

THE WIRE: THE TARGET (PILOT) 5.14.09

beated by Xander Charity & Nicholas Jarecki

1. Open on dead body, police lights. McNulty (white) sits with black kid. Discuss Snot Boogie. Not fair he got that name. Why did he have to die? He shouldn't have died, just been beat up. Help me out. I'm not goin to court. Alright, let's talk. They discuss craps game Snot used to rob. You let him rob it? Well, why'd you let him play all the time? Got to. This is America.
2. Credits of wires, surveillance, dealing, etc.
3. Epitaph "When it's not your turn—McNulty"
4. McNulty and black detective (Bunk) walk through security at courthouse. Discuss Snot Boogie, This is America, laugh.
5. McNulty enters courtroom, trial in progress. Young black guy (D'Angelo) on trial, witness ID's him. Black guy from back watches (Stringer). White lawyer asks Mr. Gantt, the witness, have you seen this young man before? No. That's it, witness leaves. Witness is afraid. Judge excuses him. They call next witness. A black woman saunters up. In the background we see toughs stare hard at her. She swears in. Nikisha Lyles. A security guard. You're behind bulletproof glass in lobby? Yeah. What did you see. A man beating on a man in elevator, man with gun got knocked down. Is he here? She looks around, pauses. No. Excuse me? He ain't here. Judge, prosecutor are surprised. You told detectives he was in this photo you initialed. Well, I was wrong she says as she stares at hard crew. He looked like the guy, guy who did it came in a week later. Really? Yeah, a week later. But you told cops- no, I tried, I called detective Barlowe on May 13, he didn't return. McNulty exits, says sotto to Stringer, "Nicely done."
6. He continues down hall, towards administrative office. Guy yelling at someone on phone. McNulty says case hit wall, Barksdale's crew turned him. No way. Back to yelling on phone.
7. In car in street, Hispanic woman talks to crackhead. Reveal radio transmission to woman, Griggs. Crackhead ID's someone they're surveilling. That's Ghost. What will he do? Mike will get with him, get money, etc. Griggs radios team to wait, no chase.
8. Cops exit, Catch guy in gar, order him out. It's white cop (Herc) and Hispanic cop (Carver). They tell him to step out slow, woman in back,

- down on ground. Yelling, very authoritative. Griggs drives off with informant. They find shotgun in back of car.
9. Griggs and crackhead at new location, crackhead yelling, Griggs exits says stay. Back to Herc and Carver, yelling at crooks. Griggs approaches, starts searching car. Finds another gun inside, uncocks it. Says 2 guns, remember? Guys say relax, but are embarrassed.
 10. Back in court, judge returns. Verdict's in. Not guilty on all counts. Boys in back cheer. Judge gavels. Judge thanks jury, says let Barksdale go after processing. DA says to Stringer, think I give a fuck? They'll chalk you off soon. Scowls to McNulty.
 11. McNulty walks down hall, is chased after by judge assistant. Wants him in chambers.
 12. In chambers, McNulty and Judge talk. Why were you here for Barlowe's case? Because you're cumming with customers... Clear they're old friends. D'Angelo is cousin of Avon, McNulty says, big crew. Stringer? Who's that. Guy in court in back. Weebay, all those guys. Open court, couldn't clear it. Barksdale running the terraces, 5 high-rises, all the corners. Everybody knows. Barksdale and Bell new power, kill tons, beat court. Nobody's working on it. Just stupid street rips. Why you care? Who said I did.
 13. Exterior building shots, Baltimore Narcotics. Typing. Griggs sits at desk, asks about report #s to Carver. Do your work. Herc and Carver banter. Older supervisor approaches, Daniels, asks something. More banter about typing. Need computers, where the fuck are they? You're stupid, banter. Jerk off on computers. Daniels back, says higher ups having some problem, get upstairs. They all discuss chain of command, more banter, piss and shit. Why only 2 ecu #s Griggs asks? Some other fuck-up, more banter. Anyway, we need to be on street fucking guys up, fuck paperwork, do it had, Westside way. Griggs, you guys are real hardcore. Fucking war on drugs. Ain't no war, wars end.
 14. McNulty climbs stairs, meets bunk, they look at dead body in empty warehouse. Ripe, wow. Smoke cigars. Why'd you catch this body, wake me up? Oh fuck, come on. You breaking on me? Fine, I'll take it, my file, bitch. Hey, he probably came here to take shit and fell out. McNulty leaves, heads back to office "where I belong." Bunk yells at dead body, don't you dare come back a murder.

