

# Table of Contents

## ACT ONE

SCENE ONE .....	1
#1    Prologue	(Orchestra) .....1
#2    Jet Song	(Riff, Jets) .....8
#2A   Jet Song Chase	(Orchestra) .....12
SCENE TWO .....	12
#3    Something's Coming	(Tony) .....16
#3A   Something's Coming Chase	(Orchestra) .....17
SCENE THREE .....	17
#4    The Dance At The Gym – Blues	(Orchestra) .....21
SCENE FOUR .....	21
#4A   Promenade	(Orchestra) .....23
#4B   Mambo	(Orchestra) .....23
#4C   Cha-Cha	(Orchestra) .....24
#4D   Meeting Scene	(Orchestra) .....24
#4E   Jump	(Orchestra) .....25
#5    Maria	(Tony) .....29
SCENE FIVE .....	30
#6    Balcony Scene	(Maria, Tony) .....30
#7    America	(Anita, Rosalia, Shark Girls) ....42
#7A   America To Drugstore	(Orchestra) .....45
SCENE SIX .....	45
#8    Cool	(Riff, Jets) .....51
#8A   Cool Chase	(Orchestra) .....52
#8B   Under Dialogue And Change Of Scene	(Orchestra) .....59
SCENE SEVEN .....	60
#9    Under Dialogue	(Orchestra) .....64
#9A   One Hand, One Heart	(Tony, Maria) .....66
SCENE EIGHT .....	68
#10   Tonight	(Jets, Sharks, Anita, Tony, Maria, Riff, Bernardo) .....68
SCENE NINE .....	73
#11   The Rumble	(Orchestra) .....76

## ACT TWO

SCENE ONE .....	78
#12 <i>I Feel Pretty</i> .....	(Maria, Consuela, Rosalia, Francisca) ..... 78
#13 <i>Under Dialogue</i> .....	(Orchestra) ..... 87
#13A <i>Ballet Sequence</i> .....	(Tony, Maria) ..... 88
#13B <i>Transition To Scherzo</i> .....	(Orchestra) ..... 88
#13C <i>Scherzo</i> .....	(Orchestra) ..... 88
#13D <i>Somewhere</i> .....	(Girl) ..... 89
#13E <i>Procession And Nightmare</i> .....	(Tony, Maria, Company) ..... 89
SCENE TWO .....	90
#14 <i>Gee, Officer Krupke</i> .....	(Jets) ..... 95
SCENE THREE .....	103
#15 <i>A Boy Like That And</i> <i>I Have A Love</i> .....	(Maria, Anita) ..... 105
#15A <i>Change Of Scene</i> .....	(Orchestra) ..... 109
SCENE FOUR .....	109
#16 <i>Taunting Scene</i> .....	(Orchestra) ..... 110
SCENE FIVE .....	115
SCENE SIX .....	117
#17 <i>Finale</i> .....	(Maria, Tony) ..... 119

THE JETS:

RIFF, the leader  
TONY, his friend  
ACTION  
A-RAB  
BABY JOHN  
SNOWBOY  
BIG DEAL  
DIESEL  
GEE-TAR  
MOUTHPIECE  
TIGER

THEIR GIRLS:

GRAZIELLA  
VELMA  
MINNIE  
CLARICE  
PAULINE  
ANYBODYS

THE SHARKS:

BERNARDO, the leader  
MARIA, his sister  
ANITA, his girl  
CHINO, his friend  
PEPE  
INDIO  
LUIS  
ANXIOUS  
NIBBLES  
JUANO  
TORO  
MOOSE

THEIR GIRLS:

ROSALIA  
CONSUELO  
TERESITA  
FRANCISCA  
ESTELLA  
MARGARITA

THE ADULTS:

DOC  
SCHRANK  
KRUPKE  
GLAD HAND

# *Songs by Character*

## ANITA

#7	<i>America</i> .....	42
#10	<i>Tonight</i> .....	68
#15	<i>A Boy Like That And I Have A Love</i> .....	105

## BERNARDO

#10	<i>Tonight</i> .....	68
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## COMPANY

#13E	<i>Procession And Nightmare</i> .....	89
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## CONSUELA

#12	<i>I Feel Pretty</i> .....	78
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## ENSEMBLE

#10	<i>Tonight</i> .....	68
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## FRANCISCA

#12	<i>I Feel Pretty</i> .....	78
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## GIRL

#13D	<i>Somewhere</i> .....	89
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## JETS

#2	<i>Jet Song</i> .....	8
#8	<i>Cool</i> .....	51
#10	<i>Tonight</i> .....	68
#14	<i>Gee, Officer Krupke</i> .....	95

## MARIA

#6	<i>Balcony Scene</i> .....	30
#9A	<i>One Hand, One Heart</i> .....	66
#10	<i>Tonight</i> .....	68
#12	<i>I Feel Pretty</i> .....	78
#13A	<i>Ballet Sequence</i> .....	88
#13E	<i>Procession And Nightmare</i> .....	89
#15	<i>A Boy Like That And I Have A Love</i> .....	105
#17	<i>Finale</i> .....	119

## RIFF

#2	<i>Jet Song</i> .....	8
#8	<i>Cool</i> .....	51
#10	<i>Tonight</i> .....	68



## ROSALIA

#7	<i>America</i> . . . . .	42
#12	<i>I Feel Pretty</i> . . . . .	78

## SHARKS

#10	<i>Tonight</i> . . . . .	68
-----	--------------------------	----

## SHARK GIRLS

#7	<i>America</i> . . . . .	42
----	--------------------------	----

## TONY

#3	<i>Something's Coming</i> . . . . .	16
#5	<i>Maria</i> . . . . .	29
#6	<i>Balcony Scene</i> . . . . .	30
#9A	<i>One Hand, One Heart</i> . . . . .	66
#10	<i>Tonight</i> . . . . .	68
#13A	<i>Ballet Sequence</i> . . . . .	88
#13E	<i>Procession And Nightmare</i> . . . . .	89
#17	<i>Finale</i> . . . . .	119

The action takes place on the West Side of New York City  
during the last days of summer.

## ACT ONE

### Prologue: The Months Before

5:00 p.m.	The Street
5:30 p.m.	A Back Yard
6:00 p.m.	A Bridal Shop
10:00 p.m.	The Gym
11:00 p.m.	A Back Alley
Midnight	The Drugstore

### The Next Day

5:30 p.m.	The Bridal Shop
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.	The Neighborhood
9:00 p.m.	Under the Highway

## ACT TWO

9:15 p.m.	A Bedroom
10:00 p.m.	Another Alley
11:30 p.m.	The Bedroom
11:40 p.m.	The Drugstore
11:50 p.m.	The Cellar
Midnight	The Street

**ACT ONE**  
**SCENE ONE**

*(The neighborhood. A suggestion of city streets and alleyways;  
a workable brick wall.)*

**# 1 — Prologue****(Orchestra)**

*The opening is musical: half-danced, half-mimed with occasional phrases of dialogue. It is primarily a condensation of the growing rivalry between two teenage gangs, the JETS and the SHARKS, each of which has its own prideful uniform. The boys — side-burned, long-haired — are vital, restless, sardonic; the SHARKS are Puerto Ricans, the JETS an anthology of what is called "American."*

*The action begins with the JETS in possession of the area: owning, enjoying, loving their "home." Their leader is RIFF: glowing, driving, intelligent, slightly whacky. His lieutenant is DIESEL: big, slow, steady, nice. The youngest member of the gang is BABY JOHN: awed at everything, including that he is a JET, trying to act the big man. His buddy is A-RAB, an explosive little ferret who enjoys everything and understands the seriousness of nothing. The most aggressive is ACTION: a catlike ball of fury. We will get to know these boys better later, as well as BIG DEAL — a bespectacled self-styled expert.*

*The first interruption of the JETS' sunny mood is the sharply punctuated entrance of BERNARDO, the leader of the SHARKS: handsome, proud, fluid, a chip on his sardonic shoulder. The JETS, by far in the majority, flick him off. HE returns with other SHARKS: they, too, are flicked off. But the numerical supremacy, the strength of the JETS is gradually being threatened. The beginnings of warfare are mild at first: a boy being tripped up or being sandbagged with a flour sack or even being spit on. All with overly elaborate apologies.*

*Finally, A-RAB comes across the suddenly deserted area, pretending to be an airplane. There is no sound as he zooms along in fancied flight. Then over the wall drops BERNARDO. Another SHARK, another and another appear, blocking A-RAB'S panicky efforts at escape. THEY close in, grab him, pummel as a SHARK on top of the wall is stationed as look-out. Finally, BERNARDO bends over A-RAB and makes a gesture (piercing his ear); the look-out whistles; JETS tear on, SHARKS tear on, and a free-for-all breaks out. RIFF goes at once to A-RAB like a protective father. It is stopped by a POLICE WHISTLE louder and louder and the arrival of a big, goon-like cop — KRUPKE — and a plainclothesman: SCHRANK. SCHRANK is strong, always in command; he has a charming, pleasant manner which he often employs to cover his venom and his fear)*

KRUPKE

Knock it off! Settle down.

SCHRANK

All right: Kill each other! ...But not on my beat.

RIFF

*(Such innocence)*

Why if it isn't Lt. Schrank!

SEVERAL JETS

*(Dancing class manners)*

Top of the day, Officer Krupke.

SCHRANK

Boy, what you Puerto Ricans have done to this neighborhood.  
Which one of 'em clobbered ya, A-rab?

*(A-RAB looks to RIFF who takes over with great helpful seriousness)*

RIFF

As a matter of factuality, sir, we suspicion the job was done by a cop.

BIG DEAL

Two cops.

A-RAB

Oh, at least!

KRUPKE

Impossible!

SCHRANK

Didn't nobody tell you there's a difference between bein' a stool pigeon and cooperatin' with the law?

RIFF

You told us the difference, sir. And we all chipped in for a prize for the first guy who can figure it out.

**ACTION**

*(Indicating SCHRANK)*

Maybe buddy boy should get the prize.

**SCHRANK**

Don't buddy boy me, Action! I got a hot surprise for you: you hoodlums don't own the streets. There's been too much raiding between you and the PRs. All right, Bernardo, get your trash outa here.

*(Mock charm)*

Please.

**BERNARDO**

Let's go, Sharks.

*(THEY EXIT)*

**SHRANK**

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'!

**RIFF**

WE DO OWN IT! Jets — square off! Acemen:

*(DIESEL, ACTION and BIG DEAL line up at attention)*

Rocketmen:

*(Three others line up)*

Rank-and-file:

*(Sheepishly, A-RAB trudges into position, BABY JOHN behind him)*

**BABY JOHN**

*(Shocked, to A-RAB)*

Gee, your ear's got blood on it!

**A-RAB**

*(Proudly)*

I'm a casual, Baby John.

**BABY JOHN**

*(Examining the ear)*

Those PRs! They branded you!

**BIG DEAL**

That makes you a Puerto Rican tomato. Cha cha cha, señorita!

**RIFF**

Cut the frabbajabba. Which one of the Sharks did it?

**A-RAB**

Bernardo. 'Cause I hear him say: thees ees for stink-bombin' my old man's store.  
*(Makes the same gesture BERNARDO made when he pierced his ear)*

**BABY JOHN**

Ouch!

**ACTION**

You shoulda done worse. Them PRs're the reason my old man's gone bust.

**RIFF**

Who says?

**ACTION**

My old man says.

**BABY JOHN**

My old man says his old man woulda gone bust anyway.

**ACTION**

Your old man says what?

**BABY JOHN**

My old man says them Puerto Ricans is ruinin' free ennaprise.

**ACTION**

And what're we doin' about it?

*(Pushing through the gang comes a scrawny teenage girl, dressed in an outfit that is a pathetic attempt to imitate that of the JETS. Perhaps we have glimpsed her in the fracas before the police came in. Her name:)*

**ANYBODYS**

Gassin', crabbin' —

**ACTION**

You still around?

ANYBODYS

Lissen, I was a smash in that fight. Oh, Riff, Riff, I was murder!

RIFF

Come on, Anybodys —

ANYBODYS

Riff, how about me gettin' in the gang now?

A-RAB

How about the gang gettin' in — ahhh, who'd wanta!

ANYBODYS

You cheap beast!

*(Lunges for A-RAB but RIFF pulls her off and pushes her out)*

RIFF

The road, little lady, the road.

*(In a moment of bravado, just before she goes, ANYBODYS spits — but cautiously)*

Round out!

*(This is RIFF'S beckoning of the gang, and THEY surround him)*

We fought hard for this territory and it's ours. But with those cops servin' as cover, the PRs can move in right under our noses and take it away. UNLESS we speed fast and clean 'em up in one all-out fight!

ACTION

*(Eagerly)*

A rumble!

*(A jabbing gesture)*

Chung! Chung!

RIFF

Cool, Action boy. The Sharks want a place, too, and they are tough. They might ask for bottles or knives or zip guns.

BABY JOHN

Zip guns... Gee!



**RIFF**

I'm not finalizing and saying they will: I'm only saying they might and we gotta be prepared. Now what's your mood?

**ACTION**

I say go, go!!

**BIG DEAL**

But if they say knives or guns —

**BABY JOHN**

I say let's forget the whole thing.

**SNOWBOY**

What do you say, Riff?

**RIFF**

I say this turf is small, but it's all we got. I wanna hold it like we always held it: with skin! But if they say switchblades, I'll get a switchblade. I say I want the Jets to be Number One, to sail, to hold the sky!

**DIESEL**

Then rev us off:

*(A punching gesture)*

Voom-va-voom!

**ACTION**

Chung chung!

**A-RAB**

*(Gesture)*

Cracko jacko!

**SNOWBOY**

*(Gesture)*

Riga diga dum!

**BABY JOHN**

*(The wildest gesture of all)*

Pam pam!!

**RIFF**

O.K., buddy boys, we rumble!

*(General glee)*

Now protocolity calls for a war council to decide on weapons.  
I'll make the challenge to Bernardo.

**BIG DEAL**

You gotta take a lieutenant.

**ACTION**

That's me!

**RIFF**

That's Tony.

**ACTION**

Who needs Tony?

*(MUSIC starts)*

**# 2 — Jet Song**

*(Riff, Jets)*

**RIFF**

Against the Sharks we need every man we got.

**ACTION**

Tony don't belong any more.

**RIFF**

Cut it, Action boy. I and Tony started the Jets.

**ACTION**

Well, he acts like he don't wanna belong.

**BABY JOHN**

Who wouldn't wanna belong to the Jets!

**ACTION**

Tony ain't been with us for over a month.

**BIG DEAL**

What about the day we clobbered the Emeralds?

**A-RAB**

Which we couldn't have done without Tony.

**BABY JOHN**

He saved my ever lovin' neck.

**RIFF**

Right. He's always come through for us and he will now.

