C'mon Noonie! Im gonna walk with
you in the front. My mama said I
could.

NOONIE gives her a kind smile over the anguish he's feeling. He turns one more time to NIA.

NOONIE
I love my people. If I'm gonna be
the man Altgeld needs, no more
running from the past.