15. Daniels walks through hall, admonished not to fail someone by tomorrow. Griggs waiting in his office, Laega's pissed. Should be, Avon Barksdale, who? Exactly. But according to Judge, a big player who does murders. I never heard of him, but by tomorrow I must. Okay, where are we? He has high-rises, terraces. Maybe. Must be tonight? Yup. Call DEA, see what they have. Homicide was in same meeting, everyone on this, nobody will share. Okay. DOB? Nothing, wow.
16. Night. Homicide division. McNulty enters supervisor's office. Fuck were you? Getting high and fucking whores. What you got? D-comp, vacant apartment. Fuck other squad should have taken it. Major wants you, so hang on.
17. McNulty enters Major's office (Rawls), waiting in dark, sit the fuck down. What's wrong? Sit down. Tension. Major pissed off, says will get even for backstabbing with Judge. I will fuck you with both hands, I'm answering about a project nigger. 10 murders, 3, what? You're liar. Check files, Maurice, Toren, girl somewhere. These guys are real. Major makes it clear he is pissed about prior year cases, I don't need this insubordination. I'm really sorry. Judge and I go back, he wanted to know. Fuck, I was saying nothing. I'm pissed. Judge fucked me. Hey, fuck you. You're here all night, typing. So do it right. List all cases. Later: McNulty types.
18. D'Anegelo and friend roll in car, Dangelo says I was freaked in court, wondering how you'd help. Talking what they did him. Guy turns up music. Doesn't want to talk in car, says let's walk. Get out on street. What's the rule? Don't talk in car. Or phone, or anywhere, don't say anything. But, hey.... Don't talk in car. They get back in as cop cars blast buy.
19. Strip club, dancer rounds pole. Bunch of black guys watch strippers. Stringer with 2 people we don't know, one we'll later learn is Avon. D'angelo enters, gets hugs from all. Stringer talk to Avon, about McNulty. He showed up in court to watch, really? D'angelo approaches, hugs. Stringer more reserved. Avon not talking yet, motions strippers out. Staring at D'Angelo a little hard. You feel good? Jail ain't no joke. I don't know about jail. Don't plan on it. Sit ass down. D'angelo says he was caught off guard, Avon asks so shoot him? Him or me. Come on, it was our building, our guys everywhere. Why did you shoot in front of security booth? Come on... No... You fucked up, got emotional instead of taking beating. I know. You right. I gotta start thinking more. But was amazing what you did with security lady, lawyer flipped! Laughing. Avon says he's family, that was expensive, you have to make it right, okay? Yes, you'll see when I'm back at tower. Avon scowls, says alright, gets up. D'angelo walks off, Avon holds him back hugs him, says always love.

20. Back in office McNulty types, Bunk returns late at night. McNulty says this is not his fault, he just spoke his mind, now they're mad. Bunk says you gave a fuck when it ain't your turn, that's you! Fat supervisor comes back, ridicules McNulty. Is pissed major wanted him in early to read over work. Fuck you and your dots. McNulty tries to say shit, supervisor says Rawls can fuck you, put you on beat patrol. Where don't you want to go? The boat. The worst, fumes. Hey, keep it up, you'll be on the fucking boat.
21. D'angelo approaches courtyard, sees Stringer, you're here early. Yeah, I'm excited. Hey, you gotta go to pit. What? He's being demoted. Keep your mind on stuff, and you'll be back uptown soon. Wait? Uncle know? What you think, man? Stringer leaves, says drive D'angelo to pit.
22. In police HQ, Rawls and older guy ride in elevator in silence. Older man yells about McNulty, says chain of command. Rawls- you tell him, he's dead to me.
23. In pit, kids run around. D'angelo approaches. Open housing courtyard. Run down, sofa in middle of huge yard. Young kid perched on it (Bodie). Looking for Ronnie? He's uptown. I know. Why'd they put you here? I killed a nigga. Oh. Phones ring, people calling out for green tops.
24. Back in office, Daniel enters old majors office. Major yelling. Rawls had more than us. Daniels yelling hey, they got us doing their work. Major says they got you, only guy, set up with homicide, state's attorney. Fucking shitstorm.
25. Carver in hall tells Daniels pickup line 3 Rawls.
26. Crackhead Black (Bubs) and friend (White) make counterfeit money. Bad shape, planning to buy with counterfeit real-wrapped. Johnny's down. Laughter.
27. Pit- D'angelo sits, kids deal to addicts. D'angelo watches, calls over Wallace (young kid). Says it's all fucked, can't serve custs right away, what if someone watching? You gotta get money, then send them around and serve. We gotta tighten up. Bodie asks count. D'angelo pockets money. Bodie says count it, maybe diff uptown. D'angelo does, finds counterfeit, yells, he was burnt! Money is green motherfucker! Yelling. Wallace shows he is smart, Hamilton wasn't president. Yes he was, you fuck up again, you're out.