(SINGS)

WHEN YOU'RE A JET,  
YOU'RE A JET ALL THE WAY  
FROM YOUR FIRST CIGARETTE  
TO YOUR LAST DYIN' DAY.  
WHEN YOU'RE A JET,  
IF THE SPIT HITS THE FAN,  
YOU GOT BROTHERS AROUND,  
YOU'RE A FAMILY MAN!  
YOU'RE NEVER ALONE,  
YOU'RE NEVER DISCONNECTED!  
YOU'RE HOME WITH YOUR OWN,  
WHEN COMPANY'S EXPECTED,  
YOU'RE WELL-PROTECTED!  
THEN YOU ARE SET  
WITH A CAPITAL J,  
WHICH YOU'LL NEVER FORGET  
TILL THEY CART YOU AWAY.  
WHEN YOU'RE A JET,  
YOU STAY A JET!

(Speaks)

I know Tony like I know me. I guarantee you can count him in.

**ACTION**

In, out, let's get crackin'.

**A-RAB**

Where you gonna find Bernardo?

**RIFF**

At the dance tonight at the gym.

**BIG DEAL**

But the gym's neutral territory.

**RIFF**

*(Sweet innocence)*

I'm gonna make nice there! I'm only gonna challenge him.

**A-RAB**

Great, Daddy-O!

**RIFF**

So everybody dress up sweet and sharp.

*(THEY primp and preen)*

**ALL**

OH, WHEN THE JETS FALL IN  
AT THE CORNBALL DANCE,  
WE'LL BE THE SWEETEST DRESSIN'  
GANG IN PANTS!  
AND WHEN THE CHICKS DIG US  
IN OUR JET BLACK TIES,  
THEY'RE GONNA FLIP, GONNA FLOP,  
GONNA DROP LIKE FLIES!

*(THEY dance together, a little wild)*

**RIFF**

*(Spoken)*

HEY. COOL.

EASY. SWEET.

Meet Tony and me at ten. And walk tall!

*(HE runs off)*

**A-RAB**

We always walk tall!

## BABY JOHN

We're Jets!

### ACTION

The greatest!

### ACTION, BABY JOHN

WHEN YOU'RE A JET,  
YOU'RE THE TOP CAT IN TOWN,  
YOU'RE THE GOLD-MEDAL KID  
WITH THE HEAVYWEIGHT CROWN!

### A-RAB, ACTION, BIG-DEAL

WHEN YOU'RE A JET,  
YOU'RE THE SWINGIN'EST THING"  
LITTLE BOY, YOU'RE A MAN;  
LITTLE MAN, YOU'RE A KING!

### ALL

THE JETS ARE IN GEAR,  
OUR CYLINDERS ARE CLICKIN'!  
THE SHARKS'LL STEER CLEAR  
'CAUSE EVERY PUERTO RICAN'S  
A LOUSY CHICKEN!

HERE COME THE JETS  
LIKE A BAT OUT OF HELL —  
SOMEONE GETS IN OUR WAY,  
SOMEONE DON'T FEEL SO WELL!  
HERE COME THE JETS:  
LITTLE WORLD, STEP ASIDE!  
BETTER GO UNDERGROUND,  
BETTER RUN, BETTER HIDE!  
WE'RE DRAWIN' THE LINE,  
SO KEEP YOUR NOSES HIDDEN!  
WE'RE HANGIN' A SIGN  
SAYS "VISITORS FORBIDDEN" —  
AND WE AIN'T KIDDIN'!  
HERE COME THE JETS,  
YEAH! AND WE'RE GONNA BEAT

EVERY LAST BUGGIN' GANG  
ON THE WHOLE BUGGIN' STREET!

**DIESEL, ACTION**

ON THE WHOLE!

**ALL**

EVER — !  
MOTHER — !  
LOVIN' — !  
STREET!

*(BLACKOUT)*

**END OF SCENE ONE**

# 2A — *Jet Song Chase*

*(Orchestra)*

**SCENE TWO**

*(A yard.*

*On a small ladder, a good-looking sandy-haired boy is painting a vertical sign that will say: DOC'S. Below, RIFF is haranguing)*

**RIFF**

Riga tiga tum tum. Why not?... You can't say you won't, Tony boy, without saying why not?

**TONY**

*(Grins)*

Why not?

**RIFF**

Because it's me askin', Riff. Womb to tomb!

**TONY**

Sperm to worm!

*(Surveying the sign)*

You sure this looks like sky-writing?

RIFF

It's brilliant.

TONY

27 years the boss has had that drugstore. I want to surprise him with a new sign.

RIFF

*(Shaking the ladder)*

Tony, this is important!

TONY

Very important: Acemen, Rocket men.

RIFF

What's with you? Four and one-half years I live with a buddy and his family. Four and one-half years, I think I know a man's character. Buddy boy, I am a victim of disappointment in you.

TONY

End your suffering, little man. Why don't you pack up your gear and clear out?

RIFF

'Cause your ma's hot for me.

*(TONY grabs his arm and twists it)*

No! 'Cause I hate living with my buggin' uncle uncle UNCLE!

*(TONY releases him and climbs back up)*

TONY

Now go play nice with the Jets.

RIFF

The Jets are the greatest!

TONY

Were.

RIFF

Are. You found something better?

TONY

No. But —

RIFF

But what?

TONY

You won't dig it.

RIFF

Try me.

TONY

O.K. Every single damn night for the last month, I wake up and I'm reaching out.

RIFF

For what?

TONY

I don't know, it's right outside the door, around the corner. But it's comin'!

RIFF

What is? Tell me!

TONY

I don't know! It's — like the kick I used to get from being a Jet.

RIFF

*(Quietly)*

...Or from being buddies.

TONY

We're still buddies.

RIFF

The kick comes from people, buddy boy.

TONY

Yeah, but not from being a Jet.

RIFF

No? Without a gang you're an orphan. With a gang you walk in twos, threes, fours. And when your gang is the best, when you're a Jet, buddy boy, you're out in the sun and home free home!



TONY

Riff, I've had it.

*(Pause)*

RIFF

Tony, the trouble is large: the Sharks bite hard!  
We got to stop them now and we need you!

*(Pause. Quietly)*

I never asked the time of day from a clock, but I'm asking you:  
Come to the dance tonight...

*(TONY turns away)*

... I already told the gang you'd be there.

TONY

*(After a beat, turns to him with a grin)*

What time?

RIFF

Ten?

TONY

Ten it is.

RIFF

Womb to tomb!

TONY

Sperm to worm! And I'll live to regret this.

RIFF

Who knows? Maybe what you're waitin' for'll be twitching at the dance!

*(HE runs off)*

## TONY

Who knows?

(MUSIC starts and HE SINGS)

# 3 — *Something's Coming**(Tony)*

COULD BE! ...  
WHO KNOWS? ...  
THERE'S SOMETHING DUE ANY DAY;  
I WILL KNOW RIGHT AWAY  
SOON AS IT SHOWS.  
IT MAY COME CANNON-BALLING  
DOWN THROUGH THE SKY,  
GLEAM IN ITS EYE,  
BRIGHT AS A ROSE!  
WHO KNOWS? ...  
IT'S ONLY JUST OUT OF REACH,  
DOWN THE BLOCK, ON A BEACH,  
UNDER A TREE.  
I GOT A FEELING THERE'S A MIRACLE DUE,  
GONNA COME TRUE,  
COMING TO ME!

COULD IT BE? YES, IT COULD.  
SOMETHING'S COMING, SOMETHING GOOD,  
IF I CAN WAIT!  
SOMETHING'S COMING, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS  
BUT IT IS GONNA BE GREAT!

WITH A CLICK, WITH A SHOCK,  
PHONE'LL JINGLE, DOOR'LL KNOCK,  
OPEN THE LATCH!  
SOMETHING'S COMING, DON'T KNOW WHEN,  
BUT IT'S SOON —  
CATCH THE MOON,  
ONE-HANDED CATCH!

AROUND THE CORNER,

OR WHISTLING DOWN THE RIVER,  
COME ON – DELIVER  
TO ME!

WILL IT BE? YES, IT WILL.  
MAYBE JUST BY HOLDING STILL  
IT'LL BE THERE!  
COME ON, SOMETHING, COME ON IN,  
DON'T BE SHY, MEET A GUY,  
PULL UP A CHAIR!

THE AIR IS HUMMING,  
AND SOMETHING GREAT IS COMING!  
WHO KNOWS?  
IT'S ONLY JUST OUT OF REACH,  
DOWN THE BLOCK, ON A BEACH...  
MAYBE TONIGHT...

(DIM-OUT)

## END OF SCENE TWO

# 3A – *Something's Coming Chase*

(Orchestra)

## SCENE THREE

*(Bridal shop.*

*A small section, enough to include table with sewing machine;  
chair or two.*

*ANITA, a Puerto Rican girl with loose hair and a slightly flashy  
"American" dress, is finishing remaking what was a white commu-  
nion dress into a party dress for an extremely lovely, extremely young  
girl: MARIA. ANITA is knowing, sexual, sharp. MARIA is an  
excited, enthusiastic, obedient child mixed with the temper, stubborn  
strength and awareness of a woman)*

**MARIA**

*(Holding out scissors)*

Por favor, Anita. Make the neck lower!

ANITA

Stop it, Maria.

MARIA

One inch. How much can one little inch do?

ANITA

Too much.

MARIA

*(Exasperated)*

Anita, it is now to be a dress for dancing, no longer for kneeling in front of an altar.

ANITA

With those boys you can start in dancing and end up kneeling.

MARIA

Querida, one little inch; una poca poca —

ANITA

Bernardo made me promise —

MARIA

Ai! Bernardo! One month have I been in this country — do I ever even touch excitement? I sew all day, I sit all night. For what did my fine brother bring me here?

ANITA

To marry Chino.

MARIA

When I look at Chino, nothing happens.

ANITA

What do you expect to happen?

MARIA

I dunno: something. What happens when you look at Bernardo?

ANITA

It's when I don't look that it happens.

MARIA

I think I will tell Mamma and Poppa about you and 'Nardo in the balcony of the movies.

ANITA

I'll rip this to shreds!

MARIA

No. But if you perhaps could manage to lower the neck —

ANITA

Next year.

MARIA

Next year I will be married to Chino and no one will care if it is down to here!

ANITA

Down to where?

MARIA

Down to here. I hate this dress!

ANITA

Then don't wear it and don't come with us to the dance.

MARIA

*(Shocked)*

Don't come!

*(Grabs the dress)*

Could we not dye it red, at least?

ANITA

No, we could not.

*(Starts to help MARIA into the dress)*

MARIA

White is for babies. I will be the only one there in a white —

ANITA

Well???

MARIA

Ahhhh — si! It is a beautiful dress: I love you!

*(As she hugs ANITA, BERNARDO ENTERS followed by a shy, gentle, sweet-faced boy: CHINO)*

BERNARDO

Are you ready?

MARIA

Come in, 'Nardo.

*(Whirls in dress)*

Is it not beautiful?

BERNARDO

*(Looking only at MARIA'S face)*

Yes.

*(Kisses her)*

Very.

ANITA

I didn't quite hear...

BERNARDO

*(Kissing her quite differently)*

Very beautiful.

MARIA

*(Watches them a second, then turns to CHINO)*

Come in, Chino. Do not be afraid.

CHINO

But this is a shop for ladies.

BERNARDO

Our ladies!

MARIA

'Nardo, it is most important that I have a wonderful time at the dancing tonight.

## BERNARDO

(As ANITA hooks up MARIA)

Why?

## MARIA

Because tonight is the real beginning of my life as a young lady of America!

*(SHE begins to whirl in the dress as the sop slides off and a flood of gaily colored streamers pours down. As MARIA begins to turn and turn, going OFFSTAGE, SHARK GIRLS, dressed for the dance, whirl on, followed by JET GIRLS, by BOYS from both gangs. The streamers fly up again with the drop to reveal:)*

## END OF SCENE THREE

# 4 — The Dance At The Gym — Blues (Orchestra)

## SCENE FOUR

*(A dance hall.*

*Actually, a converted gymnasium of a settlement house, disguised for the occasion with streamers and bunting.*

*Both gangs are jitterbugging wildly with their bodies but their faces, although they are enjoying themselves, remain cool, almost detached. The line between the two gangs is sharply defined by the colors they wear: the JETS, girls as well as boys, reflecting the colors of the JET jackets; and the same for the SHARKS. The dancing is a physical and emotional release for these kids.*

*MARIA ENTERS with CHINO, BERNARDO and ANITA. As she looks around, delighted, thrilled by this, her first dance, the JETS catch sight of BERNARDO who is being greeted by PEPE, his lieutenant and other SHARKS. As the music peters away, the JETS withdraw to one side of the hall, around RIFF. The SHARKS, seeing this, draw to their side, around BERNARDO. A brief consultation, and RIFF starts across — with lieutenants — to make his challenge to BERNARDO, who starts — with his lieutenants — to meet him. The moment is brief but it would be disastrous if a smiling, overly cheerful young man of about 30 did not hurry forward. HE is called GLAD HAND, and he is a "square")*

# GLAD HAND

*(Beaming)*

All right, boys and girls! Attention, please!

*(Hum of talk)*

Attention!

*(KRUPKE appears behind GLAD HAND: the talk stops)*

Thank you. It sure is a fine turnout tonight.

*(Ad libs from the kids)*

We want you to make friends here, so we're going to have a few get-together dances.

*(Ad-libs: "Oh, ginger peachy," etc., etc.)*

You form two circles: boys on the outside, girls on the inside.

# BIG DEAL

Where are you?

# GLAD HAND

*(Tries to laugh at this)*

All right. Now when the music stops, each boy dances with whichever girl is opposite. O.K.? O.K. Two circles, kids.

*(The KIDS clap their hands back at him and ad lib: "Two circles, kids," etc., etc. but do not move)*

Well, it won't hurt you to try.

# BIG DEAL

*(Limping forward)*

Oh, it hurts; it hurts; it —

*(KRUPKE steps forward. BIG DEAL straightens up and meekly returns to his place. RIFF steps forward and beckons to his girl, VELMA. SHE is terribly young, sexy, lost in a world of jive. She slithers forward to take her place with RIFF. The challenge is met by BERNARDO who steps forward, leading ANITA as though he were presenting the most magnificent lady in all the world. The other KIDS follow, forming the two circles GLAD HAND requested)*

# GLAD HAND

That's it, kids. Keep the ball rolling. 'Round she goes and where she stops, nobody knows. All right: here we go!



