

"Co-Op City"

by  
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BLACK SCREEN

MATURE MIKE (V.O.)  
The Bronx is no longer burning...

FADE IN:

BEGIN MONTAGE

1) EXT. NEW YORK - THE BRONX - 1968 - DAY

Tall building complexes burnt to a crisp. Pillars of smoke pepper the sky.

MATURE MIKE (V.O.)  
It's burnt.

2) EXT. MORRIS AVENUE - DAY

MATURE MIKE (V.O.)  
Our story starts here, on Morris Avenue, a once thriving part of The Bronx.

GIRLS play Double-Dutch on the sidewalks as BOYS play stickball in the streets.

PARENTS CHEER from their windows.

MATURE MIKE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
You are about to live a story that takes place in a non-fairy-tale-kingdom.

3) Nearby, TEENAGERS unhinge public fire hydrants until water spouts out like geysers.

Everyone rushes over to get sprayed and cool themselves down.

There is trash strewn everywhere.

MATURE MIKE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
To this day, fifty years after its creation, "Co-Op City" is still known as "The Grand Socialist Experiment" -- the largest housing complex in the entire world...

4) INT. MORRIS AVENUE APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Y, a petite lady of Cuban and Puerto Rican parents dusts the furniture but stares intensely at the TV.

END MONTAGE

ANGLE ON TV

NEWS REPORTER

(on television)

I'm standing in the Baychester section of The Bronx, where families used to come from far and wide to ride rides at the now bankrupt theme park known as Freedomland, USA. Here with me now is the Director of Parks for the City of New York, Robert Moses, who is overseeing the major transformation of the two-hundred plus acres, which is quickly becoming a cooperative housing complex, possibly the largest in the world. Right, Robert?

ANGLE ON Y

Y puts down her duster, turns up the TV, then sits, eyes glued to the TV.

ANGLE ON TV

ROBERT MOSES

(on television)

That's right, Joe. We're renaming this whole area "Co-Op City", because it's a plan on such a massive scale that it will have everything it needs to make it a completely self-sustaining environment: Thirty-five high rise apartment buildings; seven clusters of townhouses; eight four-story parking-garages; a high school; two middle schools; three elementary schools; a police and fire station; parks; recreational areas; stores; offices; and a power plant. It's the largest attempt by the city to offer real home ownership to people who otherwise might not afford it.

ANGLE ON Y

Y looks around her cramped apartment and sees warped floors and peeling paint.

ANGLE ON TV

NEWS REPORTER

(on television)

Outstanding. And how long before we can start looking to move in?

ROBERT MOSES  
 (on television)  
 Quite soon.  
 (beat)  
 As you can see, Section One is nearly  
 completed behind me, and the rest  
 should be done in the months to  
 follow.

ANGLE ON Y

Y postures before the television with hands to her hips with  
 a determined look on her face.

EXT. MORRIS AVENUE - STREET - DAY

Young Mike (10), Young Lisa (8), and Young John Junior (12)  
 play stickball on the street with a bunch of kids.

Young Mike is at bat.

CATCHER  
 ...That's two!

YOUNG MIKE  
 Two? Yeah, right.

CATCHER  
 I said that's strike two!

The catcher throws the ball back to the pitcher.

Young Mike shakes his head in disgust, and gets ready to hit  
 again.

Young John Junior is further down the street in the  
 'outfield'.

A brand spanking new powder blue CHEVY MALIBU approaches  
 Young John Junior

YOUNG JOHN JUNIOR  
 Car!

The kids part to make room.

The driver rolls up to Young John Junior.

It's Johnny Hi-Fi, Y's husband, Italian descent. Years of  
 hustling have clearly taken its' toll on his face.

JOHNNY HI-FI  
 Hey, Johnny Boy! How you like the  
 new car?

YOUNG JOHN JUNIOR  
Holy shit, what happened?

All the kids run up to the new car.

JOHNNY HI-FI  
Hey kids. How yous doin'?!?

YOUNG MIKE  
Dad, what the hell? Is it ours?

YOUNG JOHN JUNIOR  
Where did you get the car, pop? What happened?

JOHNNY HI-FI  
Get in the house John and you too  
Mike. I got news.

Young John Junior and Young Mike runs up to the apartment.

INT. MORRIS AVENUE APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Young John Junior and Young Mike run in, excited.

