

START

JETS

KRUPKE

They get you yet?

A-RAB

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,