

FADE IN:

A MELANATED family OF FOUR watches TV in their CRAMPED apartment living room. **KWAJO AGBE**, is sitting on a chair staring out a window. His brother **KWAME AGBE** is next to him on the floor watching the news. ALL WHILE THEIR mom and uncle SIT BEHIND THEM.

On the TV, the local news is talking about the spree of gang related violence and killings that have been going on around the Bronx - the ANCHOR THEN switch and talk about a POWERLINE THAT WENT DOWN IN A RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD causing a power outage.

As everyone is preoccupied, **EUREKA AGBE(MOM)** gets up and goes to the kitchen. After tasting the pot of fish soup, she takes the spoon, bangs it on the top of the pot and says

EUREKA

Boys, the food is ready!

When no one reacts, she says it again - this time her older son then gets up and starts to walk towards, the kitchen. HE SMELLS THE POT AND SCRUNCHES UP HIS FACE

KWAME

I don't like fish, I don't want to eat it

She then looks at him with piercing eyes as says (authoritatively/ quietly)

EUREKA

Are you the mom, or am I the mom?"
- you better not waste the food,
ahgh what nonsense

When Kwame goes to wash his hands, Eureka then turns around again and yells out

EUREKA

Kwajo Nana Agbe, COME EAT right now!

Kwajo then turns around. In a split second, he locks eyes with his mom in a Samurai Jack fight scene kinda way. Eureka glares at him with her eyes scrunched into the middle of her face. As she goes to say something else, her son flies up and runs towards her then makes a sharp B-line into the hallway. We then hear water rushing from the bathroom sink and the young boy yell out

(CONTINUED)

KWAJO (O.S)
I'm washing my handsssss

The water stops and the boy goes to the kitchen to get a bowl of fish soup and rice from his mom. He then joins his brother at the dinner table.

While the boys sit at the table, eating their dinner with their heads cocked in the direction of the tv - their mom grabs a tray for her food and goes back to the seat she was originally sitting in. There she says a prayer (some in English, some in her native Ghanaian tongue), wipes sweat from her forehead and then starts to eat the food and watch the rest of the evening news.

At the table, Kwame does not want to eat his food. He on the other hand looks at Kwajo and sees that he loves the fish soup that he's eating. In a stroke of genius, Kwa turns to Kwo and whispers

KWAME
Do you want my fish?

Kwajo the younger, fatter brother gladly accepts more food and continues wolfing down his plate.

A couple of seconds later, Kwame gets up and tells his mom

KWAME
Im done eating

He throws the rest of the food on his plate into the garbage - when EUREKA starts yelling

EUREKA(O.S)
Don't waste the food!

KWAME
Its just bones

He lies to his mom as he continues to discard of the bones and little pieces

EUREKA(O.S)
hmm, okay. we shall see

Once he gets rid of the evidence, he flashes his brother a "gotcha" smile on his way back to his spot in front of the tv. When Kwame sits back down however his mom tell him

EUREKA
Kwame, get in the shower right now.
You two need to take you showers so
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

EUREKA (cont'd)
 I can take mine and go to work. You
 know you have school in the
 morning, why are you watching tv?

Kwame then lazily gets up and starts to head for the
 bathroom. Eureka then turns to her cousin and says

EUREKA
 i dont know whats wrong with these
 children, ya

He slightly agrees with her and shuffles the cup on his lap
 as he continues to watch the news. Eureka then turns to
 Kwajo at the table and says

EUREKA
 Finish your food, don't play with
 it, *Nye me se eme o?*(do you
 understand)

KWAJO
 Im not

which constitutes talking back and earns him another dirty
 look from his mom.

Kwajo then gets up and takes his empty plate to the kitchen.
 Washes his plate, his brother's plate and then gets his
 mom's tray to wash too.

KWAJO
 Are you done?

EUREKA
 E(yes)

Kwajo takes the plate goes back into the kitchen to wash it.

EUREKA(O.S)
 Bring me a cup of water and my
 medicine off the table

When Kwajo goes to take his mom the water and pill bottle he
 walks pass Kwame, fresh out the shower. He give Eureka the
 stuff with his left hand.

EUREKA
 Ah, give it to me with your right
 hand. Your left hand his for wiping
 your butt. Go take your shower

Kwajo then goes towards the shower.

Kwame sits on the bottom bunk of his bunkbed drawing an Anime cartoon and listening to rap music as Kwajo showers.

He looks out the doorway to see his mom with in a african cloth wrap banging on the door to the bathroom

EUREKA

Finish up, I need to shower for work.