## # 4A – Promenade

(Orchestra)

*(Promenade music starts and the circles start revolving. GLAD HAND, whistle to his mouth, is in the center with KRUPKE. HE blows the WHISTLE and the MUSIC stops, leaving JET BOYS opposite SHARK GIRLS and vice-versa. There is a moment of tenseness, then BERNARDO reaches across the JET GIRL opposite for ANITA'S hand, and she comes to him. RIFF reaches for VELMA; and the kids of both gangs follow suit)*

## # 4B – Mambo

(Orchestra)

*The "get-together" has failed, and each side is on its own side of the hall as mambo MUSIC starts)*

### SHARKS

*(Shouted)*

MAMBO!

### JETS

*(Shouted)*

MAMBO!

### ALL

GO!

*(This turns into a challenge dance between BERNARDO and ANITA, cheered on by the SHARKS, and RIFF and VELMA cheered on by the JETS)*

### SHARKS

MAMBO!

MAMBO!

*(TONY ENTERS and is momentarily embraced by RIFF who is delighted that his best friend did turn up. The dance builds wilder and wilder until at its peak, everybody is dancing)*

## ALL

GO, MAMBO!

GO, MAMBO!

GO, MAMBO!

*(It is at this moment that TONY and MARIA – at opposite sides of the hall – see each other. They have been cheering on their respective friends, clapping in rhythm. Now, as they see each other, their voices die, their smiles fade, their hands slowly go to their sides. The LIGHTS fade on the others who disappear into the haze of the background as a delicate cha cha begins and TONY and MARIA slowly walk forward to meet each other.)*

## # 4C – Cha-Cha

(Orchestra)

*Slowly, as though in a dream, they drift into the steps of the dance, always looking at each other, completely lost in each other; unaware of anything, any place, any time, anything but one another. Then:)*

## # 4D – Meeting Scene

(Orchestra)

TONY

You're not thinking I'm someone else?

MARIA

I know you are not.

TONY

Or that we have met before?

MARIA

I know we have not.

TONY

I felt, I knew something-never-before was going to happen, had to happen.  
But this is –

MARIA

*(Interrupting)*

My hands are cold.

*(HE takes them in his)*

Yours, too.

*(HE moves her hands to his face)*

So warm.

*(SHE moves his hands to her face)*

TONY

Yours, too.

MARIA

But of course. They are the same.

TONY

It's so much to believe — you're not joking me?

MARIA

I have not yet learned how to joke that way. I think now I never will.

*(Impulsively, HE stops to kiss her hands;  
then tenderly, innocently, her lips.)*

# 4E — Jump

*(Orchestra)*

*The music bursts out, the lights flare up and BERNARDO is upon  
them in an icy rage)*

BERNARDO

Go home, "American."

TONY

Slow down, Bernardo.

BERNARDO

Stay away from my sister!

TONY

...Sister?

*(RIFF steps up)*

BERNARDO

*(To MARIA)*

Couldn't you see he's one of them?

MARIA

No; I saw only him.

BERNARDO

*(As CHINO comes up)*

I told you: there's only one thing they want from a Puerto Rican girl!

TONY

That's a lie!

RIFF

Cool, boy.

CHINO

*(To TONY)*

Get away.

TONY

You keep out, Chino.

*(To MARIA)*

Don't listen to them!

BERNARDO

She will listen to her brother before —

RIFF

*(Overlapping)*

If you characters want to settle —

GLAD HAND

Please! Everything was going so well! Do you fellows get pleasure out of making

trouble? Now come on — it won't hurt you to have a good time.

*(MUSIC starts again. BERNARDO is on one side with MARIA and CHINO; ANITA joins them. TONY is on the other with RIFF and DIESEL. Light emphasizes the first group)*

**BERNARDO**

I warned you —

**CHINO**

Do not yell at her, 'Nardo.

**BERNARDO**

You yell at babies.

**ANITA**

And put ideas in the baby's head.

**BERNARDO**

Take her home, Chino.

**MARIA**

'Nardo, it is my first dance.

**BERNARDO**

Please. We are family, Maria. Go.

*(MARIA hesitates, then starts out with CHINO as the light cross fades with her to the other group which she passes)*

**RIFF**

*(To DIESEL, indicating TONY happily)*

I guess the kid's with us for sure now.

*(TONY doesn't even hear; HE is staring at MARIA who stops for a moment)*

**CHINO**

Come, Maria.

*(THEY continue out)*

**TONY**

Maria...

*(HE is unaware that BERNARDO is crossing towards him but RIFF intercepts)*

**BERNARDO**

I don't want you.

**RIFF**

I want you, though. For a War Council — Jets and Sharks.

**BERNARDO**

The pleasure is mine.

**RIFF**

Let's go outside.

**BERNARDO**

I would not leave ladies here alone. We will meet you in half an hour.

**RIFF**

Doc's drugstore?

*(BERNARDO nods)*

And no jazz before then.

**BERNARDO**

I understand the rules — Native Boy.

*(The light is fading on them, on everyone but TONY)*

**RIFF**

Spread the word, Big Deal.

**BIG DEAL**

Right, Daddy-o.

**RIFF**

Let's get the chicks and kick it. Tony?

*(The LIGHTS dim out, except for a spotlight on TONY)*

**TONY**

Maria...

**RIFF**

*(In darkness)*

Tony!

**DIESEL**

*(In darkness)*

Ah, we'll see him at Doc's.

**TONY**

*(Dreamily)*

Maria...

**# 5 — Maria**

*(Tony)*

*(Singing softly)*

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SOUND I EVER HEARD.

**FOUR BOYS**

*(OFFSTAGE)*

MARIA, MARIA, MARIA, MARIA...

**TONY**

ALL THE BEAUTIFUL SOUNDS OF THE WORLD  
IN A SINGLE WORD:

**FOUR BOYS**

*(OFFSTAGE)*

MARIA, MARIA, MARIA, MARIA...

*(Swelling in intensity)*

MARIA, MARIA...

**TONY**

MARIA!  
I'VE JUST MET A GIRL NAMED MARIA,  
AND SUDDENLY THAT NAME  
WILL NEVER BE THE SAME TO ME.

MARIA!  
I'VE JUST KISSED A GIRL NAMED MARIA,  
AND SUDDENLY I'VE FOUND  
HOW WONDERFUL A SOUND CAN BE!

MARIA!  
SAY IT LOUD AND THERE'S MUSIC PLAYING —  
SAY IT SOFT AND IT'S ALMOST LIKE PRAYING —  
MARIA...  
I'LL NEVER STOP SAYING  
MARIA!

MARIA! MARIA!  
MARIA! MARIA!  
MARIA! MARIA!  
MARIA! MARIA!

MARIA —  
SAY IT LOUD AND THERE'S MUSIC PLAYING —  
SAY IT SOFT AND IT'S ALMOST LIKE PRAYING —  
MARIA —  
I'LL NEVER STOP SAYING MARIA!  
THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SOUND I EVER HEARD —  
MARIA.

*(As TONY SINGS, he looks for where MARIA lives, wishing for her.  
And she does appear, at the window above him which opens onto the  
fire escape)*

## END OF SCENE FOUR

## SCENE FIVE

# 6 — Balcony Scene

(Maria, Tony)

*(Alleyway.*

*A suggestion of buildings; a fire escape climbing to the rear window of  
an unseen flat.*

*The scene continues)*



TONY

Maria, Maria...

MARIA

Ssh!

TONY

Maria!!

MARIA

Quiet!

TONY

Come down.

MARIA

No.

TONY

Maria...

MARIA

Please. If Bernardo —

TONY

He's at the dance. Come down.

MARIA

He will soon bring Anita home.

TONY

Just for a minute.

MARIA

*(Smiles)*

A minute is not enough.

TONY

*(Smiles)*

For an hour, then.

MARIA

I cannot.

TONY

For ever!

MARIA

Ssh!

TONY

Then I'm coming up.

WOMAN'S VOICE

*(From the OFFSTAGE apartment)*

Maria!

MARIA

Momentito, Mama...

TONY

*(Climbing up)*

Maria, Maria —

MARIA

Calladito!

*(Reaching her hand out to stop him)*

Ssh!

TONY

*(Grabbing her hand)*

Ssh!

MARIA

It is dangerous.

TONY

I'm not "one of them."

MARIA

You are; but to me, you are not. Just as I am one of them —  
(*Gestures inside*)

TONY

To me, you are all the —  
(*SHE covers his mouth with her hand*)

MAN'S VOICE

(*From the unseen apartment*)

Maruca!

MARIA

Si, ya vengo, Papa.

TONY

Maruca?

MARIA

His pet name for me.

TONY

I like him. He will like me.

MARIA

No. He is like Bernardo: afraid.

(*Suddenly laughing*)

Imagine being afraid of you!

TONY

You see?

MARIA

(*Touching his face*)

I see you.

TONY

See only me.

MARIA

*(Singing)*

ONLY YOU,  
YOU'RE THE ONLY THING I'LL SEE FOREVER.  
IN MY EYES, IN MY WORDS  
AND IN EVERYTHING I DO,  
NOTHING ELSE BUT YOU ...EVER!

TONY

AND THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME BUT MARIA,  
EVERY SIGHT THAT I SEE IS MARIA.

MARIA

TONY, TONY...

TONY

ALWAYS YOU,  
EVERY THOUGHT I'LL EVER KNOW,  
EVERYWHERE I GO, YOU'LL BE.  
YOU AND ME!

MARIA

ALL THE WORLD IS ONLY  
YOU AND ME!

*(The y kiss. And now the buildings, the world fade away  
leaving them suspended in space)*

MARIA

TONIGHT, TONIGHT,  
IT ALL BEGAN TONIGHT,  
I SAW YOU AND THE WORLD WENT AWAY.  
TONIGHT, TONIGHT,  
THERE'S ONLY YOU TONIGHT,  
WHAT YOU ARE, WHAT YOU DO, WHAT YOU SAY.

TONY

TODAY, ALL DAY I HAD THE FEELING  
A MIRACLE WOULD HAPPEN  
I KNOW NOW I WAS RIGHT.  
FOR HERE YOU ARE  
AND WHAT WAS JUST A WORLD IS A STAR  
TONIGHT!

**BOTH**

TONIGHT, TONIGHT,  
THE WORLD IS FULL OF LIGHT,  
WITH SUNS AND MOONS ALL OVER THE PLACE.  
TONIGHT, TONIGHT,  
THE WORLD IS WILD AND BRIGHT,  
GOING MAD, SHOOTING SPARKS INTO SPACE.  
TODAY THE WORLD WAS JUST AN ADDRESS,  
A PLACE FOR ME TO LIVE IN,  
NO BETTER THAN ALRIGHT,  
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)*

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.

*(MUSIC starts again)*

BOTH

*(Singing)*

GOOD NIGHT, GOOD NIGHT,  
SLEEP WELL AND WHEN YOU DREAM,  
DREAM OF ME  
TONIGHT.

*(SHE goes inside; HE ducks out into the shadows just as  
BERNARDO and ANITA ENTER, followed by INDIO and PEPE  
and their GIRLS. One is a bleached blond, bangled beauty:  
CONSUELA. The other, quietly dressed in Spanish undertones, is  
ROSALIA. SHE is not too bright)*

BERNARDO

*(Looking up to the window)*

Maria?

ANITA

She has a mother. Also a father.

BERNARDO

They do not know this country any better than she does.

ANITA

You do not know it at all! Girls here are free to have fun. She-is-in-America-now.

BERNARDO

*(Exaggerated)*

But Puerto-Rico-is-in-America-now!

ANITA

*(In disgust)*

Ai!

BERNARDO

*(Cooing)*

Anita Josefina Teresita —

ANITA

It's plain Anita now —

BERNARDO

*(Continuing through)*

— Beatrice del Carmen Marguerita etcetera etcetera —

ANITA

Immigrant!

BERNARDO

*(Pulling her to him)*

Thank God, you can't change your hair!

PEPE

*(Fondling CONSUELO'S bleached mop)*

Is that possible?



**CONSUELA**

In the USA, everything is real.

**BERNARDO**

*(To CHINO who ENTERS)*

Chino, how was she when you took her home?

**CHINO**

All right. 'Nardo, she was only dancing.

**BERNARDO**

With an "American." Who is really a Polak.

**ANITA**

Says the Spic.

**BERNARDO**

You are not so cute.

**ANITA**

That Tony is.

**ROSALIA**

And he works.

**CHINO**

A delivery boy.

**ANITA**

And what are you?

**CHINO**

An assistant.

**BERNARDO**

Si! And Chino makes half what the Polak makes — the Polak is American!

**ANITA**

Ai! Here comes the whole commercial!

*(A burlesque oration in mock Puerto Rican accent. BERNARDO starts the first line with her:)*

The mother of Tony was born in Poland; the father still goes to night school. Tony was born in America so that makes him an American. But us? Foreigners!

**PEPE, CONSUELA**

Lice!

**PEPE, CONSUELA, ANITA**

Cockroaches!

**BERNARDO**

Well, it is true! You remember how we were when we first came! Did we even think of going back?

**BERNARDO, ANITA**

No! We came ready, eager —

**ANITA**

*(Mocking)*

With our hearts open —

**CONSUELA**

Our arms open —

**PEPE**

You came with your pants open.

**CONSUELA**

You did, pig!

*(Slaps him)*

You'll go back with handcuffs!

**BERNARDO**

I an going back with a Cadillac!

**CHINO**

Air-conditioned!

**BERNARDO**

Built-in bar!

**CHINO**

Telenovela!

V V L S A C A S E

**BERNARDO**

Television!

**CHINO**

Compatible color!

**BERNARDO**

And a king-sized bed.

*(Grabs ANITA)*

Come on.

**ANITA**

*(Mimicking)*

Come on.

**BERNARDO**

Well, are you or aren't you?

**ANITA**

Well, are you or aren't you?

**BERNARDO**

Well, are you?

**ANITA**

You have your big, important War Council. The Council or me?

**BERNARDO**

First one, then the other.

**ANITA**

*(Breaking away from him)*

I am an American girl now. I don't wait.

**BERNARDO**

*(To CHINO)*

Back home, women know their place.

**ANITA**

Back home, little boys don't have war councils.

**BERNARDO**

You want me to be an American?

*(To the boys)*

Vaminos, chicos, es tarde.

*(A mock bow)*

Buenas noches, Anita, Josefina del Carmen, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera.

*(EXIT with BOYS)*

**ROSALIA**

That's a very pretty name: Etcetera.

**# 7 — America**

*(Anita, Rosalia, Shark Girls)*

**ANITA**

Ai!

**CONSUELA**

She means well.

**ROSALIA**

We have many pretty names at home.

**ANITA**

*(Mimicking)*

At home, at home. If it's so nice "at home," why don't you go back there?

**ROSALIA**

I would like to —

*(A look from ANITA)*

just for a successful visit.

*(SHE SINGS)*

PUERTO RICO...

YOU LOVELY ISLAND...

ISLAND OF TROPICAL BREEZES.

ALWAYS THE PINEAPPLES GROWING,

ALWAYS THE COFFEE BLOSSOMS BLOWING...

