Somebody follows Shapearl Wells' search for the truth behind the tragic murder of her son, Courtney Copeland, "a young black man with a fancy car", and explores the entrenched racial tension between law enforcement and citizens in Chicago. A defeated and frustrated Shapearl laments that "the doors are being slammed in our face". Shapearl's frustration isn't entirely targeted towards the morally bankrupt Chicago police so much as it is towards the anti-black ethos that has pervaded politics, class, religion and income. This problem isn't isolated to Courtney or Chicago citizens - this problem is endemic in America since before its inception.

America has had different opinions towards the extent of black citizenship over her history. Early America had such uncompromising and fundamental differences between free and slave states that the nation was plunged into the Civil War, the largest and most destructive conflict in the Western world between the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815 and the onset of World War I. His Gettysburg Address, a historic call for equal rights, became a pivotal moment for America, allowing the 13th amendment to abolish slavery to become entrenched in the American Constitution. Despite his relatively progressive views on slavery, Lincoln was not in favour of black citizenship - he was more interested in sending them back to Africa once they had been freed.

Martin Luther King Jr. led a movement that would define the extent of black citizenship and the rights that come with that supposedly prestigious citizenship. However, his untimely death at the hands of a gunman consequently ended a "spiritual movement" that could have spawned a revolution to combat "de facto as opposed to de jure racism." For King, getting the Voting Rights Act was just the first step to redefining black identity and cementing a place among America as equals. However, many white moderates who were initially galvanized by "images of [black] children sprayed by hoses and attacked by dogs," later felt that they made the "last concession" with the Voting Rights Act. As the resistance braved on, Martin Luther King Jr. found resistance in the form of "government sabotage and

obstruction” with unfair housing laws, large slandering campaigns, and a substantial (financial) lack of campaign mobility. King’s campaign wasn’t as encumbered by the political systems of the time or imbalanced socio-economic classes as it was by the “faith of [white people’s] fathers which placed Sambo in chains” that black people were inferior. This corrosive unquestioned faith burgeoned into what we see today.

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