

(TONY and MARIA)

NO BETTER THAN ALL RIGHT,
BUT HERE YOU ARE,
AND WHAT WAS JUST A WORLD IS A STAR
TONIGHT!

VOICE

(OFFSTAGE)

Maruca!

MARIA

Wait for me!

(SHE goes inside as the buildings begin to return)

TONY

(Singing)

TONIGHT, TONIGHT,
IT ALL BEGAN TONIGHT,
I SAW YOU AND THE WORLD WENT AWAY.

MARIA

(Returning)

I cannot stay. Go quickly!

TONY

I'm not afraid.

MARIA

They are strict with me. Please.

TONY

(Kissing her)

Good night.

MARIA

Buenas noches.

TONY

I love you.

MARIA

Yes, yes. Hurry.

(HE climbs down)

Wait! When will I see you?

(HE starts back up)

(MARIA)

No!

TONY

Tomorrow.

MARIA

I work at the bridal shop. Come there.

TONY

At sundown.

MARIA

Yes, Good night.

TONY

Good night.

(Starts off)

MARIA

Tony!

TONY

Shh!

MARIA

Come to the back door.

TONY

Si.

(Again, he starts out)

MARIA

Tony!

(HE stops. A pause in silence)

What does Tony stand for?

TONY

Anton.

MARIA

Te adoro, Anton.

TONY

Te adoro, Maria.

(SCHRANK)

(Mock charm)

Please.

BERNARDO

Let's go, Sharks.

(THEY EXIT)

SCHRANK

If I don't put down the roughhouse, I get put down — on a traffic corner. Your friend don't like traffic corners. So you buddy boys are gonna play ball with me. I gotta put up with them and so do you. You're gonna make nice with them PRs from now on. Because otherwise, I'm gonna beat the crap outa every one of ya and then run ya in. Say goodbye to the nice boys, Krupke.

KRUPKE

Goodbye, boys.

(Follows SCHRANK out)

SNOWBOY

(Imitating KRUPKE)

Goodbye, boys.

A-RAB

They make a very nice couple.

ACTION

(Bitterly)

"You hoodlums don't own the streets."

BIG DEAL

Go play in the park!

ACTION

Keep off the grass!

BABY JOHN

Get outa the house!

ACTION

Keep off the block!

A-RAB

Get outa here!

ACTION

Keep off the world! A gang that don't own a street is nuthin'!

SCENE NINE

(Under the highway.

*A dead end; rotting plaster-and-brick walls and mesh wire fences.
A street lamp.*

It is nightfall. The almost-silhouetted GANGS come in from separate sides: climbing over the fences or crawling through holes in the walls. There is silence as they fan out on opposite sides of the cleared space. Then BERNARDO and DIESEL remove their jackets, handing them to their seconds: CHINO and RIFF)

BERNARDO

Ready.

CHINO

Ready!

DIESEL

Ready.

RIFF

Ready! Come center and shake hands.

BERNARDO

For what?

RIFF

That's how it's done, buddy boy.

BERNARDO

More gracious living? Look: I don't go for that pretend crap you all go for in this country. Every one of you hates every one of us and we hate you right back. I don't drink with nobody I hate, I don't shake hands with nobody I hate. Let's get at it.

RIFF

Okay.

BERNARDO

(Moving toward CENTER)

Here we go.

(DIESEL begins to move toward him. There are encouragements called from each side. The "fair fight" is just beginning when:)

TONY

Hold it!

(HE leaps over a fence and starts to BERNARDO)

Riff callback

BABY JOHN

I wear a jacket like my buddies, so my teacher calls me hoodlum!

ACTION

I swear the next creep who calls me hoodlum -

RIFF

You'll laugh! Yeah. Now you all better dig this and dig it the most. No matter who or what is eating at you, you show it, buddy boys, and you are dead. You are cutting a hole in yourselves for them to stick in a red hot umbrella and open it. Wide. You wanna live? You play it cool.

#8 - Cool

ACTION

I wanna get even!

RIFF

Get cool.

A-RAB

I wanna bust!

RIFF

Bust cool.

BABY JOHN

I wanna go!

RIFF

Go cool!

(Singing)

RIFF

BOY, BOY, CRAZY BOY,
GET COOL, BOY.
GOT A ROCKET
IN YOUR POCKET,
KHEP COOLLY COOL, BOY.

DON'T GET HOT,
'CAUSE MAN, YOU GOT
SOME HIGH TIMES AHEAD.

MARIA

At the store. If I had known you were -- You have been fighting, Chino.

CHINO

Yes, I am sorry.

MARIA

That is not like you.

CHINO

No.

MARIA

Why, Chino?

CHINO

I don't know why. It happened so fast.

MARIA

You must wash up.

CHINO

Maria --

MARIA

You can go in there.

CHINO

In a minute. Maria... at the rumble --

MARIA

There was no rumble.

CHINO

There was.

MARIA

You are wrong.

CHINO

No, there was. Nobody meant for it to happen...

MARIA

...Tell me.

CHINO

It's bad.

MARIA

Very bad?

CHINO

*(Nods)**(You see...)**(Moves closer to her, helplessly)*

MARIA

(It will be easier if you say it very fast.)

CHINO

*(Nods)**(There was a fight --)**(SHE nods)**(And 'Nardo --)**(SHE nods)**(And somehow a knife -- and 'Nardo and someone --)**(HE takes her hand)*

MARIA

*(What happened to Tony?)**(The name stops CHINO. HE drops her hand: the robe opens, showing that she is dressed)**(Tell me!)**(Crudely, CHINO yanks off the robe, revealing her dressed to go out)**(Chino, is Tony all right?!)*

CHINO

*(He killed your brother.)**(HE walks into the parlor, slamming the door behind him. A moment, then:)*

MARIA

*(You are lying.)**(CHINO has started to leave the parlor, but turns back now, swiftly searches behind furniture and comes up with an object wrapped in the same color as BERNARDO'S shirt. From the bedroom, louder:)**(You are lying, Chino!)*