KWAJO (O.S)

I'm coming out

Kwame snickers.

Kwajo then comes out and walks into the room to put on clothes. When he's done, he stares at his brother drawing for a second and then chair next to the bed and opens his old laptop and checking his homework. Eureka gets out of the bathroom quickly and starts moving back and forth down the hallway. Each time she has on more clothes. Kwame then gets up and goes to the bathroom and gets in his mother's way.

EUREKA

Move off, don't you know it's my time to go to work?

Oh her next pass through the narrow hallway, Eureka and Kwame cross paths when she tries to walk into the bathroom.

EUREKA

Im not gonna tell you again

KWAME

Okay, Im sorry(sas)

Kwame goes back into the room and Eureka starts brushing her teeth. When Kwajo starts doing his homework, Kwame takes the laptop and starts playing an online game.

KWAME

When she leaves, do you want to battle?

KWAJO

Of course!

KWAME

Aiight, set it up

Kwajo then gets out two handheld game systems and connects them

EUREKA(O.S)

You betta be getting ready for school. Enough of this tv and games business.

KWAME AND KWAJO

Yesss mommy

She then shut off the water. Puts on her handbag and backpack and walk into the boy doorway. Kwajo hides the games under a pillow

EUREKA

I'm leaving for work, I'll see you all tomorrow.

KWAME AND KWAJO

Ok

EUREKA

Go to sleep, i can't want to miss my bus

Eureka then walks to the front door and Kwajo passes the game to Kwame and climbs on the top bunk. Kwame silences Kwajo and they listen for their mom's shoes squeaking as she walks towards the door. Then the door opens

EUREKA(O.S)

Good night, I'm leaving.

KWAME AND KWAJO

Good night mommy

KWAME

Aiight, let go

The front door closes.

PAN UP: BUNK BED TO WHITE WALL

At this point there will be a visual and audio match. When Eureka opens the front door to their apartment opens we hear it making a noise but then we hear a cell door close. This is because at the same time we'll be sitting the camera pan up on the boys bunk bed until it reaches a point where we only see white. From the white, once the sound changes(to the jail cell closing), the direction with unnoticably change from up to down and we'll be panning down to see a man reading a magazine in a cell.

3

INT: "THE ISLAND"- TWO MAN JAIL CELL

3

Pan down: White wall

Two men sit on their respective bunks in a 6x8 brick cell surrounded by white metal walls and iron bars. On the top bunk is Kiko Rosado, a 22 year old, heavily tattooed, light skinned, hazel eye colored mix of Black, Puerto Rican, Italian American. He's laying down next "Property of The Island" stamps on his bedding and clothes.

As Kiko lies down, we see that he is reading a magazine with the words "Special Cooking Edition" across the front page. He stares deeply into the magazine as he starts to adjust himself and makes erotic groans.

Finally in a comfortable position, Kiko carefully examines the two-page article. Not caring for the words, he keeps quickly glancing over the faces of people partying in the elegant apartment. He then stares at a young starter-pack wife holding a giant platter of food in a very colorful sundress, apron and matching heels. After biting his lips, then licking them He exclaims

KIKO

I don't know what I miss more in
this world, buena comida o un buen
coño

Kiko then leans over his bed and motions down for his celly to take a look at the magazine too.

KIKO

"Yoo, Africa - check this shit out"

His cell mate then looks up from the purple "Rich man, Poor man" book he is reading on the bottom bunk, untightening his stern face and says Looking at his cell mate, he says

NII

she's iiiiiight, could use some
salt though, hmmh

Kiko's face switches in disappointment as he looks down at Nii and says

KIKO

cono Free, you know were fucking
locked up right... i we dont have a
motherfucking thing... sheesh, what
type of nigga can't even let a
nigga dream while he's locked up?".

(CONTINUED)

As Kiko continues ranting, Nii stands up and stretches. He then signals him he understand while moving towards the front of their cell. As he leans up against the cold iron bars Nii gives passer-by-ers "the nod".

Nii keeps his head on a swivel as he checks the left and right of the cellblock. As he's looking to the right, a big ass D-bo looking dark skinned dude walks up behind him and says

MAN

what's good Free, I gotta check
Kiko Roc for some BI

Surveying the area once more, Nii peeps a guard coming up to the second floor deck of their cellblock prompting him to say

NII

nah, now's not a good time for all
lat

MAN

ight, I'll check him later

Man walks off. Nii then slowly leans back into his cell and tells Kiko

NII

G on D

This makes Kiko stop rambling, immediately scan the room and start tucking shit the aint suppose to have. When Kiko turns and nods back at Nii, he turns back around to see if the guard is still walking in their direction. When he is, Nii just tries to ignore him and look straight ahead.

