

Lip steps outside. Closes the door behind him. He stands there, fighting back tears.

A beat.

Then he hears LAUGHTER approaching. Lip quickly wipes his face. Straightens himself. Puts the mask back on. **PHIL (17)** approaches with two **FRIENDS**. Phil spots Lip. He immediately looks down at Lip's beat-up sneakers.

83 **PHIL**
Damn, Lip.

83

Lip keeps walking.

84 **PHIL (CONT'D)**
What the hell you got on your feet my
dude?

84

His friends laugh. Lip doesn't stop walking. Phil doesn't like being ignored. He steps directly into Lip's path.

85 **PHIL (CONT'D)**
Answer me when I talk to you.

85

Lip looks at him.

86 **LIP**
I'm late for school.

86

87 **PHIL**
In those? Bra his shoes look like they
got arthritis. Nigga shoes got a
testimony. He got on a pair of air
Abrahams.

87

More laughter. Phil looks Lip who is also laughing.

88 **LIP**
What, the air Abraham's was funny.

88

Phil looks mad that Lip is laughing.

89 **LIP**
I'm sorry, I forgot you need me to
hurt so you can feel better about
yourself. I'm a go cry now.

89

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CONTINUED:

Phil looks Lip up and down. Cheap clothes. Old backpack. Worn shoes. Lip tries to move around him. Phil blocks him again.

PHIL (CONT'D)

90 Did I say you could leave? 90

Phil suddenly jerks forward like he's going to punch him. Lip flinches. Everybody laughs. Lip hates himself for flinching more than he hates them for laughing. Phil sees it. Smiles. He knows he's got him.

PHIL (CONT'D)

91 That's what I thought. 91

Lip stares at him. Something changes.

LIP

92 You done? 92

The smile leaves Phil's face. He shoves Lip hard. Lip hits the ground. His backpack opens. Books spill across the sidewalk. The pill bottle rolls out. Phil looks down. Lip immediately reaches for the pills. Phil steps on the bottle. Lip freezes.

LIP

93 Move your foot. 93

Phil leans down and grabs the pill bottle. He opens it up. Lip shoots to his feet and reaches for it.

LIP

94 Give it here! 94

PHIL

95 You want em, go get em. 95

Phill slings the pills out everywhere. Lip just stands there looking shocked. Lips turns to Phil.

LIP

96 Those were my mothers! She needs them. 96

Phil walks past Lip.

PHIL

97 Bet you won't ignore me again. 97

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Lip looks at the empty pill bottle in disbelief. His books scattered around him. Something is building behind Lip's eyes. Not hatred.

Helplessness.

He's helpless against his mother's illness. Helpless against Phil. Helpless against being broke. Helpless against everything. Lip looks down at his beat-up shoes.

A long beat.

Lip picks up his backpack and starts to walk to school. After a couple of steps he stops. Lip stands there for a couple of seconds then turns around and starts walking in the other direction.

CUT TO: