Side 1

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.

Side 2

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?

Side 3

(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.