

INT. KWAME'S APARTMENT - DAY

Noah enters and KWAME (40S) African Diasporan, offers him a seat.

KWAME

I thought you were going to bring
your guitar?

NOAH

I forgot, then it was too late, but
I still wanted to come through.

KWAME

Lucky I've got several... What
kind of stuff do you like?

NOAH

Hendrix. Django. Page. Sabicas.
Elmore James. Slash...

KWAME

Okay.

Kwame tunes the guitar and starts plucking out chords.

I guess you have a lot of questions
for me about other stuff besides
the guitar, though right?

NOAH

Some.

KWAME

Like where have I been all of your
life?

NOAH

Well, yeah. I guess I've been
wondering that one for a while now.
Like my lifetime...

KWAME

It's not because I didn't want to
be there. It's because I knew I
couldn't. I had just about the
worst role model for a father you
could have. My father beat me with
a steel chain from the time I was
too little to remember until I was
old enough to take it away from him
and hit him with it. He was a
drinker, and terrorized our family
all my life.

(MORE)

KWAME (CONT'D)

Man, it's put a monster in me so deep, no kind of drugs or escape in the music can bury it. Talked to a shrink for some years, I still have a temper that can be dangerous. I didn't want to be like my Dad with you, Noah. I felt like the only way I could guarantee that wouldn't happen was to stay away.

NOAH

A chain?

KWAME

He was crazy and wounded himself. He left home when he was 14 because his sister's husband used to kick his ass, and he just had a rough ass life, man. Made him an angry brotha with a vendetta against the folks who loved him the most I guess.

NOAH

You got in a fist fight with him?

KWAME

When I was sixteen I grabbed the chain away from him and put him in the hospital. I broke three of his ribs, his nose... it was a mess. He wasn't even living with us at that point. He just used to come around to terrorize us like it was a force of habit.

NOAH

At least he tried.

KWAME

Play me something.

Noah plays initially with hesitation, then with more and more confidence and cuts loose.