

TEEN NOONIE doesn't break his gaze, but he's listening. YOUNG MALIK leans forward, elbows on his knees, voice low but cutting through the moment.

YOUNG MALIK (CONT'D)
Police found the punks that shot him. I know that pain. I know what it feels like to want to trade places too. But this...this right here,...this is what happens when you soft, when you let up lil brother. Weak get swallowed out here, you know that. And don't think it can't happen when you leave. That blood won't wash off even when you at college my boy.

YOUNG MALIK stands up and looks over to TEEN NOONIE.

YOUNG MALIK (CONT'D)
So, you do what you gotta do out there. Altgeld will be waiting for you. But don't take too long. We lose time, we lose money.

YOUNG MALIK pats TEEN NOONIES shoulder, then walks away, leaving him in the waiting room alone.

END FLASHBACK...

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EXT. REC CENTER - PARKING LOT - DAY (2005)

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Next morning following his late night talk with NIA, NOONIE pulls into the parking lot of the rec center. He exits the car. He's wearing a more determined look on his face than we've ever seen.

Across the street sits DETECTIVE MALLOY in her car again, eyeing NOONIE. He turns to her with a petty wave, then continues in the rec center doors.

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INT. REC CENTER - LOBBY - DAY (2005)

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The sound of laughter and action of kids playing basketball fill the air of the rec center lobby. MS. ODESSA abruptly stops NOONIE in his tracks with a clipboard and begins rattling off today's items.