

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!

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...

START

NORMA  
Jason Todd's birthday party is this Saturday.  
What do you want to give him? A nice shirt?

GREGORY  
That's a yucky present!

NORMA  
Well, what do you suggest?

GREGORY  
A gun! A laser gun! A machine gun! A big,  
BIG GUN!!

NORMA  
You've been seeing too much violence on TV.  
I'm going to start screening your programs.

GREGORY  
I'm a good boy!

NORMA  
That's what you say. Let's go to Toyland and  
get something non-violent for Jason.

GREGORY  
I don't like him!

NORMA  
Jason Todd? Why?

GREGORY  
He called me a bastard!

NORMA  
What?! How come you didn't tell me before  
now?!

GREGORY  
I didn't know it was a bad word until I heard  
Daddy call Mister Simmons one the other day.

NORMA  
That's a very bad word. But that's a grown-  
up's word and children are not supposed to go  
around repeating grown-ups' conversations.

GREGORY  
Jason Todd said it; not me.

Off to the side, a COMMOTION grabs  
her attention.

NORMA  
OH, MY GOD!!!

GREGORY  
What?!

Norma watches Lee Montgomery and another White man, HARVEY, laugh and viciously KICK and BEAT an elderly, BLACK MALE WINO...

Horrified, Norma tries to shield Gregory's face.

NORMA  
Why doesn't somebody help him?! They're going to beat him to death!! Don't look, Gregory!

GREGORY  
Then why are you looking?

She clenches her fists:

NORMA  
YOU SONS-OF-BITCHES, WHY DON'T YOU PICK ON SOMEBODY YOUR OWN AGE?!!  
(looking around)  
Spineless bastards!!... Where the hell are the police?! They're never around when you need them. I just don't understand this world. We've turned into monsters!

GREGORY  
Like Frankenstein and Dracula?

Norma walks on and doesn't answer.

GREGORY (CONT'D)  
Why were those men hitting that guy, Mommy?

NORMA  
Because he was some wino they knew they could beat up for fun. He's old and Black, and they're ignorant White trash that I wouldn't even waste my spit on. Who the hell knows? I get scared sometimes.

GREGORY  
Scared of what?

NORMA  
That old man might be you one day. It doesn't have to be about race. You could just be in the wrong place, at the wrong time. Shit!

GREGORY

You cuss too much, Mommy. From now on, -- say "krats-sa-frats!"

NORMA

Krats-sa--frats?

(laughs)

You're right, honey. Mommy's sorry. That fight just reminded me of all the ugly slime that lives on this earth. Shit! I mean, -- krats-sa-frats!

SCENE 14:

RICHARD LIVING ROOM

Barbara watches TV... Walter enters.

BARBARA

Walt! Come here, quick! It's on the news now. Lee Montgomery's daughter who was missing. They found her body this morning!

NEWS ANCHORWOMAN (V.O.)

Eighteen-year-old Robert Dixon is being held for questioning in the brutal rape-slaying of fifteen-year-old Janet Johnson whose nude body was found early this morning. He has not yet been formally-charged.

BARBARA

He used to be our paperboy. Remember? He was so quiet!

WALTER

It's the quiet ones that you have to watch.

BARBARA

Poor Lee Montgomery. Lost his job, and now, his daughter.

SCENE 15:

BAILEY HOUSE - GREGORY'S BEDROOM

FRED BAILEY, Norma's husband, 30s, hangs framed-pictures on a wall by Gregory's bed.

The telephone RINGS... He picks up.

FRED (ON PHONE)  
Hello?... Oh, hi Faye! No, Norma's not here.  
She took Gregory to the movies... Oh, hold on.  
I think I hear them coming in now.

Norma drags in with a gift box.  
Gregory trails holding a sailboat.

FRED (CONT'D)  
Hi! Faye's on the phone for you.

NORMA  
(groans)  
Ohhh, I don't feel like talking to her right  
now. All she ever wants to do is gossip. She  
gets on my doggone nerves. It's a good thing  
she's my best friend.

FRED  
Just tell her you're tired, honey.

She goes to the telephone. As she  
softly talks, Gregory shows Fred  
his new sailboat.

GREGORY  
Daddy, can I go show Joshua my new sailboat?

FRED  
Just for a little while, son.

Gregory rushes back out. Fred  
returns to what he was doing.  
Norma hangs up.

FRED (CONT'D)  
That was quick! Faye didn't have any good  
gossip today?

NORMA  
Fred, please. I'm not in the mood.

FRED  
Dang! Was the movie that bad?

NORMA  
No. It was what happened afterwards that  
spoiled my day.

FRED  
What happened, honey?

NORMA

I saw these two White guys beat up this defenseless, old Black man. And you know what? Nobody lifted a damn finger to help him.

FRED

I hate to say it, but, nobody wants to get involved anymore.

NORMA

If I had been a man, I would've done something.

Fred hugs, then, tenderly kisses her.

FRED

I'm glad you're not a man... Don't worry about dinner. I have a taste for Chinese food. Think I'll run over to Chin Lee's.

