

FADE IN:

On a white dress collar, a little lace.

FOSTER (V.O.)

My daddy always told me, It's not what people call you, it's what you answer to. I've been slow to learn this concept.

INT. SCHOOL GYMNASIUM -- DAY

Now we see the dress and the girl who is in it, FOSTER MCFEE, age 12, not thrilled with the moment. She's lined up with other children -- girls in white dresses, boys in ill-fitting suits.

Her teacher, MRS. RITTER, 50's, pulls Foster out of line.

MRS. RITTER

I imagine you never thought you'd see this day.

FOSTER

No ma'am.

MRS. RITTER

You're graduating by the skin of your teeth, young woman. Remember that.

FOSTER

(touching her teeth)

I guess so.

And off that teacher goes -- a drive by shooting. A boy, EDDINGTON, stands next to Foster.

EDDINGTON

Teeth don't have skin. You shoulda told her that.

FOSTER

(tugs at her dress)

I didn't want to get anything more wrong at this school.

Now we see Foster's mother, RAYKA, early 30's, beautiful, grinning like Foster can beat the world. Rayka is African American. FOSTER is mixed race.