As Nii turns back around, the guard is approaching him. Though he tries not to make eye contact, the officer calls out

CO DANIELS

Inmate 098906 come with me

This makes him automatically shifts his attention to the guard and stand up. The guard tells Nii that he has a visitor and cuffs him for transportation- you know, standard procedure

4 INT: GUARD TOWER 4

We see the CO walk Nii through a door on the security camera.

5 INT: HALLWAY THROUGH CELL BLOCKS 5

As the guard transports Nii through the halls, his radio goes off about a fight that has broke out it a rec room. The CO turns the volume down and says to him(self)

CO DANIELS

I miss all the good shit

The two walk through different cell blocks filled with pockets of White, Hispanic and Black gangs. The last and by far most difficult to look at was the medical unit that had been infested with prisoners with all types of problems. Some had been raped, stabbed, burned, or abused drugs while another large population was people that required psychiatric treatment

Before he can go into the visitation room, Nii is taken into Room 117.

6 INT: ROOM 117: STRIP SEARCH ROOM 6

When he walks in, the male officer tells him

SEARCH OFFICER

you know the drill

Then he puts on a blue glove and motions Nii

SEARCH OFFICER

Open your mouth...

when the officer sees his mouth is clear he tell him

SEARCH OFFICER

Take off your clothes... turn around...lift your sack... now turn around and spread your cheeks.

Through this process, Nii keeps the same dead/serious look on his face. His eyes stay straight and he only moves when instructed by the guard. After redressing himself, the guard comes back in and takes Nii to the visitation room.

7

INT: GENERAL VISITATION ROOM

7

The guard walks Nii into the visitation room filled with three rows of chairs and 2 circle tables in the back. Spread across the first two rows is a mix of convicts and civilians. As Nii walks pass the people talking to their incarcerated loved ones, his face starts to soften at the sight of the crying mothers and little kids.

Behind the rows of people are two circular tables. At the first table sits a inmate and a lawyer wearing a bad striped suit. The inmate at the table doesn't look happy but his lawyer with a big gold watch is calm nonetheless.

When Nii looks ahead, he sees a lady sitting at a table alone, with her face buried in a tan manila folder. As he approaches her, he sees the lawyer diligently analyzing a stack of files and labeling them with colored sticky notes.

As the CO walks Nii up to the table, the lawyer notices them and looks up. She clears her hair and exposes her young seeming face. This is the first time Nii has ever seen her but you can tell he thinks she is attractive, nay beautiful nay, GORGEOUS. He takes a long, hard look at her as the guard motions for him to take a seat in front of her. She then closes the folder, puts her glasses down and smiles as he sits down in the seat.

The young lawyer introduces herself

CHARLOTTE

Good Evening Mr. Owusu, My name is **Charlotte Hendrix** and I am from the law offices of Stern and Rothchild. It regrets me to inform you that I will be replacing your former lawyer. Mr. Matthews recently died in a fatal car accident.

Nii, looks down, cocks his head to the side, and wipes his mouth before looking back up at Charlotte. She then continues

CHARLOTTE

As a result, there was an initiative started in his name to continue to help the different women and men that he defended when he was alive. The initiative was designed to help prisoners with clean records by providing consultations for their upcoming

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CHARLOTTE (cont'd)
 Parole Board Hearing. In return for
 being a part of the program, we
 require that in the time being and
 while one parole, the same
 prisoners become a part of the
 prisons new mentoring and
 enrichment beta program

Nii nods his head as Ms. Harris pulls the paper from under
 the Manila folder and passes it to him to read. The scans
 the page, smirks and taps on the top of the sheet replying

NII
 with all do respect to Mr. Matthews
 God rest his soul, I don't know if
 this program is a good look for me

Ms. Hendrix is shocked to hear this from Nii

CHARLOTTE
 Excuse me, Mr. Owusu?

she starts to lean forward

CHARLOTTE
 I've seen your file, I know that
 you had a clean record and were
 basketball star with decent grades
 -- college looks too!-all before
 your arrest

An "urban" accent starts to leak out

CHARLOTTE
 Now, why would you want to be in
 this prison any longer than you had
 to? Don't you miss your freedom?
 What about your family?

Taken aback by Charlotte's outburst, Nii's facial expression
 changes. He was previously consumed by the godlike curves
 that made up her face but now that she was serious (and
 talking his language), she had his full attention.

