

Life(WT), Episode 3

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1 EXT: HOSPITAL

1

Eureka and Kwame walk out the of the hospital and stand in front

EUREKA

I can believe they made us come all the way down here for

KWAME

I told you I needed my shots but I didn't think they would ban me from school

EUREKA

While we're here we might as well go see your auntie

KWAME

Can we get food first? the doctor said I have to eat

EUREKA

Ok, then I have some errands to run... Lets cross this street quick

Eureka grabs Kwame and drags him across the street. They go into a McDonalds restaurant and get online.

CARS ZIP BY

2 INT: MCDONALDS

2

When they get up to the register

CASHIER

Hello, I'm Mary. I'll be taking your order today. What can I get for you?

KWAME

Can I get a Big Mac?

CASHIER

Okay one coming up. Anything else?

EUREKA

Oh my, its that expensive? Take it off. Instead can I get 3 cheeseburgers and 2 apple pies instead?

(CONTINUED)

CASHIER

Ok mom, coming right up. Is that all i can do for you?

EUREKA

Wait, can i get two more hamburgers - your little brother needs to eat after school

CASHIER

Thank you for placing your order. Your total is 7.12.

EUREKA

Ok, thank you

The food comes and they walk to a salon three blocks away

3 INT: JS BEAUTY SALON

3

Eureka and Kwame walk into the Nair Salon. The receptionist gets excited

RECEPTIONIST

Auntie Eureka!!! Is that you??

EUREKA

Ah, yes it is me

AUNTIE J

Wayzua my sista You are welcome. Please come in, come in.

Auntie J continues to do her customer's hair and lets Eureka and Kwame sit down.

It is amazing to see you

EUREKA

Thank you, I have missed you, how are you doing?

AUNTIE J

I am very good o. It has been too long

EUREKA

yes, far too long. What have you been up to?

(CONTINUED)

AUNTIE J

You know me, I just come and work,
go to church and go home to take
care of the kids. How are your boys
heh? Kwame, why don't you go to the
back you and say hello to your
uncle he would love to see you.

EUREKA

They are fine my sista. Kwame, did
you not here your auntie. Go say
hello to your uncle.

KWAME

Ok, I just wanted to sit down for
one second
(under breathe)

EUREKA

Ahh, you see these boys don't
listen.

AUNTIE J

You know the boys will be boys

Kwame walks to the back and sees an older man sitting at a
desk reading a book.

MAN

hey, look who it is. My friend how
are you?

KWAME

Im fine thank you. How have you
been?

MAN

I am good my son. Just going
through my scriptures for this
weekend. You should have your mommy
bring you to the church. I know
your cousins would love to see you
and your brother. Is he here?

KWAME

No, he's still in school. I had to
get shots today because my old ones
expired and the school wouldn't let
me go in the building

MAN

How is school going. Did your mom
tell you i used to be a teacher
right?

(CONTINUED)

KWAME

She never told me that. What subject did you teach?

MAN

High School Chemistry. I studied it back home and when I came to this country in 1973 I started going to school during the day and drove a cab during the night. Always cherish education because no one can ever take it from you. Do you enjoy school?

KWAME

I like school a lot. Even though I just don't like getting up early.

MAN

Your mom tells me your an honor student, start kid. What school are you going to

KWAME

Bush High

MAN

Oh, stay out of trouble there

EUREKA(O.S)

Kwame, me jo la. We have to go.

KWAME

Boy uncle.

MAN

Come here,

The man give Kwame 30 dollars
do the right thing. and give your
brother some of the money

KWAME

Ok. I will

EUREKA

Hey, you dont hear me calling you.
Hi Joe.

MAN

Hey Eure, how are you doing?

(CONTINUED)

EUREKA

Fine.

MAN

I was just telling Kwame about chemistry

EUREKA

Oh yes, i dont know if he will be my doctor or his brother. I might be a pastor like his grandfather.

MAN

Ehh, it is definitely a noble mans work

EUREKA

We are going.

MAN

Safe travels, call me if you want the boys to come to church with us. I got a new van so i can take you all

EUREKA

Praise the lord. I will call you oh alright my sista, i will be back soon

AUNTIE J

Talk to him now will you

EUREKA

ehhh

4

INT:BUS STOP

4

EUREKA

ha, where is this bus? We need to get home before your brother.

KWAME

I thought you needed to get phone cards

EUREKA

yes, i'll take you and the food to the house then go back out myself. I wish i had someone to get them for me

(CONTINUED)

KWAME

I can go.

EUREKA

It's too far? do you even know the bus. i know the bus, been taking it for years. You father never likes to drive me anywhere but Im independent.