YOUNG MIKE  
Mom, mom, mom! Dad's got a new car!

Y  
What? Slow down. Dad has what?

YOUNG JOHN JUNIOR  
Dad just pulled up in a new car.  
Look outside. Sumpin' must of  
happened.

They head over to the window to see him parking.

Y's head shifts back in surprise.

Young Lisa, Young John Junior, and Young Mike stand there  
waiting for their dad to open the door.

As he does, he stands there waiting, smiling and loving the  
anticipation.

Y  
Well?

Johnny Hi-Fi holds out his arms.

JOHNNY HI-FI  
I HIT DA NUMBA!

They scream and yell, followed by a big family hug.

Happiness.

Y moves for the kitchen.

INT. MORRIS AVENUE APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Y rustles through some drawers mumbling in Spanish.

Y  
(relieved, in Spanish)  
Oh, thank god.

YOUNG MIKE  
Way to go, Pop!

Y  
(excited)  
One sec, be right back.

Y pulls out a stack of papers and brochures from a drawer and moves into the living room.

INT. MORRIS AVENUE APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Y with a small stack of papers in hand.

Y  
We're moving.

JOHNNY HI-FI  
What?

Y playfully reaches for his pockets.

Y  
Where's the money?

Johnny Hi-Fi playfully swats her hands away.

JOHNNY HI-FI  
I got it. I got it. Relax.

Y  
You better have not gambled it away already.

YOUNG JOHN JUNIOR  
Take it to the track already, Pop?

JOHNNY HI-FI  
Watch it, wise guy.

Y  
Is there enough for us to get out of here?

JOHNNY HI-FI

Easily.

Y

Good, cause I wanna move to Co-Op  
City.

JOHNNY HI-FI

What? Hold on! Co-Op City?

Y whips out all the brochures she has been storing and shoves them into their faces.

Y

Look.

(beat)

They have their own schools, their  
own markets. Police. Parks. Fire  
Department. Everything!

(beat)

And, we own it. It's a city within  
the city!

The kids see the passion in their mom's eyes.

On the brochures words like "Paradise", "New World", and  
"Utopia" appear.

Y (CONT'D)

I picked up after seeing it on t.v.  
We're going, goddamn it! It'll be  
good for all of us. They can't keep  
living in the same room.

JOHNNY HI-FI

I'll think about it. Can't we find  
a place 'round here? How 'bout Pelham  
Parkway?

Johnny Hi-Fi walks over to the window and looks down proudly  
at his new car.

Y is disgruntled, but lets it go.

Y comes over and puts her arm around him. They kiss, deeply.  
She looks down at the car too.

Her expression changes and she SMACKS him across the back of  
his head.

JOHNNY HI-FI (CONT'D)

Ouch. Madonna, honey.

Y

You haven't had the car for more  
than a few hours and it already has  
a ticket!

The car is parked in front of a fire hydrant.

SUPERIMPOSE:

"Based on a true story."

EXT. SOUTH BRONX - BOTANICA - DAY

LINDA (22), Y's niece, stands in front of an occult herbal shop with a brown paper bag and a large burlap sack with several holes in it. CLUCKING sounds emanate from inside the sack.

INT. JOHNNY HI-FI'S CAR - DAY

Y drive's through the South Bronx with Linda riding shotgun. The economic problems of this borough are in full bloom.

INT. FAMILY'S APARTMENT - DAY (A SERIES OF SHOTS)

-- Y and Linda enter the new Co-op City apartment. Hardwood floors, freshly painted walls, and brand new appliances sparkle in this place. They have the burlap sack, rug, incense sticks, and a hand drum in hand. Something from inside the burlap sack moves restlessly.

-- Linda takes out a few wooden cups and places them around the room. She carefully places incense in the cup and lights them in ceremonial fashion.

-- Y lays out the rug at the entrance. She takes out some chalk and draws a sun-like image around the rug.

-- Y and Linda squat down on the rug and face each other. Linda picks up the drum and starts a slow rhythmic beat.

-- Y closes her eyes and hums. Linda joins in, as the beat increases in frequency. Their bodies shake and rhythmically as they hum together.

-- Y, eyes wide open, chants and prays out loud. She then produces a wooden cutting board from the brown paper bag followed by a large knife.

-- Linda produces, what appears to be a vile of holy water from the same brown paper bag and hands it to Y.

