

Jose (START)

JOSE
Antonio, you think your brother will beat that rap?

Antonio (START)

ANTONIO
He's Chicano! That should tell you!

JOSE
Yeah, they'd put us all under the jail, if they could. Nobody can touch us, man. We're too tough!

ANTONIO
Es verdad, mi amigo! "Blue Jesus and The Disciples." We bad, man!!

They laugh and give each other "the power" sign.

They watch Officers Lucas and Harris approach... Immediately, they ditch the liquor bottles and squash their cigarettes...

Lucas and Harris come up the walkway and stop a couple of feet from the steps. The children stop playing and stare...

Jose turns OFF the radio.

Lt. Lucas (START)

LUCAS
We wanna talk to Serrano.

JOSE
(defiantly)
For what?

Lt. Harris (START)

HARRIS
(very gruffly)
Never mind for what! Which one of you beaners is Serrano?!

Arturo rushes over and takes a stance in front of them.

Arturo (START)

ARTURO
(brazenly)
I am! Wanna make somethin' of it?!

HARRIS
You better stick to just playing cops and robbers, kid, if you know what's good for you!

ANTONIO
I'm Serrano! What's it to you?

HARRIS
We wanna talk to you.

Antonio looks around...

ANTONIO
So, go ahead! Talk!

HARRIS
Just come with us!!

ANTONIO
You didn't say "please."

JOSE
Right! No dice por favor!

HARRIS
Okay smart-ass, we're through askin' you nice!
Now get down here!!

LUCAS
Just do what he says, Antonio. We don't want
any trouble.

ANTONIO
(angrily)
You didn't even tell me what I did wrong. Give
me some respect! I know my rights, man!

JOSE
You forget, Antonio. We don't have no rights!

ANTONIO
(explosive)
Well, I'm not goin' nowhere, man, 'til somebody
tells me what the hell I'm goin' for!!

Harris grabs him. He handcuffs
Antonio's hands behind his back.
Harris PUNCHES and KICKS him to
the ground.

Arturo rushes over and tries to
hit and bite them, while:

ARTURO
Take your hands off my brother!!

Harris pushes him down... Harris
and Lucas lead Antonio away...

Arturo and Jose stand and intensely stare. Jose puts an arm around Arturo. Tears freely spill from Arturo's eyes.

ARTURO (CONT'D)
(crying)
But what did he do, Jose?!

JOSE
He was born in the wrong skin!

ARTURO
But they didn't have to hit him. Why did they hit him, Jose?!

He balls up his fists in frustrated anger.

JOSE
'Cause they know they can get away with it. Who can we complain to? The police?

ARTURO
I wish I lived in a children's world!

STOP

SCENE 13:

COMMERCIAL STREET...

NORMA BAILEY, White, 30s, and her 8-YEAR-OLD SON, GREGORY, stroll along... GREGORY stares at the two policemen, Harris and Lucas. Harris glances over at him. GREGORY smiles and waves. Harris frowns and looks away.

GREGORY
Mom, I thought policemen were supposed to be friendly?

NORMA
Some are; some aren't.

Gregory looks at them again.

GREGORY
He must be one of the ones that aren't!

Norma takes him by the hand and moves on...