KWAME

Ok...but Im going to travel to Jackson next year

EUREKA

Hey, why is this the first im hearing about you going there? I dont like that place. I told you not to put that school down

KWAME

Why not?

EUREKA

You are asking me question. Hey, get on the bus

5 INT: FRONT OF NYC BUS

5

Eureka is sad and doesn't say anything on the bus ride home. Kwame sits next to her and looks out the window and stares at the buildings. A tear runs down her face on the opposite side of Kwame. She quickly wipes it and looks at her watch.

6 INT: REC ROOM GROUP COUNSELING

6

25 men of different statures sit in a circle looking at each other

GROUP LEADER

Now Im glad to see everyone has come to this first meeting. I would first like to introduce myself. Im Lawrence Fox, Im one of the cofounders of this mentoring program and I want to thank each one of you for being here. I too went to prison. I been seen as a criminal by the state and i don't

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GROUP LEADER (cont'd)
want you all to feel left behind
the way i did.

HEAD CO
(clears throat) Warden Johnson
asked me to be here today to tell
you that they'll be a microscope on
you guys and points will be doubled
for all participants caught doing
anything wrong from now on. Now i
know what you young guys are
thinking and just know this means
you need to stay out of trouble,
cut ties when them because it will
only make your stay here in hell
worse. Trust me

RANDOM INMATE
I'll never snitch
(murmer)

An uproar starts with the group of chatting. The Head Co
takes out his baton and slams it on the desk.

HEAD CO
wow boys, you know when Im talking
there no talking in here. Let this
be a warning you don't need. I
wasnt for looking up young kids and
putting them through a system to
make the strongest man crumble but
something must be done. I hope some
of you have learned something of
your lesson and pass that knowledge
onto these younger kids. And if
not. I'll have these boy lay down
the wrath so hard you'll wish you
did. NO go on with you meeting
Doctor Fox.

Each inmate is required to stand up and introduce
themselves.

Then the younger mentees come in they do a round robin to
make sure everyone gets to know one another.

Charlotte and two other suits walk in. She spots Nii talking
to two 17 year old boys.

LAWRENCE
Even though you have one specific
mentor, reach out to anyone of the
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LAWRENCE (cont'd)
older brothers for help, we will be
a community.

CHARLOTTE
This is what we're doing sir.
Trying to really reform

O.W.G
We'll see how it goes. Ultimately
it will raise the value of the
prison.

CHARLOTTE
Im glad you approve.

O.W.G
Lets not get ahead of ourselves

Charlotte then goes over to Doctor Fox, they start
whispering

CHARLOTTE
how's it looking Larry?

LAWRENCE
Fine, you keepin the white people
happy?

CHARLOTTE
you know it. Thank you so much for
doing this. It may just be able
money for them but I really want to
help these people

LAWRENCE
Anything for you. I always felt
like i left everyone behind to go
to school and maybe things would be
different

CHARLOTTE
Do blame yourself for that. He, we
can talk about this some other
time. When are you free this week.

LAWRENCE
Well thanks to you Im here every
day this week but we can meet this
weekend

CHARLOTTE

I'll text you tonight

Charlotte then puts a reminder in her iPad and walks off.

DAVIS

so we're you really all city

NII

something like that

DAVIS

Yo, i remember my brother and dad used to take me to your games. Especially that championship one your sophomore year

NII

you were there? It's all feels too long ago for me. Like one second I was on top of the world and as soon as that cop slammed me on the floor, cuffed me, I was at the bottom

DAVIS

word. I know how you feel bro. Fucking boys drag me out the car with my mom and little sister. Worse thing ever. No I know neither of the only female I love in this world will ever be able to look at me the same

NII

Believe I know what you feel like kid. Ive been here for almost three years now and never saw my family once. Got one call from my mom when I first got here...You know, I used to be popular, have a lot of friends-- well i thought they were. but then i got to this place and poof, all that goes away. You start digging deep to kill any part of you that needs anyone at all, your soul dies. I think that why I'm here, you know make so young kids like you don't die on the inside the same way I do

(CONTINUED)

LAWRENCE

Alright everyone, lets get back in the circle. What did you learn today?

RANDOM INMATE

some of us miss our mommies

The inmates eyes signal at Nii. Nii goes to say something but stays silent when he sees a guard across the room get ready

LAWRENCE

Yasheem, don't you miss your family?

RANDOM INMATE

I mean, yeah my mom was all i know when i first got here from Jamaica but she left me in here so fuck that bitch

LAWRENCE

Wow, what anger referred to your mom. Develop your feelings for the group. What could your mother have done for you.