**ANITA**

*(SINGS sarcastically)*

PUERTO RICO...  
YOU UGLY ISLAND...  
ISLAND OF TROPIC DISEASES.  
ALWAYS THE HURRICANES BLOWING,  
ALWAYS THE POPULATION GROWING...  
AND THE MONEY OWING,  
AND THE BABIES CRYING,  
AND THE BULLETS FLYING.  
I LIKE THE ISLAND MANHATTAN –  
SMOKE ON YOUR PIPE AND PUT THAT IN!

**OTHERS EXCEPT ROSALIA**

I LIKE TO BE IN AMERICA!  
OKAY BY ME IN AMERICA!  
EVERYTHING FREE IN AMERICA  
FOR A SMALL FEE IN AMERICA!

**ROSALIA**

I LIKE THE CITY OF SAN JUAN –

**ANITA**

I KNOW A BOAT YOU CAN GET ON.

**ROSALIA**

HUNDREDS OF FLOWERS IN FULL BLOOM –

**ANITA**

HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE IN EACH ROOM!

**ALL EXCEPT ROSALIA**

AUTOMOBILE IN AMERICA,  
CHROMIUM STEEL IN AMERICA,  
WIRE-SPOKE WHEEL IN AMERICA,  
VERY BIG DEAL IN AMERICA!

**ROSALIA**

I'LL DRIVE A BUICK THROUGH SAN JUAN –

ANITA

IF THERE'S A ROAD YOU CAN DRIVE ON.

ROSALIA

I'LL GIVE MY COUSINS A FREE RIDE —

ANITA

HOW YOU GET ALL OF THEM INSIDE?

ALL EXCEPT ROSALIA

IMMIGRANT GOES TO AMERICA,  
MANY HELLOS IN AMERICA;  
NOBODY KNOWS IN AMERICA  
PUERTO RICO'S IN AMERICA.

*(The GIRLS whistle and dance)*

ROSALIA

I'LL BRING A TV TO SAN JUAN —

ANITA

IF THERE'S A CURRENT TO TURN ON.

ROSALIA

I'LL GIVE THEM NEW WASHING MACHINE —

ANITA

WHAT HAVE THEY GOT THERE TO KEEP CLEAN?

ALL EXCEPT ROSALIA

I LIKE THE SHORES OF AMERICA!  
COMFORT IS YOURS IN AMERICA!  
KNOBS ON THE DOORS IN AMERICA,  
WALL-TO-WALL FLOORS IN AMERICA!

*(THEY whistle and dance)*

ROSALIA

WHEN I WILL GO BACK TO SAN JUAN —

ANITA

WHEN YOU WILL SHUT UP AND GET GONE!

ROSALIA

EVERYONE THERE WILL GIVE BIG CHEER!

ANITA

EVERYONE THERE WILL HAVE MOVED HERE!

*(More whistling and dancing)*

# 7A — *America to Drugstore*

*(Orchestra)*

## END OF SCENE FIVE

## SCENE SIX

*(A Drugstore.*

*A suggestion of a rundown, musty, general store which, in cities, is a "drugstore." A door leading to the street outside; another leading to the cellar below.*

*BABY JOHN is reading a comic book; A-RAB is playing solitaire; ANYBODYS is huddled by the juke-box; ACTION is watching the street door. The atmosphere is tense, jumpy. ACTION slams the door and strides to the dart board)*

ACTION

Where the devil are they? Are we having a War Council tonight or ain't we?

*(Throws a dart savagely)*

BABY JOHN

He don't use knives. He don't even use a atomic ray gun.

A-RAB

Who don't?

BABY JOHN

Superman. Gee, I love him.

**SNOWBOY**

So marry him.

**ANYBODYS**

I ain't never gonna get married: too noisy.

**A-RAB**

You ain't never gonna get married: too ugly.

**ANYBODYS**

*("Shooting" him)*

Pow pow!

**A-RAB**

Cracko, jacko!

*(Clutching his belly, spins to the floor)*

Down goes a teenage hoodlum.

**BABY JOHN**

Could a zip gun make you do like that?

*(A second of silence. Then BIG DEAL slams in the doorway and THEY all jump)*

**ACTION**

What the hell's a matter with you?

**BIG DEAL**

I got caught sneakin' outa the movies.

**A-RAB**

Sneakin' out? Waddya do that for?

**BIG DEAL**

I sneaked in.

**SNOWBOY**

A War Council coming up and he goes to the movies.

**ANYBODYS**

An' you let him be a Jet!



## BABY JOHN

Ah, go walk the streets like ya sister.

## ANYBODYS

*(Jumping him)*

Lissen, Jail Bait, I licked you twice and I can do it again.

*(From the doorway behind the counter a little middle-aged man*

*ENTERS: DOC)*

## DOC

Curfew, gentlemen. And lady. Baby John, you should be home in bed.

## BABY JOHN

We're gonna have a War Council here, Doc.

## DOC

A who?

## BIG DEAL

To decide on weapons for a big-time rumble!

## SNOWBOY

We're gonna mix with the PRs.

## DOC

Weapons. You couldn't play basketball?

## ANYBODYS

Get with it, buddy boy.

## DOC

War Councils —

## ACTION

Don't start, Doc.

## DOC

Rumbles...

## ACTION

Doc —

DOC

Why, when I was your age —

ACTION

When you was my age; when my old man was my age; when my brother was my age! You was never my age, none a you! The sooner you creeps get hip to that, the sooner you'll dig us.

DOC

I'll dig your early graves, that's what I'll dig.

A-RAB

Dig, dig, dig —

DOC

What're you gonna be when you grow up?

ANYBODYS

A telephone call girl!

*(The store doorbell tinkles as RIFF ENTERS with VELMA)*

SNOWBOY

Riff, hey!

ACTION

Are they comin'?

RIFF

Unwind, Action. Hey, Doc, Tony here?

DOC

No, Riff, it's closing time.

ACTION

*(To RIFF)*

What d'ya think they're gonna ask for?

A-RAB

Just rubber hoses, maybe, huh?

**RIFF**

Cool, little men.

**GRAZIELLA**

You tell 'em, Daddy-o.

**ACTION**

Chung chung!

**A-RAB**

Cracko, jacko!

**BIG DEAL**

Whamo bamo!

**RIFF**

*(Sharply)*

Cool!

**ANYBODYS**

Riff, — in a tight spot you need every man you can —

**RIFF**

No.

**GRAZIELLA**

*(Indicating ANYBODYS to VELMA)*

An American tragedy.

**ANYBODYS**

Pow Pow.

**GRAZIELLA**

Poo Poo.

**RIFF**

Now when the victims come in, you chicks cut out.

**GRAZIELLA**

We might, and then again we might not. I and Velma ain't kid stuff, neither.  
Are we, Vel?

VELMA

No, thank you-oo, ooblee-oo.

GRAZIELLA

And you can punctuate it?

VELMA

Ooo! — (THEY giggle)

ACTION

*(To RIFF)*

What're we pooping around with dumb broads?

GRAZIELLA

*(Enraged)*

I and Velma ain't dumb!

ACTION

We got important business comin'.

DOC

Making trouble for the Puerto Ricans?

SNOWBOY

They make trouble for us.

DOC

Look! He almost laughs when he says it. For you trouble is a relief.

RIFF

We've got to stand up to the PRs, Doc. It's important.

DOC

Fighting over a little piece of the street is so important?

ACTION

To us, it is.

DOC

To hoodlums, it is.

*(Goes in cellar doorway as ACTION lunges for him)*

**ACTION**

Don't you call me hoodlum!

**RIFF**

*(Holding him)*

Easy, Action! Save your steam for the rumble.

**A-RAB**

*(Indicating DOC)*

He don't want what we want, so we're hoodlums!

**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.

**# 8 — Cool**

***(Riff, Jets)***

You wanna live? You play it 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)

BOY, BOY, CRAZY BOY –  
GET COOL, BOY!  
GOTTA ROCKET IN YOUR POCKET –  
KEEP COOLLY COOL, BOY!  
DON'T GET HOT,  
'CAUSE MAN, YOU GOT  
SOME HIGH TIMES AHEAD.  
TAKE IT SLOW AND DADDY-O,  
YOU CAN LIVE IT UP AND DIE IN BED.  
BOY, BOY, CRAZY BOY –  
STAY LOOSE, BOY!  
BREEZE IT, BUZZ IT, EASY DOES IT –  
TURN OFF THE JUICE, BOY!  
GO MAN, GO,  
BUT NOT LIKE A YO-  
YO SCHOOL BOY –  
JUST PLAY IT COOL, BOY,  
REAL COOL!

Easy Action. Easy.

*(This leads into a frenetic dance in which the boys and girls release their emotions and get "cool." It finishes, starts again when a JET bounces in with the gang whistle. Everyone but RIFF and VELMA stops dancing. A moment, then BERNARDO, CHINO, PEPE and INDIO ENTER. Tension, but RIFF dances a moment longer. Then he pats VELMA on her behind. Followed by GRAZIELLA, she runs out, slithering past the SHARKS. ANYBODYS is back, huddled by the juke-box but RIFF spots her. SHE gives him a pleading let-me-stay look, but he gestures for her to go. Unlike the other girls, ANYBODYS shoves the SHARKS like a big tough man as she EXITS)*

# 8A – Cool Chase

(Orchestra)

RIFF

Set 'em up, Doc. Cokes all around.

**BERNARDO**

Let's get down to business.

**RIFF**

Bernardo hasn't learned the procedures of gracious living.

**BERNARDO**

I don't like you, either, So cut it.

**RIFF**

Kick it, Doc.

**DOC**

Boys, couldn't you maybe all talk it —

**RIFF**

Kick it!

*(DOC goes out. The two GANGS take places behind their leaders)*

We challenge you to a rumble. All out, once and for all. Accept?

**BERNARDO**

On what terms?

**RIFF**

Whatever terms you're callin', buddy boy. You crossed the line once too often.

**BERNARDO**

You started it.

**RIFF**

Who jumped A-rab this afternoon?

**BERNARDO**

Who jumped me the first day I moved here?

**ACTION**

Who asked you to move here?

**PEPE**

Who asked you?

SNOWBOY

Move where you're wanted!

A-RAB

Back where ya came from!

ACTION

Spics!

PEPE

Micks!

INDIO

Wop!

BERNARDO

We accept!

RIFF

Time:

BERNARDO

Tomorrow?

RIFF

After dark.

*(They shake)*

Place:

BERNARDO

The park.

RIFF

The river.

BERNARDO

Under the highway.

*(They shake)*

RIFF

Weapon:



*(The doorbell tinkles as TONY bursts in yelling:)*

**TONY**

Hey, Doc!

*(HE stops as he sees them. Silence. Then he comes forward as:)*

**RIFF**

Weapons!

*(DOC ENTERS)*

**BERNARDO**

Weapons...

**RIFF**

You call.

**BERNARDO**

Your challenge.

**RIFF**

Afraid to call?

**BERNARDO**

... Sticks.

**RIFF**

... Rocks.

**BERNARDO**

... Poles.

**RIFF**

...Cans.

**BERNARDO**

... Bricks.

**RIFF**

... Bats.

**BERNARDO**

... Clubs.

**RIFF**

... Chains.

**TONY**

... Bottles, knives, guns!

*(THEY stare)*

What a coop full of chickens!

**ACTION**

Who you callin' chicken?

**BERNARDO**

Every dog knows his own.

**TONY**

I'm calling all of you chicken. The big tough buddy boys have to throw bricks!  
Afraid to get close in? Afraid to slug it out? Afraid to use plain skin?

**BABY JOHN**

Not even garbage?

**ACTION**

That ain't a rumble.

**RIFF**

Who says?

**BERNARDO**

You said call weapons.

**TONY**

A rumble can be clinched by a fair fight. If you have the guts to risk that. Best man  
from each gang to slug it out.

**BERNARDO**

*(Looking at TONY)*

I'd enjoy to risk that. O.K.! Fair fight!

**PEPE**

What?

**ACTION**

*(Simultaneously)*

No!

**RIFF**

The Commanders say Yes or No.

*(To BERNARDO)*

Fair fight.

*(THEY shake)*

**BERNARDO**

*(To TONY)*

In two minutes you will be like a fish after skinning.

**RIFF**

Your best man fights our best man — and we pick him.

**BERNARDO**

But I thought I would be —

**RIFF**

We shook on it, Bernardo.

**BERNARDO**

Yes. I shook on it.

**ACTION**

*(Quickly)*

Look, Bernardo, if you wanna change your mind, maybe we could all —

*(One of the JETS near the door suddenly whistles. Instantly, they shift positions so they are mixed up: no segregation. Silence; then in comes SCHRANK. DOC comes in, brought by the tinkle of the little shop doorbell. During the following, the GANGS are absolutely silent and motionless, unless otherwise indicated)*

DOC

*(Unhappily)*

Good-evening, Lt. Schrank. I and Tony was just closing up.

SCHRANK

*(Lifting a pack of cigarettes)*

Mind?

DOC

I have no mind. I am the village idiot.

SCHRANK

*(Lighting it)*

I always make it a rule to smoke in the can. And what else is a room with half-breeds in it, eh, Riff?

*(BERNARDO'S move is checked by RIFF.)*

*SCHRANK, pleasantly:)*

Clear out, Spics. Sure; it's a free country and I ain't got the right. But it's a country with laws: and I can find the right. I got the badge, you got the skin. It's tough all over. Beat it!

*(A second. Then RIFF nods once to BERNARDO who nods to his GANG. Slowly, THEY file out. BERNARDO starts to whistle "My Country 'Tis of Thee" as he EXITS proudly. His GANG joins in, finishing a sardonic jazz lick OFFSTAGE.)*

*SCHRANK, pleasantly)*

From their angle, sure. Say, where's the rumble gonna be? Ah, look: I know regular Americans don't rub with the gold-teeth otherwise. The river? The Park?

*(Silence)*

I'm for you. I want this beat cleaned up and you can do it for me. I'll even lend a hand if it gets rough. Where you gonna rumble? The playground? Sweeney's lot?

*(Angered by the silence)*

Ya think I'm a lousy stool pigeon? I wanna help ya get rid of them! Come on! Where's it gonna be? ... Get smart, you stupid hoodlums! I oughta fine ya for litterin' the streets. You oughta be taken down the station house and have your skulls mashed to a pulp! You and the tin horn immigrant scum you come from! How's your old man's DT's, A-rab? How's the action on your mother's mattress, Action?

(ACTION lunges for him but is tripped up by RIFF. SCHRANK  
crouches low, ready for him.)

Quiet now:)

Let him go, buddy boy, just let him go.

(ACTION starts to his feet but DIESEL holds him)

One of these days there won't be nobody to hold you.

(RIFF deliberately starts for the door, followed by the OTHERS,  
except TONY.)

