

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)