

OLDER PRISONER

Whatever. Anyone got a newspaper?

FADE OUT

FADE IN: INTERIOR: WAITING ROOM. O'BRIEN enters and sits on bench with STEVE. STEVE's wrist is handcuffed to bench.

O'BRIEN (indicating cuffs)

This wasn't necessary.

STEVE

They just like to show they're in charge. How do you think the trial is going?

O'BRIEN

It could be going better.

STEVE (surprised)

What's wrong?

O'BRIEN

Well, frankly, nothing is happening that speaks to your being innocent. Half of those jurors, no matter what they

said when we questioned them when we picked the jury, believed you were guilty the moment they laid eyes on you. You're young, you're Black, and you're on trial. What else do they need to know?

STEVE

I thought you're supposed to be innocent until you're proven guilty?

O'BRIEN

That's true, but in reality it depends on how the jury sees the case. If they see it as a contest between the defense and the prosecution as to who's lying, they'll vote for the prosecution. The prosecutor walks around looking very important. No one is accusing her of being a bad person. They're accusing you of being a monster. The jury can ask itself, Why should the prosecutor lie? Our job is to show that she's not lying, but she's simply made a mistake. How are you feeling? Is your stomach still upset?

STEVE

A little better.

O'BRIEN

This afternoon we have an important witness scheduled.