As they go:)

I'll find out where ya gonna rumble. But be sure to finish each other off.  
Because if you don't I will!

(RIFF has stayed at the door until the OTHERS have passed through.  
Now he just looks at SCHRANK and cockily saunters out. Silence.)

SCHRANK looks at DOC)

Well, you try keepin' hoodlums in line and see what it does to you.

(EXITS)

DOC

It wouldn't give me a mouth like his.

# 8B — Under Dialogue And Change Of Scene (Orchestra)

TONY

Forget him. From here on in, everything goes my way.

(Starts to clean up, turn out lights)

DOC

You think it'll really be a fair fight?

TONY

Yeah.

DOC

What have you been taking tonight?

TONY

A trip to the moon. And I'll tell you a secret. It isn't a man that's up there, Doc. It's a girl, a lady.

*(Opens the door)*

Well, buenas noches, señor.

DOC

Buenas noches?! So that's why you made it a fair fight.

*(TONY smiles)*

... Tony... things aren't tough enough?

TONY

Tough? Doc, I'm in love!

DOC

How do you know?

TONY

Because... there isn't any other way I could feel.

DOC

And you're not frightened?

TONY

Should I be?

*(Opens door, EXITS)*

DOC

Why? I'm frightened enough for both of you.

*(Turns out the last light)*

## END OF SCENE SIX

## SCENE SEVEN

*(Bridal Shop.*

*Hot late afternoon sun coloring the work room. One or two sewing machines. Several dressmaker dummies, male and female, in bridal party garb.*

*MARIA, in a smock, is hand-sewing a wedding veil as ANITA whirls in whipping off her smock)*

ANITA

She's gone! That old bag of a bruja has gone!

MARIA

Brava!

ANITA

The day is over, the jail is open, home we go!

MARIA

You go, querida. I will lock up.

ANITA

Finish tomorrow. Come!

MARIA

But I am in no hurry.

ANITA

I am. I'm going to take a bubble bath all during supper: Black Orchid.

MARIA

You will not eat?

ANITA

After the rumble — with 'Nardo.

MARIA

*(Sewing angrily)*

That rumble, why do they have it?

ANITA

You saw how they dance: like they have to get rid of something quick.  
That's how they fight.

MARIA

To get rid of what?

ANITA

Too much feeling. And they get rid of it: after a fight, that brother of yours is so healthy! Definitely: Black Orchid.

*(Knock at rear door and TONY ENTERS)*

TONY

Buenas noches!

ANITA

*(Sarcastically, to MARIA)*

"You go, querida. I'll lock up."

*(To TONY)*

It's too early for noches. Buenas tardes.

TONY

*(Bows)*

Gracias. Buenas tardes.

MARIA

He just came to deliver aspirin.

ANITA

You'll need it.

TONY

No, we're out of the world.

ANITA

You're out of your heads.

TONY

We're twelve feet in the air.

MARIA

*(Gently taking his hand)*

Anita can see all that.

*(To ANITA)*

You will not tell?



ANITA

Tell what? How can I hear what goes on twelve feet over my head?

*(Opens door – to MARIA)*

You better be home in fifteen minutes.

*(SHE goes out)*

TONY

Don't worry. She likes us!

MARIA

But she is worried.

TONY

She's foolish. We're untouchable; we are in the air; we have magic!

MARIA

Magic is also evil and black. Are you going to that rumble?

TONY

No.

MARIA

Yes.

TONY

Why??

MARIA

You must go and stop it.

TONY

I have stopped it! It's only a fist fight. 'Nardo won't get –

MARIA

Any fight is not good for us.

TONY

Everything is good for us and we are good for everything.

MARIA

Listen and hear me. You must go and stop it.

TONY

Then I will.

MARIA

*(Surprised)*

Can you?

TONY

You don't want even a fist fight? There won't be any fight.

MARIA

I believe you! You do have magic.

TONY

Of course, I have you. You go home and dress up.

# 9 — *Under Dialogue*

*(Orchestra)*

Then tonight, I will come by for you.

MARIA

You cannot come by. My mama...

TONY

*(After a pause)*

Then I will take you to my house —

MARIA

*(Shaking her head)*

Your mama...

*(Another awkward pause. Then he sees a female dummy and pushes it forward saying:)*

TONY

She will come running from the kitchen to welcome you. She lives in the kitchen.

MARIA

Dressed so elegant?

TONY

I told her you were coming. She will look at your face and try not to smile.  
And she will say: Skinny — but pretty.

MARIA

She is plump, no doubt.

TONY

*(Holding the waist of dummy's dress)*

Fat!

MARIA

*(Indicating another female dummy)*

I take after my mama; delicate boned.

*(HE kisses her)*

Not in front of Mama!

*(HE turns the dummy around as she goes to a male dummy)*

Oh, I would like to see Poppa in this! Mama will make him ask about your prospects, if you go to church. But Poppa — Poppa might like you.

TONY

*(Kneeling to the "father" dummy)*

May I have your daughter's hand?

MARIA

He says Yes.

TONY

Gracias!

MARIA

And your mama?

TONY

I'm afraid to ask her.

MARIA

Tell her she's not getting a daughter; she's getting rid of a son!

TONY

She says Yes.

MARIA

She has good taste.

*(SHE grabs up the wedding veil and puts it on as TONY arranges the dummies)*

TONY

Maid of Honor!

MARIA

That color is bad for Anita.

TONY

Best man!

MARIA

That is my Poppa!

TONY

Sorry, Poppa. Here we go, Riff: Womb to Tomb!

*(Takes hat off dummy)*

MARIA

Now you see, Anita, I told you there was nothing to worry about.

# 9A — One Hand, One Heart

*(Tony, Maria)*

*(MUSIC starts as she leaves the dummy and walks up to TONY. THEY look at each other — and the playing vanishes. Slowly, seriously, they turn front and, together, kneel as before an altar)*

TONY

I, Anton, take thee, Maria...

MARIA

I, Maria, take thee, Anton...

TONY

For richer, for poorer —

MARIA

In sickness and in health...

TONY

To love and to honor...

MARIA

To hold and to keep...

TONY

From each sun to each moon...

MARIA

From tomorrow to tomorrow...

TONY

From now to forever...

MARIA

Till death do us part.

TONY

With this ring, I thee wed.

MARIA

With this ring, I thee wed.

*(The MUSIC becomes a love duet:)*

TONY

MAKE OF OUR HANDS ONE HAND,  
MAKE OF OUR HEARTS ONE HEART,  
MAKE OF OUR VOWS ONE LAST VOW:  
ONLY DEATH WILL PART US NOW.

MARIA

MAKE OF OUR LIVES ONE LIFE,  
DAY AFTER DAY, ONE LIFE.

**TONY, MARIA**

NOW IT BEGINS, NOW WE START  
ONE HAND, ONE HEART —  
EVEN DEATH WON'T PART US NOW.

*(THEY look at each other, then at the reality of their "game." They smile tenderly, ruefully and slowly put the dummies back into position. But even back in the world, they sing:)*

**TONY, MARIA**

MAKE OUR LIVES ONE LIFE,  
DAY AFTER DAY, ONE LIFE.  
NOW IT BEGINS, NOW WE START  
ONE HAND, ONE HEART,  
EVEN DEATH WON'T PART US NOW.

*(DIM-OUT)*

**END OF SCENE SEVEN**

**SCENE EIGHT**

**# 10 — Tonight**

**(Ensemble)**

*(The neighborhood.*

*SPOTLIGHTS picks out RIFF and the JETS, BERNARDO and the SHARKS, ANITA, MARIA and TONY against small pieces representing where they are in the neighborhood. All are waiting expectantly for the coming of night, but for very different reasons. It is a montage which is sung)*

**JETS**

THE JETS ARE GONNA HAVE THEIR DAY  
TONIGHT.

**SHARKS**

THE SHARKS ARE GONNA HAVE THEIR WAY  
TONIGHT.

## **JETS**

THE PUERTO RICANS GRUMBLE,  
"FAIR FIGHT."  
BUT IF THEY START A RUMBLE,  
WE'LL RUMBLE 'EM RIGHT.

## **SHARKS**

WE'RE GONNA HAND 'EM A SURPRISE  
TONIGHT.

## **JETS**

WE'RE GONNA CUT 'EM DOWN TO SIZE  
TONIGHT.

## **SHARKS**

WE SAID, "O.K., NO RUMPUS,  
NO TRICKS" —  
BUT JUST IN CASE THEY JUMP US,  
WE'RE READY TO MIX  
TONIGHT!

## **JETS, SHARKS**

WE'RE GONNA ROCK IT TONIGHT,  
WE'RE GONNA JAZZ IT UP AND HAVE US A BALL.  
THEY'RE GONNA GET IT TONIGHT;  
THE MORE THEY TURN IT ON  
THE HARDER THEY'LL FALL!

## **JETS**

WELL, THEY BEGAN IT!

## **SHARKS**

WELL, THEY BEGAN IT —

## **JETS, SHARKS**

AND WE'RE THE ONES TO STOP 'EM  
ONCE AND FOR ALL,  
TONIGHT.

ANITA

ANITA'S GONNA GET HER KICKS  
TONIGHT.  
WE'LL HAVE OUR PRIVATE LITTLE MIX  
TONIGHT.  
HE'LL WALK IN HOT AND TIRED,  
SO WHAT?  
DON'T MATTER IF HE'S TIRED,  
AS LONG AS HE'S HOT  
TONIGHT!

TONY

TONIGHT, TONIGHT  
WON'T BE JUST ANY NIGHT,  
TONIGHT THERE WILL BE NO MORNING STAR.

TONIGHT, TONIGHT,  
I'LL SEE MY LOVE TONIGHT.  
AND FOR US, STARS WILL STOP WHERE THEY ARE.

TODAY  
THE MINUTES SEEM LIKE HOURS,  
THE HOURS GO SO SLOWLY,  
AND STILL THE SKY IS LIGHT...

OH MOON, GROW BRIGHT,  
AND MAKE THIS ENDLESS DAY ENDLESS NIGHT!

RIFF

(To TONY)

I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO BE THERE  
TONIGHT.  
WHEN DIESEL WINS IT FAIR AND SQUARE  
TONIGHT.

THAT PUERTO RICAN PUNK'LL  
GO DOWN.  
AND WHEN HE'S HOLLERED "UNCLE"  
WE'LL TEAR UP THE TOWN!



MARIA

TONIGHT,

TONIGHT

WON'T BE JUST ANY NIGHT,

TONIGHT THERE WILL BE NO  
MORNING STAR

MARIA

TONIGHT,

TONIGHT,

I'LL SEE MY LOVE  
TONIGHT

AND FOR US,  
STARS WILL STOP  
WHERE THEY ARE.

RIFF

*(Simultaneously – firmly)*  
SO I CAN COUNT ON YOU, BOY?

TONY

*(Abstractedly)*  
ALL RIGHT.

RIFF

WE'RE GONNA HAVE US A BALL.

TONY

*(A bit impatiently)*  
ALL RIGHT.

RIFF

*(Spoken, gently)*  
Womb to tomb!

TONY

*(Spoken, regretting his impatience)*  
Sperm to worm!

RIFF

*(Sung)*  
I'LL SEE YOU THERE ABOUT EIGHT...

TONY

TONIGHT...

BERNARDO

WE'RE GONNA ROCK  
IT TONIGHT!!!

WE'RE GONNA  
JAZZ IT TONIGHT,

THEY'RE GONNA GET  
IT TONIGHT –

TONIGHT.

ANITA

TONIGHT...

TONIGHT,  
LATE TONIGHT,

WE'RE GONNA MIX IT  
TONIGHT.

MARIA, TONY

TODAY  
THE MINUTES  
SEEM LIKE HOURS.

BERNARDO

THEY BEGAN IT—

**JETS, SHARKS**  
THEY BEGAN IT.

ANITA

ANITA'S GONNA HAVE  
HER DAY,  
ANITA'S GONNA HAVE  
HER DAY,

MARIA, TONY

THE HOURS GO  
SO  
SLOWLY,  
AND STILL THE  
SKY IS LIGHT.

JETS

THEY BEGAN IT.

WE'LL STOP 'EM  
ONCE AND FOR  
ALL!

THE JETS ARE  
GONNA HAVE  
THEIR WAY,

THE JETS ARE  
GONNA HAVE  
THEIR DAY,

WE'RE GONNA  
ROCK IT  
TONIGHT.  
TONIGHT!

SHARKS

AND WE'RE  
THE ONES

TO STOP 'EM  
ONCE AND FOR  
ALL!

THE SHARKS  
ARE GONNA  
HAVE THEIR  
WAY,

THE SHARKS  
ARE GONNA  
HAVE THEIR  
DAY,

WE'RE GONNA  
ROCK IT  
TONIGHT —  
TONIGHT!

ANITA

BERNARDO'S  
GONNA HAVE  
HIS WAY  
TONIGHT —

TONIGHT.

TONIGHT —

THIS VERY  
NIGHT,

WE'RE GONNA  
ROCK IT  
TONIGHT

**END OF SCENE EIGHT**

## 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

Get with the gang.

TONY

No.

RIFF

What're you doing?

BERNARDO

Maybe he has found the guts to fight his own battles.

TONY

*(Smiling)*

It doesn't take guts if you have a battle. But we haven't got one, 'Nardo.

*(HE extends his hand for BERNARDO to shake it. BERNARDO knocks the hand away and gives TONY a shove that send him sprawling)*

BERNARDO

Bernardo.

RIFF

*(Quiet, strong)*

The deal is a fair fight between you and Diesel.

*(To TONY, who has gotten up)*

Get with the gang.

*(During the next, BERNARDO flicks TONY'S shirt, pushes his shoulder, pinches cheek)*

**BERNARDO**

(To TONY)

I'll give you a battle, Kiddando.

**DIESEL**

You've got one.

**BERNARDO**

I'll take pretty-boy on as a warm-up. Afraid, pretty boy? Afraid, chicken?  
Afraid, gutless?

**RIFF**

Cut that —

**TONY**

I don't want to, Bernardo...

*(Meaning "Want to let go")*

**BERNARDO**

I'm sure.

**TONY**

Bernardo, you've got it wrong.

**BERNARDO**

Are you chicken?

**TONY**

You won't understand!

**BERNARDO**

What d'ya say, chicken?

**ACTION**

Get him, Tony!

**BERNARDO**

He is chicken.

**DIESEL**

Tony —

**A-RAB**

Get him!

**TONY**

Bernardo, don't.

**BERNARDO**

Don't what, pretty little chicken?

**RIFF**

Tony, don't just stand —

**BERNARDO**

Yellow-bellied chicken —

**RIFF**

TONY!

**ACTION**

Murder him!

**SNOWBOY**

Kill him!