Gregory comes back in the door, balling his eyes out.

NORMA

Gregory, what's wrong?!

FRED

Why all the tears, little man?

GREGORY

Look at my boat!!

He holds out his new sailboat. It's smashed.

NORMA

It's broken! What happened?

GREGORY

That mean old lady broke it!

NORMA

What lady?

GREGORY

Me and Joshua were playing in his backyard and then, that new boy, Mark, came over. We were having fun 'til his mom came and started yelling at us. She snatched my new boat from Mark and threw it on the ground and then stepped on it!

NORMA

She stepped on it?! What for?!

GREGORY  
Daddy? What's a "Jew?"

Fred squats down beside Gregory  
with a concerned look.

FRED  
Where did you hear that word?

GREGORY  
That's what Mark's mom called Joshua. She told  
Mark he could never, ever play with a Jew.

FRED  
That lady's crazy! First it was a Black  
family, now it's a Jewish.

NORMA  
Poor little guy! Imagine having something like  
that for a mother.

She shakes her head in disgust.

FRED  
You see, son, the world is made up of different  
groups of people, just like God made different  
varieties of flowers. Joshua is Jewish; Steven  
is Black.

GREGORY  
Jason Todd told me you turn Black if you eat  
too much chocolate or drink too many cokes.

NORMA  
Jason Todd needs a good talking to.

GREGORY  
What are we? Are we Black, too?

FRED  
No, we're White. But in God's eyesight, we're  
all his children.

NORMA  
Mrs. Pendergast thinks God only loves White  
Christian Protestants; all the rest are  
orphans.

FRED  
It's people like her who dirty up this world  
with their filthy prejudice.

GREGORY  
What's pre-ju-dice?

FRED

When you don't like someone because they look different from you.

GREGORY

Why doesn't she like Joshua?

NORMA

She's too retarded to know why.

FRED

She was born evil, if you ask me. She hates for the sake of hating.

GREGORY

I don't hate anybody.

FRED

You're not supposed to, but sometimes it's hard. You just ignore her. You could talk until you're blue in the face and it wouldn't change a thing.

Norma gives Gregory a kiss. He looks sullenly at his boat.

NORMA

I thought you were my "Incredible Hulk?"

GREGORY

I'm not! I'm just a little boy!

FRED

Why don't you and I go buy another boat, then, stop at Chin Lee's to pick up some chicken chow mein. Will that make you feel better?

GREGORY

Oh, boy!! You betcha! Let's go!!

Fred laughs as he dashes out ahead of him.

SCENE 16:

EXT. BAILEY HOUSE

Fred and Gregory see his next-door neighbor, MRS. PENDERGAST, White, forties, set her trash cans out. He winces. Fred waves to her and politely smiles...

JOSE  
 What is life, mi hermano? Take care of  
 yourself and remember what I told you. "Don't  
 take crap from nobody!"

Two Paramedics take Jose away as  
 Arturo turns.

JOSE (CONT'D)  
 Hey! Arturo!!

Arturo stops and turns around...

ARTURO  
 Yeah? What?

JOSE  
 Don't stop dreamin', muchacho! Who knows?  
 Maybe one day your dreams just might come true -  
 (smiles)  
 and get us all out of here.

He gives him the "power" sign.  
 Arturo smiles and returns it.

SCENE 19:

BAILEY HOUSE - GREGORY'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Gregory kneels for his bedtime  
 prayers. Norma is beside him.

GREGORY  
 God bless Mommy, Daddy, Grandma and Grandpa,  
 Aunt Myrtle, Uncle Ronnie, Joshua, Lisa and --

NORMA  
 And --

GREGORY  
 Uh, uh, --  
 (thinking, belts out)  
 Mrs. Pendergast!!

He hurriedly jumps into bed and  
 snuggles under the covers.

NORMA  
 Mrs. Pendergast?!

From underneath his bed, a DOG  
 gives one BARK. Gregory jumps  
 back down to the floor.

GREGORY

And God bless Bink!!... Will you and Daddy always love me?

NORMA

What a silly question to ask. Of course we will.

GREGORY

Mrs. Pendergast doesn't love Joshua. That's why I asked Jesus to bless her so she can love him too... Why do people stop loving?

NORMA

It's the world we live in. It's filled with so much hate. People have forgotten how to love, and some don't want to even try.

GREGORY

I love everybody.

NORMA

It's too bad your kind of love only exists in a children's world.

GREGORY

I wished I lived in a children's world. Have you ever been there?

NORMA

Yes. A very long time ago.

GREGORY

What's it like?

NORMA

It's beautiful! Lots of candy and green, sparkling ice-cream. It's all fun and make-believe.

GREGORY

Like Miss Piggy and Popeye?

NORMA

Uh-huh...

END

MUSIC INTRO: "IN A CHILDREN'S WORLD"

NORMA (SINGS)

(1) It's a place for the few  
Where wishes all come true  
Kids take the hum of a hummingbird/ And make a  
song from a single word

(MORE)