Nii then lowers his voice and starts to tell Ms. Hendrix

NII
 Look, I didn't mean to offend you
 in any way. I'm just not trying to
 become a prison poster child on
 some TV show yelling at little kids
 or attract any wrong attention. I

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NII (cont'd)
keep myself out of trouble and do
my time. That's it...I'm just
trying to make sure I get out at
the end of this five-year bid.

He points down at the paper

NII
and as for this, the offer is
tempting but I don't know if I can
do it.

When Nii is done talking, Charlotte looks at him, flashes a
smirk and says

CHARLOTTE
Mr. Owusu, I'm going to be generous
to you today. Rather than let you
throw away a wonderful opportunity
for yourself and other young men
that can one day be somebody - I'm
going to give you one week to
reconsider your enrollment into
this program. Prison work isn't
just a job to me, I had to come see
too many loved one just like those
families over there.

She discretely points to the families Nii walked pass when
he entered the room. Nii takes a look at a couple talking in
the first row, leaning towards one another while their
teenage boy sits mad and the younger daughter plays with a
wind fan

CHARLOTTE
I'm trying to change that, so young
men like yourself won't have to
waste their life and potential in
this place. This program is an
opportunity to do right so dont get
left.

When Nii turns back around, Charlotte takes the brochure
from in front of him and writes a phone number on it. She
then slides it to him.

CHARLOTTE
You keep this, give my office a
call within the next week when
you're ready to make the right
decision. If you call me and I
don't pick up, leave a message and

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CHARLOTTE (cont'd)
I'll know to enroll you in the
program

As Nii sees that Charlotte is starting to back up her stuff to leave, he doesn't feel bad for setting her off but does about the truth in the things she said. He tells her

NII
thank you Charlotte, I'm going to
give you a call if anything changes

He then says good-bye, stands up and the CO approaches him to escort him back into Room 117.

8 INT: "THE ISLAND"- TWO MAN JAIL CELL

8

It is late when Nii gets back to his cell. He walks in to see his celly on the floor doing his umpteenth workout of the day and they both give each other the nod.

As Kiko does his pushups, Nii steps around him and goes up to the sink/mirror to wash his face. After toweling off he looks at himself in the mirror for less than 10 seconds and turns around to get in his bed.

There he grabs a stack of papers and Polaroid pictures from his pillowcase. Nii quickly moves past the half ripped love letters (with a picture on the back) and goes down the stack of papers to the pictures including one of him winning first in a city-wide basketball tournament, a picture of beautiful coastline of Ghana, one of his family (holding up his brothers). He spreads all the papers out on his bed and just stares at them in front of him. He leans forward and picks up the picture with his mom and siblings, he stares at it and says,

NII
I'm sorry

While Nii stares at the photo, the lights in his cellblock cut out. He then scoots forward to use the only bit of light that shines in the cell to illuminate the picture in his dark cell.

9 INT: CELL BLOCK HALLWAY

9

Some of the people in the cellblock get rowdy and start to make noise. One CO walking pass the big glowing red digital clock bangs his baton on the pipe and yells out

CO
Shut it down fellas

ZOOM FOCUS : RED DIGITAL CLOCK READING 11:01

At this point there will be a visual transition from the prison back into the kids bedroom. In the dimly lit cellblock, we can only see the glow of the clock on the top of the command station. When the clock is in focus, the time starts to speed up from 11:01pm on the black wall and ends on 7:30am as the alarm clock on the kid's dresser going off.

10

INT: BOY'S BEDROOM

10

When the matching alarm clock goes off on the dresser the boys struggle to get up from their beds. At the same time the phone in the living room also starts ringing in the most annoying fashion ever.

Kwajo jumps down from his top bunk bed and lazily drags his feet all the way to the living room to pick up the phone. He answers the phone saying in the most tired voice

KWAJO

I'mmm up

The deep voice on the phone then says something to Kwajo

KWAJO

Im going to wake him up now

Kwajo then walks back into his room and pokes his brother on the foot. When he barely moves, Kwajo puts the phone on speaker next to his brother's head, tells the phone he did it and goes to brush his teeth.

The voice then calls out to Kwame to wake up and get ready for school. He tells him that he can't be late to school again or he's going to take away his game. Slowly Kwame gets up and shuffles out of bed.

KWAME

Iight, im up chill

He gets dressed while his younger brother brushes his teeth. Then the two switch spots

KWAJO

Bye dad

Kwajo hands up the phone

11 INT: LIVING ROOM 11

As Kwame opens the door and the boys get ready to walk out of their apartment, Kwajo realizes that he doesn't have any shoes on and tells his brother

KWAJO

Yo, wait I needa put on my shoes

KWAME

You're retarded, Im really about to leave your dumbass here

His brother continues to call him all types of stupid motherfuckers and tells him that he's gonna leave him.