28. Bubs and Johnny shoot up, get high. Bubs tells him slow down. Johnny really high. No, too much, you'll fall out. Listen to some game, don't know it all. Friends, but Bubs says he's green. Listen. Johnny wants to do scam tomorrow, he's ready. He's brown. Laughs.
29. Daniels enters Burrell's office, a new place. Deputy Commissioner. Burrell says buy bust, no long surveillance, in and out real fast. Judge is political player, we gotta do what he wants. Why did he ask about Barksdale? Watched attorney lose case. So what? Who are you using? Greggs, great, background. Who else? Up to Rawls. Prob get McNulty, know him? He mouthed off to judge. What? Yeah. Watch your back. Call me for help. Keep me informed.
30. McNulty enters FBI building, stops at security for Fitzhugh. She says can't go up without escort. Lots of security unlike PD. Fitz comes out, they banter. What's up? Hey, your CI gave us great case. Up on wire? Yeah, more. They walk through clean awesome office, see high-tech wire computers. Wow. Amazing. This is live? Live? Video of crack cutting operation. Fiber optic lensing in drywall. McNulty really impressed. Fitz talks of Dominicans in NY. But most of squad in terrorism now, we're getting out of drugs. No manpower since towers fell. What, no love for 2 wars? Hey, anyway, great case, wish you worked with us. Shots of wire.
31. Johnny fucks up scam buying H, gets busted by Wallace and crew. Bodie takes charge setting the example, says we need to take him to Franklin Ave and throw him over the expressway. D'Angelo walks away from the scene letting the crew figure it out on their own. Johnny catches beatdown.
32. Back in the office the team assembles: Greggs, McNulty, Daniels, Herc, Carver talk about the investigation. Let's do it fast and simple, Daniels says. Then we don't do it at all, says McNulty. He wants the long investigation, do the real work. This case won't sprawl. A week from now we'll be back to our day jobs. Hand-to-hands says Daniels. ADA Pearlstein, also in attendance says fine, bring me any of the stuff you get on hand to hands, murders go to Eileen Nathan. Daniels, directing commentary at McNulty, says everything by the book, everything runs past him: "chain-of-command, Detective, that's how we do things down this end of the hall..."
33. Bunk and McNulty talk about McNulty's visitation with ex. Talk turns to Daniels and his political ambitions. Bunk says watch your back with him. McNulty: He's pissing in the wind with Barksdale case. Buy/bust is bullshit, not the way to build a good case. They drink some more...

34. Stripclub. D'Angelo to Stringer: We fucked him up so bad... Stringer: It ain't the money, D. We gotta set an example, show no weakness. Stringer leaves. Stripper asks D'Angelo to buy her a drink. D'Angelo says maybe another time, but he's interested. A connection? Stripper leaves and asks another patron to buy her a drink...
35. Griggs arrives home. She and her girlfriend talk about Griggs' work. Long night for Griggs w/ paperwork. Girlfriend goes to make coffee.
36. Bunk and McNulty drink and bullshit by train tracks. Bunk shot a mouse, blah blah blah. The two are wasted, Bunk more so. McNulty: I'm gonna do this case the way it should be done. Bunk: Come on Jimmy, it's buy or bust.
37. Griggs finds Bubs in the hospital looking after his sidekick, totally fucked up and on life support from the beating. Bubs, looking for vengeance: You still working drugs? I got something for ya...
38. Back at Homicide in the morning, Bunk is mortally hung over. Sgt says he's got a body. Bunk says he's a little worse for the wear today. Sgt says he doesn't care, they're a little thin since his partner got transferred to the Daniels operation for opening his mouth. Bunk gives in...
39. Near the lowrises, Bunk arrives on the murder scene. One or two shots to the head. No witness, no suspects. Bystanders look on, among them D'Angelo. The cops roll the body at Bunk's go-ahead to reveal that it's the witness who ID'd D'Angelo in the courtroom. D'Angelo walks away, shaken... Cue music.

END