YASHEEM

I mean she could've came to my trial or at least told me she loved me.

Some people nod in approval

MATEO

I feel you bro, like when i was younger, my mom always used to call me her baby boy, but then when i got looked up she just cried and hit me whenever she saw me.

NII

Fact, look my dad told me i embarrassed the family and that it will never be able to undone. Then my parents left my life, taking my younger siblings with them too. So when ya talk about loneliness I feel you but it's also crazy to think that that's the end all be all. I can't believe I'm the one saying this but I guess we do have an opportunity here in front of us

(CONTINUED)

LAWRENCE

What do you think that is_____?

NII

We have to signal to those people
in our families that we aren't lost
and shouldnt be forgotten. That
we're not the putrid stretch that
the procescutors made us out to be
and maybe then they'll see
something in our hearts

LAWRENCE

Well said. I guess that's a good
energy note to leave on fellas.
Thank you for coming tonight and I
can't wait to get to know all of
you better in the coming days

7

BY THE DOOR

7

Charlotte stands by the door and says hello to the different
inmates.

CHARLOTTE

Well Mr. Owusu, so glad that you
made it and made that contribution.
I think many of these young boys
could benefit from you being a
leader here

NII

Thank you for the opportunity and
for the second chance

CHARLOTTE

It's all in your hands now

Nii goes through a bright white door

8

EXT: IN FRONT OF SCHOOL

8

KOFI

Chris, wait up. Im going to walk
with you today.

CHRIS

Your not going home with your
brother?

(CONTINUED)

KOFI

No he had to go get shots or the school wouldn't let him in

CHRIS

Oh that's why so many people were absent. Yo do you want to see if you can come over and play the new Madden?

KOFI

yeah, maybe just for a little bit before i have to get home

The two kids start walking down the street and three kids including Manny walk behind them

MANNY

yo look, they're gay lovers

Kofi uses his peripherals to see who it is.

CHRIS

Why wont this guy leave me alone?

KOFI

Yo, it's only three of them, what do you want to do?

Then two kids on bikes approach them.

KIDS ON BIKES

yo Manny, what goodie bro

MANNY

yo Tez, come em.

KOFI

We might be okay

Chris starts holding his lunchbox tighter and the two keep walking.

MANNY

Yo

(whistler)

you better not make me chase you
Chris

Chris then starts breathing heavier

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

Im sorry for getting you into this
bro. what do you want to do?

KOFI

It's fine. When we get to the
corner just

One of the kids on the bmx bike cuts in front of the boys
and makes the tire screech
runnn! now go.

Chris takes off running and Kofi pushes the kid on the bike
and runs.

MANNY

oh now you're gonna get it too

The kids chase him but he dips off through the street and
runs to the entrance of his building. At a certain point
they turn around and leave him alone. When he gets in he
catches his breath before putting his key in the door.

9 INT:LIVING ROOM 9

Kofi walks in to see his mom sitting in her spot. He says
hello and goes straight to the bathroom.

10 INT: BATHROOM 10

He turns on the water, closes the door and sits on the
toilet top. Almost instantaneously, he starts crying

KOFI

im so stupid

With his hands on top of his head Kofi cries. Then he gets
up and washes his face. When he's done washing his face he
dries it and leaves the bathroom.

11 INT: BEDROOM 11

Kofi walks in and gets in bed

KWAME

yo we McDonalds earlier. its on the
table

KOFI
ook, i dont want to eat right now

KWAME
you sure you're okay

KOFI
yeah, im just tired that's all

KWAME
true, im tired from walking around
and taking the bus, really fun
though. Oh and I saw uncle Joe
today. He said to take this

Kwame gives Kofi a 5 dollar bill.

KOFI
ah man, he said he was gonna give
me ten this time

KWAME
Sometimes it's just all talk

Kofi starts to be a little less sad.

KOFI
Im going to sleep

KWAME
thanks for announcing it

Kwame waits for his brother to be quiet and then goes on the
the IM. He messages Mike from school and asks him about the
homework he missed. Why waiting for a response, he notices
an IM that he didnt see before. It's from earlier,

Stacey: hey, i thought we could eat lunch together today but
i guess you're not here. maybe some other time Sent from my
phone.

KWAME
Shit, i missed out

He then types: Sorry baby gurl, I had

KWAME
baby girl, no thats not right

He deletes it and writes: It's all good ma

KWAME
too passive

He takes a pause and types in : Hey Stacey, sucks that i missed out but had to take care of some business today. Maybe next time

KWAME
Smooth enough

KOFI(O.S)
Stop talking to yourself
(through pillow)

Send. 15 seconds later

Stacey: Sounds important. Hope it worked out. I'll see you in school tomorrow <3

KWAME
YES!