**TONY***DON'T PUSH ME!***BERNARDO**

Come on, you yellow-bellied Polak bas —

**# 11 — The Rumble****(Orchestra)**

*(HE never finishes, for RIFF hauls off and hits him. Immediately, the two GANGS alert and the action goes into dance form. As BERNARDO reels back to his feet, he reaches for his back pocket. RIFF reaches for his back pocket and at the same instant, each brings forth a gleaming knife. THEY jockey for position, feinting, dueling; the two GANGS shift position, now and again temporarily obscuring the fighters. TONY tries to get between them)*

## RIFF

Hold him!

*(DIESEL and ACTION grab TONY and hold him back. The fight continues. RIFF loses his knife, is passed another by a JET. At last, he has BERNARDO in a position where it seems that he will be able to run him through. TONY breaks from DIESEL and moves to stop RIFF, crying:)*

## TONY

Riff, don't!

*(RIFF hesitates a moment; the moment is enough for BERNARDO whose hand goes forward with a driving motion, running his knife into RIFF. TONY leaps forward to catch RIFF. HE breaks his fall, then takes the knife from his hand. A free-for-all has broken out as TONY, RIFF'S knife in hand, leaps at the triumphant BERNARDO. All this happens terribly fast; and TONY rams his knife into BERNARDO. The free-for-all continues a moment longer. Then a sharp police whistle. Everything comes to a dead stop, dead silence. Then a distant police siren: the KIDS waver, run one way, another; panic, confusion. As the stage is cleared, TONY stands, horrified, over the still bodies of RIFF and BERNARDO. HE bends over RIFF'S body; then he rolls over BERNARDO'S body – and stares)*

## TONY

*(An anguished cry)*

MARIA!

*(Another police whistle, closer now, but he doesn't move. From the shadows, ANYBODYS appears. SHE scurries to TONY and tugs at his arm. A siren, another whistle, then a searchlight cuts across the playground. ANYBODYS' insistent tugging brings TONY to the realization of the danger. HE crouches, starts to run with her to one escapeway. SHE reaches it first, goes out – but the searchlight hits it just as he would go through. HE stops, runs the other way. He darts here, there and finally gets away as a distant clock begins to boom and:*

*THE CURTAIN FALLS)*

**END OF SCENE NINE**

**END OF ACT ONE**





**ACT TWO****# 12 — I Feel Pretty****(Maria, Consuela, Rosalia, Francisca)****SCENE ONE**

*(An apartment.*

*A bedroom and part of a parlor. The bedroom has a window opening on to the fire escape, a bed, a small shrine to the Virgin on a wall, and a curtained doorway, rear. There is a workable door between bedroom and the parlor, which has some furniture.*

*Gay MUSIC for FRANCISCA, CONSUELA who is examining herself in the mirror, and for ROSALIA who is on the bed, finishing her nails)*

**CONSUELA**

This is my last night as a blonde.

**ROSALIA**

No loss.

**CONSUELA**

A gain! The fortune teller told Pepe a dark lady was coming into his life.

**ROSALIA**

So that's why he's not taking you out after the rumble!

*(The MUSIC becomes festively, humorously Spanish as MARIA ENTERS through curtained doorway. SHE is finishing getting very dressed up)*

**MARIA**

There is not going to be a rumble.

**ROSALIA**

Another fortune teller.

**CONSUELA**

Where is Chino escorting you after the rumble-that-is-not-going-to-be-a-rumble?

**MARIA**

Chino is escorting me no place.

ROSALIA

She is just dolling up for us. Gracias, querida.

MARIA

No, not for you. Can you keep a secret?

CONSUELA

I'm hot for secrets!

MARIA

Tonight is my wedding night!

CONSUELA

The poor thing is out of her mind.

MARIA

I am: crazy!

ROSALIA

She might be at that. She looks somehow different.

MARIA

I do?

ROSALIA

And I think she is up to something tonight.

MARIA

I am?

CONSUELA

"I do?" "I am?" What is going on with you?

MARIA

I FEEL PRETTY,  
OH, SO PRETTY,  
I FEEL PRETTY AND WITTY AND BRIGHT!  
AND I PITY  
ANY GIRL WHO ISN'T ME TONIGHT.

I FEEL CHARMING,  
OH, SO CHARMING —

IT'S ALARMING HOW CHARMING I FEEL!  
AND SO PRETTY  
THAT I HARDLY CAN BELIEVE I'M REAL.

SEE THE PRETTY GIRL IN THAT MIRROR THERE:  
WHO CAN THAT ATTRACTIVE GIRL BE?  
SUCH A PRETTY FACE,  
SUCH A PRETTY DRESS.  
SUCH A PRETTY SMILE,  
SUCH A PRETTY ME!

I FEEL STUNNING  
AND ENTRANCING —  
FEEL LIKE RUNNING AND DANCING FOR JOY,  
FOR I'M LOVED  
BY A PRETTY WONDERFUL BOY!

**CONSUELO, ROSALIA, FRANCISCA**

HAVE YOU MET MY GOOD FRIEND MARIA,  
THE CRAZIEST GIRL ON THE BLOCK?  
YOU'LL KNOW HER THE MINUTE YOU SEE HER —  
SHE'S THE ONE WHO IS IN AN ADVANCED  
STATE OF SHOCK.

**CONSUELO, ROSALIA**

SHE THINKS SHE'S IN LOVE.  
SHE THINKS SHE'S IN SPAIN.  
SHE ISN'T IN LOVE,  
SHE'S MERELY INSANE.

**CONSUELO**

IT MUST BE THE HEAT

**ROSALIA**

OR SOME RARE DISEASE

**FRANCISCA**

OR TOO MUCH TO EAT

ROSALIA

OR MAYBE IT'S FLEAS.

CONSUELO, ROSALIA, FRANCISCA

KEEP AWAY FROM HER — SEND FOR CHINO!  
THIS IS NOT THE MARIA WE KNOW:

CONSUELO, ROSALIA

MODEST AND PURE,  
POLITE AND REFINED,  
WELL-BRED AND MATURE  
AND OUT OF HER MIND!

CONSUELO, ROSALIA, FRANCISCA

*(Variously)*

Miss America! Speech! Speech!

MARIA

I FEEL PRETTY,  
OH, SO PRETTY,  
THAT THE CITY SHOULD GIVE ME ITS KEY.  
A COMMITTEE  
SHOULD BE ORGANIZED TO HONOR ME.

CONSUELO, ROSALIA, FRANCISCA

LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA.

MARIA

I FEEL DIZZY,  
I FEEL SUNNY,  
I FEEL FIZZY AND FUNNY AND FINE,  
AND SO PRETTY,  
MISS AMERICA CAN JUST RESIGN!

CONSUELO, ROSALIA, FRANCISCA

LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA.

MARIA

SEE THE PRETTY GIRL IN THAT MIRROR THERE:

CONSUELO, ROSALIA, FRANCISCA

WHAT MIRROR WHERE?

MARIA

WHO CAN THAT ATTRACTIVE GIRL BE?

FRANCISCA

WHICH?

CONSUELO

WHAT?

ROSALIA

WHERE?

MARIA

CONSUELO, ROSALIA,  
FRANCISCA

SUCH A PRETTY FACE,  
SUCH A PRETTY DRESS,  
SUCH A PRETTY SMILE,  
SUCH A PRETTY ME!

WHOM?  
WHOM-MM?  
WHOM-MM?  
WHOM-MM?

FRANCISCA

*(Overlapping)*

SUCH A PRETTY ME!

ROSALIA

*(Overlapping)*

SUCH A PRETTY ME!

CONSUELO

*(Overlapping)*

SUCH A PRETTY ME!

MARIA

I FEEL STUNNING

AND ENTRANCING —

FEEL LIKE RUNNING  
AND DANCING FOR JOY,

CONSUELO, ROSALIA,  
FRANCISCA

I FEEL STUNNING

AND ENTRANCING —

FEEL LIKE  
RUNNING AND DANCING  
FOR JOY,

ALL

FOR I'M LOVED  
BY A PRETTY WONDERFUL BOY!

*(After the song, there is the sound of CHINO calling from  
OFFSTAGE)*

CHINO

Maria!

CONSUELA

It's Chino.

ROSALIA

The happy bridegroom.

CHINO

*(Closer)*

Maria!

MARIA

Please —

CONSUELA

Yes, little bride, we're going.

*(SHE does)*

ROSALIA

They have a quaint old-fashioned custom in this country, Maria:  
they get married here before the wedding night.

*(SHE follows CONSUELA into the parlor as CHINO ENTERS from OFFSTAGE. His clothes are dirty and torn from the fight; his face is smeared. THEY shake their heads at him and flounce out. HE closes the outer door)*

CHINO

Maria...?

MARIA

I'm in here. I was just getting ready to —

*(SHE is hurriedly trying to put a bathrobe over her dress. CHINO comes in before she can finish, so that she leaves it over her shoulders, holding it closed with her hand)*

CHINO

Where are your parents?

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**

Tony. 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!

(Coldly, CHINO unwraps a gun which he puts in his pocket. There is the SOUND OF A POLICE SIREN at distance. HE goes out. During this, MARIA has knelt before the shrine on the wall. SHE rocks back and forth in prayer, some of it in Spanish, some of it in English:)

Make it not be true... please make it not be true... I will do anything: make me die... Only please — make it not be true.

(As she prays, TONY appears at the fire escape window and quietly climbs in. His shirt is ripped, almost half-torn off. He stands still, limp, watching her. Aware that someone is in the room, she stops her prayers. Slowly, her head turns; she looks at him for a long moment. Then, almost in one spring, she is on him, her fists beating his chest as:)

Killer killer killer killer killer —

## # 13 — Under Dialogue

(Orchestra)

*(But her voice breaks into tears, her arms go about him, and she buries her face in his chest, kissing him. She begins to slide down his body. He supports her as, together, they go to the floor, he cradling her body in his arms. He pushes her hair back from her face; kisses her hair, her face between the words that tumble out:)*

TONY

I tried to stop it; I did try. I don't know how it went wrong... I didn't mean to hurt him; I didn't want to; I didn't know I had. But Riff... Riff was like my brother. So when Bernardo killed him —

*(She lifts her head)*

'Nardo didn't mean it, either. Oh, I know he didn't! Oh, no. I didn't come to tell you. Just for you to forgive me so I could go to the police —

MARIA

No!

TONY

It's easy now —

MARIA

No...

TONY

Whatever you want, I'll do —

MARIA

Stay. Stay with me.

TONY

I love you so much.

MARIA

Tighter.

TONY

We'll be all right. I know it. We're really together now.

MARIA

But it's not us! It's everything around us!

## TONY

*(His voice gradually rising into song)*

Then we'll find someplace where nothing can get to us; not one of them,  
not anything.

## # 13A — Ballet Sequence

*(Tony, Maria)*

AND I'LL TAKE YOU AWAY,  
TAKE YOU FAR FAR AWAY OUT OF HERE,  
FAR FAR AWAY TILL THE WALLS  
AND THE STREETS DISAPPEAR,

## MARIA, TONY

SOMEWHERE THERE MUST BE A PLACE  
WE CAN FEEL WE'RE FREE,  
SOMEWHERE THERE'S GOT TO BE  
SOME PLACE FOR YOU AND FOR ME.

*(As they sing, the walls of the apartment begin to move off,  
leaving city walls surrounding them moving in on them.)*

## # 13B — Transition To Scherzo

*(Orchestra)*

## # 13C — Scherzo

*(Orchestra)*

*Then the apartment itself goes and the two LOVERS begin to run,  
battering against the walls of the city, breaking through as chaotic  
figures of the gangs, of the violence flail around them. But they do  
break through and suddenly — they are in a world of space and air  
and sun. They stop, looking at it, pleased, startled as BOYS and  
GIRLS from both sides come on. And they, too, stop and stare, happy,  
pleased.*

*Their clothes are soft, pastel versions of what they have worn before.  
They begin to dance, to play: no sides, no hostility now; just joy and  
pleasure and warmth. More and more join, making a world that  
TONY and MARIA want to be in, belong to, to share their love with.  
As they begin the steps of a gently love dance, a GIRL is heard  
SINGING:)*

## # 13D — Somewhere

(Girl)

## GIRL

THERE'S A PLACE FOR US,  
SOMEWHERE A PLACE FOR US.  
PEACE AND QUIET AND OPEN AIR  
WAIT FOR US  
SOMEWHERE.

THERE'S A TIME FOR US,  
SOME DAY A TIME FOR US,  
TIME TOGETHER WITH TIME TO SPARE,  
TIME TO LEARN, TIME TO CARE  
SOME DAY!

SOMEWHERE  
WE'LL FIND A NEW WAY OF LIVING,  
WE'LL FIND A WAY OF FORGIVING  
SOMEWHERE,  
SOMEWHERE...

THERE'S A PLACE FOR US,  
A TIME AND PLACE FOR US.  
HOLD MY HAND AND WE'RE HALFWAY THERE.  
HOLD MY HAND AND I'LL TAKE YOU THERE  
SOME DAY,  
SOMEHOW,  
SOMEWHERE!

## # 13E — Procession And Nightmare

(Tony, Maria, Company)

*(The LOVERS hold out their hands to each other; the others follow suit: JETS to SHARKS; SHARKS to JETS. And THEY form what is almost a procession winding its triumphant way through this would-be world, as they sing the words of the song with wonderment)*

**GROUP 1**

THERE'S A PLACE FOR US,  
THERE'S A PLACE FOR US,  
THERE'S A...

**GROUP 2**

THERE'S A PLACE FOR US,  
THERE'S A PLACE FOR US.

*(Then, suddenly, there is a dead stop. The harsh shadows, the fire escapes of the real tenement cloud the sky and the figures of RIFF and BERNARDO slowly walk on. The dream becomes a nightmare: as the city returns, there are brief re-enactments of the knife fight, of the deaths. MARIA and TONY are once again separated from each other by the violent warring of the two sides. MARIA tries to reach BERNARDO, TONY tries to stop RIFF; the LOVERS try to reach each other but they cannot get there. Chaotic confusion and blackness out of which they find themselves back in the bedroom, clinging to each other desperately. With a blind refusal to face what they know must be, they reassure each other deperately as they SING:)*

**TONY**

HOLD MY HAND AND WE'RE HALFWAY THERE.  
HOLD MY HAND AND I'LL TAKE YOU THERE

**TONY, MARIA**

SOME DAY,  
SOMEHOW,  
SOMEWHERE!

*(As the LIGHTS fade, THEY sink back together on the bed)*

**END OF SCENE ONE****SCENE TWO**

*(Back alley.*

*A fence with loose boards; angles between buildings.*

*Softly, from behind the fence, the JET GANG whistle. A second, then the answering whistle, softly, OFFSTAGE or around a corner. Now the loose board flips up and BABY JOHN wriggles through the fence. HE whistles again, and timidly, and A-RAB comes on)*

A-RAB

They get you yet?