-- Linda opens the burlap sack and removes a chicken placing it on the wooden cutting board--breast bone up.

-- The chicken struggles to free itself.

-- Y pours holy water over the chicken while holding the knife high above her head. Her arm swings down O.S. onto the prey. The CLUCKING stops.

-- Both women, still in squatting position, hug warmly above the sacrifice.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JOHNNY HI-FI'S CAR - DAY

On a dreary, drizzling day, the family moves into Co-Op City. The car is filled and the kids are packed in a bit too tight.

INT. JOHNNY HI-FI'S CAR - DAY

The family looks up at these brand new towers of concrete. The parks are pristine, the grass looks as though not a foot has ever stepped on it.

The playgrounds are empty, waiting to be used.

There are flags and "Grand Opening" banners in front of the stores.

The strip malls still have some stores that are not filled in.

Then, the car travels past a large electrical power plant, the electrical HUM is deafening.

JOHNNY HI-FI  
Where the hell are we going? I  
thought that was Co-Op?

Y  
That was section one through four.  
We're in section five.

YOUNG JOHN JUNIOR  
This place is huge.

YOUNG LISA  
Sure is.

Suddenly, the concrete runs out and they drive onto a muddy road, entering the last phase of Co-Op City.

The children's expression changes from excitement to confusion, as the world changes from a newly built finished paradise, to a raw industrial wasteland.

These other buildings, all of which are built on top of concrete columns, stick out of the mud, like a stone tablet rising from the grave.

Construction vehicles are scattered throughout.

Random piles of construction debris on fire adds to this half-finished war zone.

JOHNNY HI-FI  
(sarcastic)  
Oh, this is frickin' beautiful.

Y  
Shut up, please.

EXT. FAMILY'S BUILDING - DRIVEWAY - DAY

The driveway is filled with cars, many families are moving in at the same time.

SUPERIMPOSE:

"1971"

Johnny Hi-Fi's car pulls up with the family onboard. Johnny Hi-Fi is driving. Y sits shotgun.

Y  
Okay, we're here!

JOHNNY HI-FI  
This is it? Jezz.

Y  
They're working on it, it'll be fine.  
Said it will be done in a few weeks.  
Just like the rest.

Lisa steps toward the building, hypnotized at the sight of her new home.

JOHNNY HI-FI  
Lisa, get back here and help your mother.

INT. FAMILY'S BUILDING - LOBBY - DAY

The family carries what they can into the building.

INT. FAMILY'S BUILDING - ELEVATOR - DAY

The family rides, crammed together with nervous anticipation with each passing floor.

INT. FAMILY'S BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY

They walk down the narrow hallway to their new door.

Y  
This is it!

INT. FAMILY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Y opens the door, it's filled with their newly purchased belongings.

Y  
(beaming)  
Well?!

JOHNNY HI-FI  
(pleasantly shocked)  
Oh, hey. Would you look at this.

Johnny Hi-Fi heads over to his new recliner.

JOHNNY HI-FI (CONT'D)  
All right!

YOUNG JOHN JUNIOR  
Oh, wow! Look at all this stuff. Is  
it ours?

Y  
Sure. Only the best.

John Junior hugs Y, so does Lisa.

YOUNG LISA  
Way to go, mom. Where's my room?

YOUNG MIKE  
(laughing)  
I don't like it. Does it come with  
room service?

JOHNNY HI-FI  
Shut up, wise guy. I'll give you  
room service.

Y  
Come'on Lis, let me show you your  
room.  
(to Mike)  
Your's and John's room is at the  
end.

INT. FAMILY'S APARTMENT - LISA'S ROOM - DAY

Young Lisa walks into her room with Y, and is elated.

The walls are filled with her favorite music icons, David Cassidy, Michael Jackson, and the Osmonds.

Y  
 (looking for a reaction  
 from Lisa)  
 Well?

Lisa hugs Y enthusiastically.

Y (CONT'D)  
 I knew you'd like it.

INT. FAMILY'S APARTMENT - YOUNG MIKE AND YOUNG JOHN JUNIOR'S ROOM - DAY

The boys enter.

The walls are filled with covers from Sports Illustrated, and cut outs of Wilt Chamberlin and Joe Namith.

YOUNG JOHN JUNIOR  
 Whoa!