Kwame: Definitely

Kwame then gets on the floor and starts doing push ups. When he gets up he beats his chest and walks over the the mirror. After smiling repetitively into the mirror he goes to his closet and tries to pick out his clothes for the next day. In his excitement he starts to play music on the computer.

KOFI
Yeah, i wasnt trying to sleep

KWAME
shut up, tomorrow is dress down
Friday. I have to pick out my
clothes

KOFI
oh, an ensemble

KWAME
pause. Im putting together an
outfit, it's different. Do you know
if dad left any watches

KOFI
What do you need a watch for

KWAME
Do you have one?

KOFI

No

KWAME

Exactly. I need it to look like Im
doing better goobers like you

KOFI

You just used the word goober so
you're obviously not

KWAME

Yes I am but either way, I need to
look better. Now where's the watch?
I know you know

KOFI

nope

KWAME

tell me or i'll make you tell

KOFI

I don't know

Kwame then grabs Kofi's leg on the top bunk

KWAME

last chance. Tell me or im going to
give you the worst indian burn
ever!

KOFI

what are you crazy, get off of me

KWAME

say no more, my love life is more
important to me that you

KOFI

this is for a girl?

Kwame twist on Kofi's leg but his sweating hands don't gain
traction.

KOFI

hah, didn't work!

Then Kwame really cranks on it the leg and burns Kofi's leg
soooo bad. he screams.

(CONTINUED)

KOFI
ok, ok its in their room i the blue
bag

KWAME
you sure?

EUREKA(O.S)
what was that?

KWAME
Nothing mommy

KOFI
go check

Kwame then slaps Kofi's leg

KOFI
Whats that for

KWAME
not telling me sooner.

Kofi puts his head down when Kwame leave the room.

12

INT: REC ROOM - TV TIME

12

A large population of the inmates are sitting around a small
tv watching the local NY News.

NEW ANCHOR
A young father was shot dead today
in this Queens neighborhood. Our
Denise Richman is on scene. Denise

DENISE
Hi Don, Im standing here in the
spot where police shot and killed
Deondre Tuck a 20 year old male.
They clocked him doing 10 mph over
the speed limit at lam this
morning. When the cops stopped him,
he was irate and continuously said
he needed to get home. The cops
however were looking for a man that
met Mr Tuck's description. When he
reached under his seat for his
recording cell phone they shot him
dead. We have an exclusive on the
audio

(CONTINUED)

Audio plays out. Phone drops, he "my just gonna get"
"handsssss, now" Then shots ring out.

OLD MAN
Thats a damn shame

DENISE
Deondre's family said he was
rushing home from a job interview
to meet his newborn son. Our hearts
go out to the family

NEW ANCHOR
Tragic story Anna, don't you think

The news goes to commercial.

OLD MAN
so sad to see these babies getting
slaughtered in the street by these
pigs

OTHER OLD GUY
the outside world seems more savage
than in here sometimes

OLD MAN
yeah, it's definitely not the world
we grew up in

OTHER OLD GUY
You need to get into that prison
book the young boys are talking
about

OLD MAN
What book?

NII
You mean the New Jim Crow
by Michelle Alexander?

OTHER OLD GUY
yeah, young blood explain to this
guy what the book is about

NII
It goes into the new prison
industrial complex and breaks down
how society systemically send black
and latino babies to prison by
grade three.

RANDOM INMATE

I believe that the people like those who own this prison and greater society use these places to create civilian disarray. Then they put us in here to beat up on each other instead of getting ahead in the world. Once we're done destroying each other then follow me everybody, then they put some people back on the streets to infect everyone else. Its a sickness people

KIKO

That sounds like some real shit b.

RANDOM INMATE 2

sounds like some illuminati bullshit to me nigga. you sure you're okay.

RANDOM INMATE

Well then explain to me why as a country we spend more money sending people to prison than college. Sounds like someone doesn't want everyone to have a chance at a better future

RANDOM INMATE 2

Whatever man. Whatever you say

Nii then gets up and walks to his cell.

13 INT: PRISON CELL

13

Nii sits on his bed. Thanks the lord for enlightening him at the meeting that day and hops in bed.

KIKO

Cono Fri, what do you have more to ask for?

NII

I wasn't asking for more, I was being thankful. You know because of the new found good I have in my life

(CONTINUED)

KIKO
thats the first time i ever heard
of some shit like that. you're
really a strange dude.

FADE TO BLACK