BABY JOHN

No. You?

A-RAB

Hell, no.

BABY JOHN

You seen Tony?

A-RAB

Nobody has.

BABY JOHN

Geez...

A-RAB

You been home yet?

BABY JOHN

...Uh uh.

A-RAB

Me, either.

BABY JOHN

Just hidin' around?

A-RAB

Uh-huh.

BABY JOHN

A-rab... did you get a look at 'em?

A-RAB

Lookit who?

BABY JOHN

Ya know. At the rumble. Riff and Bernardo.

*(Pause)*

A-RAB

I wish it was yesterday.

BABY JOHN

Wadaya say we run away?

A-RAB

What's a matter? You scared?

BABY JOHN

...Yeah.

A-RAB

You cut it out, ya hear? Ya only makin' me scared an' that scares me!

*(Police whistle. HE grabs BABY JOHN)*

Last thing ever is to let a cop know you're scared or anythin'.

KRUPKE

*(OFFSTAGE)*

Hey you two!

A-RAB

Play it big wit' the baby blues.

BABY JOHN

*(Scared)*

O.K.

A-RAB

*(Gripping him)*

Big, not scared, big!

*(Again a whistle. Elaborately casual, THEY start sauntering off)*

KRUPKE

Yeah: you.

*(THEY stop, so surprised)*

A-RAB

Why it is Officer Krupke, Baby John.

**BABY JOHN**

*(Quaking)*

Top of the evening, Officer Krupke.

**KRUPKE**

I'll crack the top of your skulls if you punks don't stop when I whistle.

**A-RAB**

But we stopped the very moment we heard.

**BABY JOHN**

We got 20-20 hearing.

**KRUPKE**

You wanna get hauled down to the station house?

**BABY JOHN**

Indeed not, sir.

**KRUPKE**

I'll make a little deal. I know you was rumbling under the highway —

**BABY JOHN**

We was at the playground, sir.

**A-RAB**

We like the playground. It keeps us deprived kids off the fould streets.

**BABY JOHN**

It gives us comradeship —

**A-RAB**

A place for pleasant pastime —  
An' for us, born like we was on the hot pavements —

**KRUPKE**

O.K., wise apples. Down to the station house.

**BABY JOHN**

Which way?



**A-RAB**

This way!

*(HE gets down on all fours, BABY JOHN pushes KRUPKE, so that he tumbles over A-RAB. BABY JOHN starts off one way, A-RAB the other. KRUPKE hesitates then runs after one of them, blowing his whistle like mad. The moment he is off, BOTH appear through the fence, followed by the OTHERS)*

Look at the brass-ass run!

**BABY JOHN**

I hope he breaks it!

**ACTION**

Get the lead out, fat boy!

**BIG DEAL**

Easy. He'll come back and drag us down the station house.

**ACTION**

I already been.

**SNOWBOY**

We both already been.

**A-RAB**

What happened?

**SNOWBOY**

A big fat nothing —

**A-RAB**

How come?

**SNOWBOY**

Cops believe everything they read in the papers.

**ACTION**

To them we ain't human. We're cruddy juvenile delinquents.  
So that's what we give 'em.

# 14 — Gee, Officer Krupke

(Jets)

SNOWBOY

(Imitating KRUPKE)

Hey, you!

ACTION

Me, Officer Krupke?

SNOWBOY

Yeah, you! Gimme one good reason for not dragging ya down the station house,  
ya punk?

ACTION

DEAR KINDLY SERGEANT KRUPKE,  
YOU GOTTA UNDERSTAND —  
IT'S JUST OUR BRINGIN' UP-KE  
THAT GETS US OUT OF HAND.  
OUR MOTHERS ALL ARE JUNKIES  
OUR FATHERS ALL ARE DRUNKS.  
GOLLY MOSES — NATCHERLY WE'RE PUNKS!

ALL

GEE, OFFICER KRUPKE, WE'RE VERY UPSET;  
WE NEVER HAD THE LOVE THAT  
EVERY CHILD OUGHTA GET.  
WE AIN'T NO DELINQUENTS,  
WE'RE MISUNDERSTOOD.  
DEEP DOWN INSIDE US THERE IS GOOD!

ACTION

THERE IS GOOD!

GROUP 1

THERE IS GOOD,

GROUP 2

(Overlapping)

THERE IS GOOD,

ALL

THERE IS UNTAPPED GOOD.  
LIKE INSIDE, THE WORST OF US IS GOOD.

SNOWBOY

(As KRUPKE)

That's a touchin' good story.

ACTION

Lemme tell it to the world!

SNOWBOY

(As KRUPKE)

Just tell it to the judge.

ACTION

*(To DIESEL, who plays the part of a judge)*

DEAR KINDLY JUDGE, YOUR HONOR,  
MY PARENTS TREAT ME ROUGH.  
WITH ALL THEIR MARIJUANA,  
THEY WON'T GIVE ME A PUFF.  
THEY DIDN'T WANNA HAVE ME,  
BUT SOMEHOW I WAS HAD.  
LEAPIN' LIZARDS – THAT'S WHY I'M SO BAD!

DIESEL

*(As judge)*

RIGHT!  
OFFICER KRUPKE, YOU'RE REALLY A SQUARE;  
THIS BOY DON'T NEED A JUDGE,  
HE NEEDS AN ANALYST'S CARE!  
IT'S JUST HIS NEUROSIS THAT OUGHTA BE CURBED –  
HE'S PSYCHOLOGICKLY DISTURBED!

ACTION

I'M DISTURBED!

**GROUP 1**

WE'RE DISTURBED,

**GROUP 2**

*(Overlapping)*

WE'RE DISTURBED,

**ALL**

WE'RE THE MOST DISTURBED.

LIKE WE'RE PSYCHOLOGICKLY DISTURBED.

**DIESEL**

*(As judge)*

Hear ye, hear ye! In the opinion of this court, this child is depraved on account he ain't had a normal home.

**ACTION**

*(Speaks)*

Hey, so I'm depraved on account I'm deprived!

**DIESEL**

*(As judge)*

So take him to a headshrinker.

**ACTION**

*(To A-RAB, who plays a psychiatrist)*

MY FATHER IS A BASTARD,

MY MA'S AN S.O.B.

MY GRANDPA'S ALWAYS PLASTERED,

MY GRANDMA PUSHES TEA.

MY SISTER WEARS A MUSTACHE,

MY BROTHER WEARS A DRESS.

GOODNESS GRACIOUS, THAT'S WHY I'M A MESS!

**A-RAB**

*(As psychiatrist)*

YES!

OFFICER KRUPKE, YOU'RE REALLY A SLOB.  
THIS BOY DON'T NEED A DOCTOR,  
JUST A GOOD HONEST JOB.  
SOCIETY'S PLAYED HIM A TERRIBLE TRICK,  
AND SOCIOLOGICALLY HE'S SICK!

**ACTION**

I AM SICK!

**GROUP 1**

WE ARE SICK,

**GROUP 2**

*(Overlapping)*

WE ARE SICK,

**ALL**

WE ARE SICK SICK SICK,  
LIKE WE'RE SOCIOLOGICALLY SICK!

**A-RAB**

*(As psychiatrist)*

In my opinion, this child don't need to have his head shrunk at all.  
Juvenile delinquency is purely a social disease.

**ACTION**

Hey, I got a social disease!

**A-RAB**

*(As psychiatrist)*

So take him to a social worker!

**ACTION**

*(To BABY JOHN, who plays a female social worker)*

DEAR KINDLY SOCIAL WORKER,  
THEY SAY GO EARN A BUCK,  
LIKE BE A SODA JERKER,  
WHICH MEANS LIKE BE A SCHMUCK.  
IT'S NOT I'M ANTI-SOCIAL,

I'M ONLY ANTI-WORK.  
GLORY-OSKY, THAT'S WHY I'M A JERK!

**BABY JOHN**

*(As female social worker, in falsetto)*

EEK!  
OFFICER KRUPKE, YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN.  
THIS BOY DON'T NEED A JOB,  
HE NEEDS A YEAR IN THE PEN.  
IT AIN'T JUST A QUESTION OF MISUNDERSTOOD;  
DEEP DOWN INSIDE HIM, HE'S NO GOOD!

**ACTION**

I'M NO GOOD!

**GROUP 1**

WE'RE NO GOOD,

**GROUP 2**

*(Overlapping)*

WE'RE NO GOOD,

**ALL**

WE'RE NO EARTHLY GOOD,  
LIKE THE BEST OF US IS NO DAMN GOOD!

**DIESEL**

*(As judge)*

THE TROUBLE IS HE'S CRAZY.

**A-RAB**

*(As psychiatrist)*

THE TROUBLE IS HE DRINKS.

**BABY JOHN**

*(As female social worker)*

THE TROUBLE IS HE'S LAZY.

**DIESEL**

*(As judge)*

THE TROUBLE IS HE STINKS.

**A-RAB**

*(As psychiatrist)*

THE TROUBLE IS HE'S GROWING.

**BABY JOHN**

*(As female social worker)*

THE TROUBLE IS HE'S GROWN!

**ALL**

KRUPKE, WE GOT TROUBLES OF OUR OWN!

GEE, OFFICER KRUPKE,  
WE'RE DOWN ON OUR KNEES,  
'CAUSE NO ONE WANTS A FELLA  
WITH A SOCIAL DISEASE.  
GEE, OFFICER KRUPKE,  
WHAT ARE WE TO DO?  
GEE, OFFICER KRUPKE —  
KRUP YOU!

*(After song, ANYBODYS appears over the fence)*

**ANYBODYS**

Buddy boys!

**ACTION**

Ah! Go wear a skirt.

**ANYBODYS**

I got scabby knees. Listen —

**ACTION**

*(To the GANG)*

Come on, we gotta make sure those PRs know we're on top.

**BIG DEAL**

Geez, Action, ain't we had enough?

**ANYBODYS**

*(Going after them)*

Wotta buncha Old Man Rivers: they don't know nuthin' and they don't say nuthin'.

**ACTION**

Big deal, the question ain't whether we had enough —

**ANYBODYS**

The question is: where's Tony and what party is lookin' for him.

**ACTION**

What do you know?

**ANYBODYS**

I know I gotta get a skirt.

*(Starts off, but DIESEL stops her)*

**ACTION**

Come on, Anybodys, tell me.

**SNOWBOY**

Ah, what's that freak know?

**ANYBODYS**

I figgered somebody oughta infiltrate PR territory and spy around. I'm very big with shadows, ya know. I can slip in and out of 'em like wind through a fence.

**SNOWBOY**

Boy, is she ever makin' the most of it!

**ANYBODYS**

You bet your fat A, I am!

**ACTION**

Go on. What dya hear?



**ANYBODY'S**

I heard Chino tellin' the Sharks somethin' about Tony and Bernardo's sister. And then Chino said: "If it's the last thing I do, I'm going to get Tony."

**ACTION**

What'd I tell ya? Those PRs won't stop!

**SNOWBOY**

Easy, Action!

**BIG DEAL**

It's bad enough now —

**BABY JOHN**

Yeah!

**ACTION**

You forgettin'? Tony came through for us Jets. We gotta find him and protect him from Chino.

**A-RAB**

Right!

**ACTION**

O.K., then! Snowboy — cover the river!

*(SNOWBOY runs off)*

A-rab — get over to Doc's.

**DIESEL**

I'll take the back alleys.

**ACTION**

Big deal.

**BIG DEAL**

I'll cover the park.

**ACTION**

Good boy!

*(Begins to run off)*

ANYBODYS

What about me?

ACTION

You? You get a hold of the girls and send 'em out as liaison runners so we'll know who's found Tony where.

ANYBODYS

Right!

*(Starts to run off)*

ACTION

Hey!

*(SHE stops)*

You done good, buddy boy.

ANYBODYS

*(SHE has fallen in love)*

Thanks, daddy-o.

*(THEY both run off)*

**END OF SCENE TWO**

**SCENE THREE**

*(The apartment.*

*The light is, at first, a vague glow on the lovers who are asleep on the bed. The music is based on that which ended the first apartment scene. From OFFSTAGE, faint at first, the sound of knocking. It gets louder, TONY stirs. At a distance, a police siren and the knocking very loud. TONY bolts upright. ANITA comes in from outside and goes to the bedroom door — which is locked — tries the knob, calling:)*

ANITA

*(Holding back tears)*

Maria? ... Maria?

*(TONY is reaching for his shirt when MARIA sits up. Quickly, he puts his hand, then his lips on her lips)*

Maria, it's Anita. Why are you locked in?

MARIA

I didn't know it was locked.

ANITA

Open the door. I need you.

*(MARIA reaches for the knob, TONY stops her)*

MARIA

*(A whisper)*

Now you are afraid, too.

ANITA

What?

MARIA

*(Loud)*

One moment.

TONY

*(Whispering)*

Doc'll help. I'll get money from him. You meet me at his drugstore.

*(In the other room, ANITA is aware of voices but unsure of what they are saying)*

MARIA

At Doc's, yes.

*(Aloud)*

Coming, Anita!

TONY

*(Kisses her)*

Hurry!

*(HE scrambles out the window as MARIA hastily puts a bathrobe on over her slip. In the other room, ANITA has stiffened and moved away from the door. SHE stands staring at it coldly as MARIA prattles through the door)*

## MARIA

Did you see Chino? He was here before, but he left so angry I think maybe he...

*(SHE opens the door and sees ANITA'S look. A moment, then ANITA pushes her aside: looks at the bed; at the window; then turns accusingly to MARIA)*

All right: now you know.

## ANITA

*(Savagely)*

And you still don't know. Tony is one of them!

# 15 — A Boy Like That And I Have A Love (Maria, Anita)

*(Bitterly)*

A BOY LIKE THAT WHO'D KILL YOUR BROTHER,  
FORGET THAT BOY AND FIND ANOTHER!  
ONE OF YOUR OWN KIND —  
STICK TO YOUR OWN KIND!

A BOY LIKE THAT WILL GIVE YOU SORROW —  
YOU'LL MEET ANOTHER BOY TOMORROW!  
ONE OF YOUR OWN KIND,  
STICK TO YOUR OWN KIND!

A BOY WHO KILLS CANNOT LOVE,  
A BOY WHO KILLS HAS NO HEART.  
AND HE'S THE BOY WHO GETS YOUR LOVE  
AND GETS YOUR HEART —  
VERY SMART, MARIA, VERY SMART!

A BOY LIKE THAT WANTS ONE THING ONLY,  
AND WHEN HE'S DONE HE'LL LEAVE YOU LONELY.  
HE'LL MURDER YOUR LOVE; HE MURDERED MINE.  
JUST WAIT AND SEE —  
JUST WAIT, MARIA,  
JUST WAIT AND SEE!