Kwajo runs to the room, grabs his black payless shoes and runs back to the door. He slides them on his feet and the two boys walk out of their first floor apartment. Kwame looks around, locks the door and they walk outside to meet their three friends waiting out front.

12 EXT: WALKING THE BLOCK TOWARDS THE SCHOOL 12

On their walk to school, all the boys exchange jokes and conversation with each other. As they approach the front of the school, Kwajo notices that his shoelace is coming undone.

He gets on one knee to tie it but when he sees everybody is far ahead of him just settles for tucking them in and runs back up to the group.

13 EXT: SCHOOL COURTYARD 13

When they get in the front gate school, Kwajo trips on his shoelace and fall to his knees in front of a boy talking to two girls.

RANDOM KIDS

Ohhhh shit! *mumble*

When he falls, everyone in the courtyard starts to glance at him. He pauses for a second and notices that he tore his navy pants as he gets up and tears come to his eye. He quickly wipes it away as

RANDOM SCHOOLGIRL

Hey, you okay?

Kwajo replies as he moves from the spot of embarrassment and walks up to his brother and friends circle. Kwame doesn't seem to have noticed his brother falling.

(CONTINUED)

While Kwo is standing in the circle, listening to the boys talking about TV shows and girls a bigger kid walks up to the group and tells Kwame

BULLY

Nice wipeout

as he daps up other kids in the circle. Kwame then flashes a dirty look at him, tells him to

KWAJO

shut up

and looks away from him.

As the kid gets closer to Kwajo, he whispers

BULLY

Ashy African beauty scratcher

Kwajo's face gets even more enraged and he tells the kid

KWAJO

at least I don't look like a fatter
version of big bird

commenting on the kids yellow jacket. When two of the guys in the circle start cracking up the kid gets mad and takes a step towards Kwo saying,

BULLY

what did you say

After the kid moves closer to Kwajo, Kwame balls up one of his fist in anticipation. After seeing everyone else eye shift to Kwame, the kid

The kid then turns to Kwame, sees the fist and tells him to chill. Kwa replies to him

KWAME

nah you chill, that's my little
brother

The bully then looks at Kwajo and says

BULLY

ha, you're lucky today

He then starts to walk off as he sees a teacher open the door and ring the line up bell.

As all the kids break up from their groups and get into their lines to go into the school Kwajo goes to tie his shoelace. Kwame walks up to him and tells him

KWAME

You good?

KWAJO

yeah

KWAME

ight, well you need to chill, I won't be here next year to save you!

Kwajo doesn't want to hear this from his brother. He looks at Kwa and tells him

KWAJO

I had it, yo just leave me alone.

Before Kwame could say another word, Kwajo turns around and walks away. Kwame tries to grab his shoulder but misses and gets mad as he watches his brother walk away from him.

He walks up to his own door that has a sign that says "Good Morning Seniors, 1 week left".

As Kwajo is walking up to his entrance, he turns around to see his brother go into the door.

THE SOUND OF A SLOW HYDRAULIC SCHOOL DOOR CLOSING IS BLENDED IN WITH THE SOUND OF A NYC TRANSIT BUS LOWERING.

14 EXT: BUS STOP

14

A door to the NYC Bus opens up and we see three people get off and walk in different directions. The last person to exit the bus is Eureka, she is carrying a lot of stuff and it's forcing her to take her time.

When she get off the bus, she puts down the four grocery bags to adjust her purse and back pack. Then Eureka wipes the sweat off her forehead and picks the two bags back up and walks towards her apartment.

15 EXT: MAILBOX IN FRONT OF BUILDING

15

When she gets to the door, she puts the bags back down to check the mail. When she opens the box, it's too full.

She grabs all the mail she can and puts it in her plastic bags instead of looking through it.

Eureka then walks to her apartment... opens the door.

16

INT: FAMILY APARTMENT

16

When Eureka gets in, she puts the mail and food on the table and goes to use the bathroom.

When she goes back to living room, she grabs her phone to check the answering machine. She hears her niece tell her to call her.

Eureka then turns on the tv and sits down on the couch. She leans back and almost immediately falls asleep in her work clothes.

FADE OUT

As Eureka falls asleep, we will track back to the table where she originally put down the mail. On the table, there will be bills, and a notice from the Immigration Service, then the phone rings.