YOUNG MIKE  
 Oh, man! Nice. A stereo?!

Y stands behind them smiling at their reactions.

Y  
 Make sure you thank Cousin Linda  
 next time you see her. She helped.

The boys give each other five.

INT. FAMILY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Y heads down the hallway towards the bedroom.

INT. FAMILY'S APARTMENT - PARENT'S BEDROOM - DAY

Y is on her knees with a slight grin on her face praying.

Johnny Hi-Fi step up to the threshold of the bedroom.

JOHNNY HI-FI  
 Oh god, you're not doing your Santeria  
 bullshit right now, we just moved  
 in.

The grin disappears, but she continues to pray. She stops praying.

JOHNNY HI-FI (CONT'D)

I gotta go!

Y

(disgusted)

You're leaving now?

(in Spanish)

Hay Dios mio!

JOHNNY HI-FI

I promised Louie I would help him at the club for a bit.

Y

(irritated)

You gotta go back to that damn club, already? We gotta unpack. We just got here.

JOHNNY HI-FI

There's gonna be plenty of time for that. If it wasn't for the damn club we wouldn't be here in the first place.

(beat)

Mike... Junior... Help me with the rest of the stuff downstairs.

Johnny Hi-Fi exists with the boys in tow.

Y stands defeated.

EXT. FAMILY'S BUILDING - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Johnny Hi-Fi gives the last few things.

JOHNNY HI-FI

There you go.

YOUNG MIKE

Hey, Pop. Can I go with you?

YOUNG JOHN JUNIOR

No, you can't. You need to help here.

JOHNNY HI-FI

Listen to your brother.

Johnny Hi-Fi takes off.

They turn back to their new home.

YOUNG JOHN JUNIOR  
Why would you want to go with pop?

Mike shrugs his shoulders.

YOUNG JOHN JUNIOR (CONT'D)  
You're a moron.

INT. FAMILY'S BUILDING - LOBBY - DAY

They walk past a stack of the local newspaper, "The Co-Op City News" in the building's entrance.

The headline reads: "Co-Op Gets Thousands of New Residents".

INT. FAMILY'S APARTMENT - YOUNG MIKE & YOUNG JOHN JUNIOR'S ROOM - DAY

Young Mike finishes unpacking and looks out from his fourth floor window.

He takes in his new view--an unfinished housing complex.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FAMILY'S APARTMENT - MIKE & JOHN JUNIOR'S ROOM - MORNING

An older MIKE, now 15, stands looking out the window.

The view is much different now--a finished housing complex is laid out before him, with a park and a basketball court below.

SUPERIMPOSE:

"FOUR YEARS LATER"

Y (O.S.)  
Breakfast is ready!

INT. FAMILY'S APARTMENT - DINNING ROOM - MORNING

Y is in a good mood serving breakfast. LISA, now 14, is at the table already eating. Mike sits down, and Y puts some eggs on his plate.

Y  
I talked to John Junior last night.  
He said he'll be back early this morning.  
(beat)  
Michael, go wake your father.

Mike gives Lisa the 'crazy in the head' gesture and gets up.

INT. FAMILY'S APARTMENT - PARENT'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Mike nudges his father.

MIKE

Pop, wake up. Mom's got breakfast ready. Says John will be home soon.

Hi-Fi struggles to wake.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Pop, if someone is welchin' on a bet, what should I do?

JOHNNY HI-FI

Can't let him welch, all you got is your reputation, if they find out you let somebody do that, your done.

Mike nods.

INT. FAMILY'S APARTMENT - DINNING ROOM - MORNING

Mike enters with his groggy father in tow.

They sit down to eat.

JOHNNY HI-FI

How far is John from here?

The front door unlocks from the outside. The family turns to see who it is.

JOHN JUNIOR, now 17, enters.

Y runs over to him and smothers him.

JOHNNY HI-FI (CONT'D)

Hey! There's the soon-to-be college man!

JOHN JUNIOR

Hey, Pop.

Y

So tell, tell. How was it?

Y sits down, filled with excitement.

JOHN JUNIOR

Well, Virginia was pretty good, but I have to say I really liked Maryland.

JOHNNY HI-FI

Maryland, uh? What is that the Terps?

Y  
 Oh, I'm so happy. And I also, have  
 good news, too. While you were away,  
 I passed my test! I'm going to start  
 to sell insurance. Ain't that great?