MARIA

*(Overlapping)*

OH, NO, ANITA, NO – ANITA, NO!  
IT ISN'T TRUE, NOT FOR ME,  
IT'S TRUE FOR YOU, NOT FOR ME,  
I HEAR YOUR WORDS –  
AND IN MY HEAD  
I KNOW THEY'RE SMART,  
BUT MY HEART, ANITA,

MARIA

BUT MY HEART  
KNOWS THEY'RE WRONG  
AND MY HEART  
IS TOO STRONG,  
FOR I BELONG

TO HIM ALONE, TO HIM ALONE,  
ONE THING I KNOW:  
I AM HIS,  
I DON'T CARE WHAT HE IS.  
I DON'T KNOW WHY IT'S SO,  
I DON'T WANT TO KNOW

ANITA

A BOY LIKE THAT  
WHO'D KILL YOUR BROTHER,  
FORGET THAT BOY  
AND FIND ANOTHER!  
ONE OF YOUR OWN KIND,  
STICK TO YOUR OWN KIND!

A BOY WHO KILLS CANNOT LOVE,  
A BOY WHO KILLS HAS NO HEART.  
AND HE'S THE BOY  
WHO GETS YOUR LOVE  
AND GETS YOUR HEART –  
VERY SMART, MARIA, VERY SMART

MARIA

OH, NO, ANITA, NO – YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER!  
YOU WERE IN LOVE – OR SO YOU SAID.  
YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER...

I HAVE A LOVE, AND IT'S ALL THAT I HAVE.  
RIGHT OR WRONG, WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?  
I LOVE HIM; I'M HIS,  
AND EVERYTHING HE IS  
I AM, TOO.  
I HAVE A LOVE AND IT'S ALL THAT I NEED,  
RIGHT OR WRONG, AND HE NEEDS ME TOO.  
I LOVE HIM, WE'RE ONE;  
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE,

NOT A THING I CAN DO  
BUT HOLD HIM, HOLD HIM FOREVER,  
BE WITH HIM NOW, TOMORROW  
AND ALL OF MY LIFE!

MARIA, ANITA

WHEN LOVE COMES SO STRONG,  
THERE IS NO RIGHT OR WRONG,  
YOUR LOVE IS YOUR LIFE!

ANITA

*(Quietly)*

Chino has a gun... He is sending the boys out to hunt for Tony —

MARIA

*(As she tears off her bathrobe)*

If he hurts Tony — if he touches him — I swear to you, I'll —

ANITA

*(Sharply)*

You'll do what Tony did to Bernardo?

MARIA

I love Tony.

ANITA

I know. I loved Bernardo.

*(SCHRANK comes into the outer room)*

SCHRANK

Anybody home?

*(Goes to bedroom door. Pleasantly:)*

Sorry to disturb you. Guess you're disturbed enough.

MARIA

*(Gathering her robe)*

Yes. You will excuse me, please. I must go to my brother.

SCHRANK

There are just a coupla questions —

MARIA

Afterwards, please. Later.

SCHRANK

It'll only take a minute.

ANITA

Couldn't you wait until —

SCHRANK

*(Sharply)*

No.

*(A smile to MARIA)*

You were at the dance at the gym last night.

MARIA

Yes.

SCHRANK

Your brother got in a heavy argument because you danced with the wrong boy.

MARIA

Oh?

SCHRANK

Who was the boy?

MARIA

Excuse me. Anita, my head is worse.

Will you go to the drugstore and tell them what I need?

SCHRANK

Don't you keep aspirin around?

MARIA

This is something special. Will you go for me, Anita?

ANITA

Shall I tell him to hold it for you till you come? TWSS

MARIA

(To SCHRANK)

Will I be long?

SCHRANK

As long as it takes.

MARIA

(To ANITA)

Yes. Tell him I will pick it up myself.

(ANITA goes out)

I'm sorry. Now you asked?

SCHRANK

(As the LIGHTS dim)

I didn't ask, I told you. There was an argument over a boy. Who was that boy?

MARIA

Another from my country.

SCHRANK

And his name?

MARIA

Josè.

**END OF SCENE THREE**

# 15A — Change Of Scene

(Orchestra)

**SCENE FOUR**

(Drugstore.

A-RAB and some of the JETS are there as others  
and ANYBODYS run in)



**ACTION**

Where's Tony?

**A-RAB**

Down in the cellar with Doc.

**BIG DEAL**

Ya warn him about Chino?

**A-RAB**

Doc said he'd tell him.

**BABY JOHN**

What's he hidin' in the cellar from?

**BIG DEAL**

Maybe he can't run as fast as you.

**ACTION**

Cut the frabbajabba.

**ANYBODY'S**

Yeah! The cops'll get hip if Chino and the PRs don't.

**ACTION**

Grab some readin' matter; play the juke. Some of ya get outside and if ya see Chino or any PR —

*(The shop doorbell tinkles as ANITA ENTERS. Cold silence, then slowly she comes down to the counter. THEY all stare at her. A long moment. Someone turns on the juke-box: a low mambo)*

**# 16 — Taunting Scene**

**(Orchestra)**

**ANITA**

I'd like to see Doc.

**ACTION**

He ain't here.

**ANITA**

Where is he?

A-RAB

He's gone to the bank. There was an error in his favor.

ANITA

The banks are closed at night. Where is he?

A-RAB

You know how skinny Doc is. He slipped in through the night deposit slot.

ANYBODYS

And got stuck halfway in.

ACTION

Which indicates there's no tellin' when he'll be back. Buenas noches, señorita.

*(ANITA starts to go toward cellar door)*

BIG DEAL

Where you goin'?

ANITA

Downstairs — to see Doc.

ACTION

Didn't I tell ya he ain't here?

ANITA

I'd like to see for myself.

ACTION

Please.

ANITA

...Please.

ACTION

Por favor.

ANITA

Will you let me pass?

SNOWBOY

She's too dark to pass.

ANITA

*(Low)*

Don't.

ACTION

Please "don't."

SNOWBOY

Por favor.

DIESEL

Non comprende.

A-RAB

Gracias.

BABY JOHN

De nada.

ANYBODYS

Ai! Mambo — Ai!

ANITA

Listen, you —

*(Controls herself)*

ACTION

We're listenin'.

ANITA

I've got to give a friend of yours a message. I've got to tell Tony —

DIESEL

He ain't here.

ANITA

I know he is.

ACTION

Who says he is?

A-RAB

Who's the message from?

ANITA

Never mind.

ACTION

Couldn't be from Chino, could it?

ANITA

I want to stop Chino! I want to help!

ANYBODYS

Bernardo's girl wants ta help?

ACTION

Even a greaseball's got feelings.

ANYBODYS

But she wants to help get Tony!

ANITA

No!

BIG DEAL

Not much — Bernardo's tramp!

SNOWBOY

Bernardo's pig!

ACTION

Ya lyin' Spic — !

ANITA

Don't do that!

GEETAR

Gold tooth!

DIESEL

Pierced ear!

A-RAB

Garlic Mouth!

ACTION

Spic! Lyin' Spic!

*(The taunting breaks out into a wild, savage dance with epithets hurled at ANITA who is encircled and driven by the whole pack. At the peak, she is shoved so that she falls in a corner. BABY JOHN is lifted up high and dropped on her as DOC ENTERS from the cellar door and yells:)*

DOC

Stop it!... What've you been doing now?

*(Dead silence. ANITA gets up and looks at them)*

ANITA

*(Trying not to cry)*

Bernardo was right... If one of you was bleeding in the street, I'd walk by and spit on you.

*(SHE flicks herself off and makes her way toward the door)*

ACTION

Don't let her go!

DIESEL

She'll tell Chino that Tony —

*(BIG DEAL grabs her; she shakes loose)*

ANITA

Let go!

*(Facing them)*

I'll give you a message for your American buddy! Tell the murderer Maria's never gonna meet him! Tell him Chino found out and — and shot her!

*(SHE slams out.*

*There is a stunned silence)*

DOC

What does it take to get through to you? When do you stop?

You make this world lousy!

ACTION

That's the way we found it, Doc.

DOC

Get out of here!

*(Slowly, THEY start to file out as the LIGHTS fade)*

## END OF SCENE FOUR

## SCENE FIVE

*(Cellar.*

*Cramped: a box or crate; part of stairs leading to the drugstore above;  
a door to the outside.*

*TONY is sitting on a crate, whistling "Maria" as DOC comes down  
the stairs, some bills in his hand)*

TONY

Make a big sale?

DOC

No.

TONY

*(Taking the money DOC holds out automatically)*

Thanks. I'll pay you back as soon as I can.

DOC

Forget that.

TONY

I won't; I couldn't. Doc, you know what we're going to do in the country, Maria and me? We're going to have kids and we'll name them all after you, even the girls. Then when you come to visit —

DOC

*(Slapping him)*

Wake up!

(Raging)

Is that the only way to get through to you? Do just what you all do? Bust like a hot water pipe?

TONY

Doc, what's gotten —

DOC

(Over-riding angrily)

Why do you live like there's a war on?

(Low)

Why do you kill?

TONY

I told you how it happened, Doc. Maria understands. Why can't you?

DOC

I never had a Maria.

TONY

(Gently)

I have, and I'll tell you one thing, Doc. Even if it only lasts from one night to the next, it's worth the world.

DOC

That's all it did last.

TONY

What?

DOC

That was no customer upstairs, just now. That was Anita.

(Pause)

Maria is dead. Chino found out about you and her — and shot her.

*(A brief moment. TONY looks at DOC, stunned, numb. HE shakes his head as though he cannot believe this. DOC holds out his hands to him but TONY backs away, then suddenly turns and runs out the door. As he does, the set flies away and the stage goes dark. In the darkness, we hear:)*

TONY

Chino? Chino? Come and get me, too, Chino.

**END OF SCENE FIVE**

**SCENE SIX**

*(The neighborhood.*

*The LIGHTS come up to reveal the same set as in the opening. But it is now jagged with shadows. TONY stands in the emptiness, calling, whirling around as a figure darts out of the shadows and then runs off again)*

TONY

Chino?... COME ON: GET ME, TOO!

ANYBODYS

*(A whisper from the dark)*

Tony...

TONY

*(Swings around)*

Who's that?

ANYBODYS

*(Darting on)*

Me: Anybodys.

TONY

Get outa here. HEY, CHINO! COME GET ME, DAMN YOU!

ANYBODYS

What're you doin', Tony?

TONY

I said get outa here! CHINO!

ANYBODYS

Look, maybe if you and me just —



TONY

*(Savagely)*

It's not playing any more! Can't any of you get that?

ANYBODYS

But the gang —

TONY

You're a girl: be a girl! Beat it.

*(SHE retreats)*

CHINO, I'M CALLING FOR YA, CHINO! HURRY! IT'S CLEAR NOW. THERE'S NOBODY BUT ME. COME ON! Will ya, please. I'm waitin' for ya.

I want you to —

*(Suddenly, all the way across the stage from him, a FIGURE steps out of the dark. HE stops and peers as light starts to glow on it. An unbelievable whisper:)*

Maria... Maria?

MARIA

Tony...

*(As she holds out her arms towards him, another figure appears: CHINO)*

TONY

MARIA!

*(As they run to each other, there is a gun shot. TONY stumbles as though he tripped. MARIA catches him and cradles him in her arms as he falters to the ground. During this, BABY JOHN and A-RAB run on; then PEPE and INDIO and other SHARKS. CHINO stands very still, bewildered by the gun limp in his hand. More JETS and SHARKS, some GIRLS run on and DOC comes out to stare with them)*

I didn't believe hard enough.

MARIA

Loving is enough.

TONY

Not here. They won't let us be.

MARIA

Then we'll get away.

## TONY

Yes, we can. We will.

*(HE shivers, as though a pain went through him. SHE holds him closer and begins to SING – without orchestra:)*

## # 17 – Finale

*(Maria, Tony)*

## MARIA

HOLD MY HAND AND WE'RE HALFWAY THERE.

*(TONY joins in. MARIA SINGS harder as though to urge him back to life)*

## TONY, MARIA

HOLD MY HAND AND I'LL TAKE YOU THERE,  
SOMEHOW,

*(TONY'S voice falters)*

## MARIA

SOME DAY...

*(MARIA stops, TONY'S body quiet in her arms.*

*A moment, and then, as she gently rests TONY on the floor, the ORCHESTRA finishes the last bars of the song. Lightly, she brushes TONY'S lips with her fingers. Behind her, ACTION, in front of a group of JETS, moves to lead them toward CHINO.*

*Cold, sharp)*

Stay back.

*(The shawl she has had around her shoulders slips to the ground as she gets up, walks to CHINO and holds out her hand. HE hands her the gun.*

*In a flat, hard voice:)*

How do you fire this gun, Chino? Just by pulling this little trigger?

*(SHE points it at him suddenly; HE draws back.*

*SHE has all of them in front of her now, as she holds the gun out and her voice gets stronger with anger and savage rage)*

How many bullets are left, Chino? Enough for you?

(At another)

And you?

(At ACTION)

All of you? WE ALL KILLED HIM; and my brother and Riff. I, too.  
I CAN KILL NOW BECAUSE I HATE NOW.

*(SHE has been pointing the gun wildly and THEY have all been drawing back. Now, again, SHE holds it straight out at ACTION)*

How many can I kill, Chino? How many — and still have one bullet left for me?

*(Both hands on the gun, SHE pushes it forward at ACTION. But SHE cannot fire and as she breaks into tears, hurls the gun away and sinks to the ground.)*

*SCHRANK walks on, looks around and starts toward TONY'S body.*

*Like a madwoman, MARIA races to the body and puts her arms around it, all-embracing, protecting as she cries:)*

DON'T YOU TOUCH HIM!

*(SCHRANK steps back. KRUPKE has appeared in the shadows behind him. MARIA now turns and looks at CHINO, holds her hand out to him. Slowly HE comes and stands by the body. Now SHE looks at ACTION, holds out her hand to him. HE, too, comes forward, with DIESEL, to stand by the body. PEPE joins CHINO. Then, MARIA leans low over TONY'S face.*

*Softly, privately:)*

Te adoro, Anton.

*(SHE kisses him gently.*

*MUSIC starts as the two JETS and two SHARKS lift up TONY'S body and start to carry him out. The others, BOYS and GIRLS, fall in behind to make a procession, the same procession they made in the dream ballet as BABY JOHN comes forward to pick up MARIA'S shawl and put it over her head. SHE sits quietly like a woman in mourning as the MUSIC builds, the LIGHTS start to come up and the procession makes its way across the stage. At last, she gets up and despite the tears on her face, lifts her head proudly and triumphantly turns to follow the others. The adults — DOC, SCHRANK, KRUPKE, GLAD HAND — are left bowed, alone, useless as:*

THE CURTAIN FALLS)

**THE END**