Johnny Hi-Fi smirks a 'whatever' look over to Mike.

JOHN JUNIOR  
 Sure is, congratulations.

Y  
 We're proud of you, John.

JOHNNY HI-FI  
 Way to go, son, seriously. The first  
 in the family to go to college.

Mike rolls his eyes.

MIKE  
 So, uh, John, if you go to Maryland,  
 I get the whole room to myself, right?

Johnny Hi-Fi smacks Mike across the back of his head.

JOHNNY HI-FI  
 Oh! Be proud of your brother.

LISA  
 (sarcastic)  
 Nice, Mike. Nice.

Mike shrugs, flippantly and stands to leave.

MIKE  
 Can I go? The courts are going to  
 fill up.

JOHNNY HI-FI  
 Yeah.

JOHN JUNIOR  
 Hey douche bag, hold a spot down  
 there for me, I'll be down in a bit.

EXT. CO-OP SIDEWALK - MORNING

Mike walks with his two friends, bouncing a basketball.

ANIMALE, an Italian bulldog of a kid, thick necked with medium  
 length hair, wearing a football jersey and YABBA, a Puerto  
 Rican with long slick black hair, bad tattoos and wearing a  
 wife beater. They shadow tall over Mike.

YABBA

We better get the court first, before the Brothers show up. It's gonna be too hot to wait around today.

ANIMALE

Where's your brother, is he back? He playin'?

MIKE

Yeah, he's back. Said he'll be down in a minute.

ANIMALE

Did he say what schools he liked?

MIKE

Think he said Maryland.

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - MORNING

It's a full court, and two half-courts, adorned by chain-link nets. The area is enclosed by a fence.

Mike's friends are already there shooting baskets. One is ALBE, tall, skinny Puerto Rican, with a huge afro. The Puerto Rican broccoli. The other TALC, Jewish, skinny but tough.

MIKE

What's up Albe?

ALBE

What's up meathead. Two-on-Two?

TALC

I'm playing this time, somebody else can sit and watch.

YABBA

Talc, sit your ass down, so we can get a real game going.

TALC

You guys suck.

They laugh and start a game.

INT. FAMILY'S BUILDING - HALLWAY - MORNING

John Junior walks down the hallway, and KNOCKS at a neighbor's door.

SHOTGUN, a black kid slightly older than John Junior, opens.

JOHN JUNIOR  
Hey, what's up Shotty?

SHOTGUN  
What's up John. How was it?

JOHN JUNIOR  
I think I'm going to Maryland and I  
already have a job with the basketball  
team.

SHOTGUN  
Cool.

JOHN JUNIOR  
You up for some hoops?

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

It's a new game with a few new faces, it's now five-on-five,  
including John Junior On the other side of the court are  
group of black kids, approximately the same age as Mike and  
his friends.

Everyone calls them, THE BROTHERS.

They are Shotgun, BUZZY, LAMONT, LOVE, MELVIN and SPIDER.

On another side is the group of Puerto Ricans, who every  
simply call THE RICANS.

They are KEITH, RAY, PAPO and IZZY.

Yabba makes a nice pass to Mike.

Mike being small in stature, makes him agile. He quickly  
makes the lay up, around Albe.

YABBA  
Oh, nice move you crazy lil' nigga.

LAMONT  
Yo! What you sayin'?

Yabba blows off Lamont.

LAMONT (CONT'D)  
Don't blow me off, you ain't that  
good of a baller.

YABBA  
You ain't that good either Lamont.

Albe runs down the court and tosses the ball into the air.

ALBE  
SWISH! Game!

JOHN JUNIOR  
(to the Brothers)  
All yours, fellas.

SHOTGUN  
Cool.

The brothers take the court.

YABBA  
(passing by)  
Don't stink it up too bad.

JOHN JUNIOR  
See you later guys. I'm going to go  
find my squeeze.

THE GUYS  
Alright, John. See ya!

John Junior runs off into the b.g.

The guys lean on the fence surrounding the court.

Animale takes out a joint and lights up.

MIKE  
(reaching for the  
joint)  
Give me that.

ANIMALE  
(pulling away)  
Fuck you. You can buy some, dick.

MIKE  
Asshole, I helped you roll it!

ANIMALE  
So. One buck, ass wipe.

MIKE  
Fuck off, give it to me.

Animale chuckles and passes.

They smoke and watch the brothers play.

YABBA  
Why is it, that every time we play  
the brothers gotta talk shit.

ALBE

Man, your just as guilty as they  
are?

Yabba laughs, knowing it's the truth.

YABBA

Fuck you, Albe.

MIKE

Come'on, let's go hang at The Wall.

INT. JANET'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - DUSK

John knocks.

JANET, 16, with wavy black hair Italian, and a wide smile,  
opens and immediately, covers him in kisses and hugs.

JOHN JUNIOR

Think I found my place! Maryland.

Janet holds back her sadness.

JANET

Really?

JOHN JUNIOR

The school was nice, people seemed  
cool.

JANET

(despondent)

I guess it's going to become a  
reality.

She sadly hugs him tight.

JOHN JUNIOR

We'll make it work.

They head toward the elevator.

EXT. THE WALL - DUSK

"The Wall" is a 100 foot long, 4 foot tall, concrete slab  
that divides the grass from the sidewalk--the hangout for  
most of the kids in this part of Co-Op.

Mike, Albe, Yabba, Animale sit with THE GIRLS, MELANIE,  
ANDREA, FRAN, MARLENE, and HEIDI.

Mike squeezes between Andrea, his on-again-off-again  
girlfriend and Melanie.

Yabba sits next to Marlene, his girlfriend.

OTHER KIDS head over and sit down.

John Junior and JANET walk over, hand in hand, whispering and smiling to each other.

THE GIRLS  
Hey John! Hey!

ANDREA  
John, how was the college tour?

JOHN JUNIOR  
It was good.

ANDREA  
Janet missed you.

They look at each other and kiss.

The girls, awe. The guys, gag.

MORE KIDS arrive.

MIKE  
(to Yabba)  
Yab, can you give me a ride tomorrow?

YABBA  
Why? Van's in the shop.

MIKE  
I need to pick up some cash from  
this guy, I could use your help.

YABBA  
Is it some shit for your mobster  
Pop?

MIKE  
My father isn't a fucking mobster,  
asshole. He's never shot anybody.  
He's just a numbers guy.

ANIMALE  
What's a numbers guy?

MIKE  
A bookie.  
(to Yabba)  
Can you help me or not?

YABBA  
Can we fuck 'em up if he don't pay?

MIKE  
That's why I could use your help.

YABBA  
Then we take the bus.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BUS - DAY

Mike, Animale, and Yabba ride in an empty bus spread out along the back as the bus pushes through the Bronx.

ANIMALE  
(teasing)  
So Mike, you can't handle this on your own?

MIKE  
Kiss my ass. It's a matter of principle, you can't let guys get away with welchin'. It's bad for the rep.

They're not buying it.

MIKE (CONT'D)  
I'll give you a cut.

ANIMALE  
Your gonna give us a cut?

MIKE  
Yeah.

Animale and Yabba look at each other.

ANIMALE  
Cool. Let's get your money back.  
(beat)  
So where we getting off?

MIKE  
(quietly)  
Boston Secor.

Yabba and Animale's faces freeze.

ANIMALE  
WHAT?! Boston Secor, you couldn't of said anything?

The BUS DRIVER lifts up his head and looks in the rear-view.

YABBA  
What the fuck, Mike?

Mike shrugs.

YABBA (CONT'D)  
And what he's a member of the Black Spades, too?

MIKE  
He's not a Black Spade. He just hangs around them. Sometimes.

ANIMALE  
Sometimes, he says. Fuck me. You know how nuts those guys are?

The bus driver overhearing, shakes his head.

MIKE  
Two seconds ago, you we're ready to kill. Look at the size of you two. What's the big deal? I know you can handle him.

YABBA  
It's not a big deal, but if we get into a fight with the Spades, you better not puss out.

EXT. BOSTON SECOR - SIDEWALK - DAY

Mike, Yabba, and Animale walk through the neighborhood. It is in much worse shape than Co-Op.

MIKE  
(pointing in the distance)  
That's his building.

EXT. BOSTON SECOR - BUILDING ENTRANCE - DAY

Mike heads over strutting.

Yabba taps Animale on the arm, with a 'get a load of him' expression.

Mike glances back at his friends.

He knows if he turns back now, he'll be called a pussy for the rest of his days.

Three BLACK SPADES sit at the front entrance.