

Boricua Street Slang

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(Note from Marcos: Some of the Italian stuff I translated in the first book, but for this one we're letting the Italian take it over. He took over the drugs too, 'cause yeah, might as well let him own his shit. Just saying.)

Amped up—High-strung. Ready to take on the fucking world. Usually after too much caffeine. There are other, illegal stimulants that will achieve this reaction too. (Yeah, you know what I'm talking about. Blow will amp up a motherfucker faster than anything, but there are some people who are just naturally hyper as hell without the blow. ::cough:: the Italian)

Baller—A badass motherfucker. Usually with cash, connections, and style. Best not to fuck with a genuine baller. They're like thugs on steroids. My cousin, Chu, thinks he's a baller. Truth—he is. (Note: the Italians. Also ballers. But I'll deny it if you tell them I said so.)

Ballin'—What ballers do.

Berettas—Weapons favored by the Italians due to the fact they are manufactured in Italy. The Italians are vain motherfuckers who like to represent any way they can.

Blitzed—High. Fucked-up. Usually on something illegal. Not really into it, but I was guilty of smoking bud when I was younger. Harder drugs like blow were never my thing,

though I know others who were big fans of the snow, and that's all I'm saying about that. Read the fucking book if you're curious.

Blunts – Empty cigars filled with marijuana. They will fuck you up.

Boost – To steal a car, stealth-like and under the cover of night.

Bottles – Booze. I recommend rum. Most Boricuas would. My cousin Chu will tell you Patrón. Not a fan of the tequila. Do I look Mexican?

Bud – Marijuana.

Chop shop – Where boosted cars go to die.

Chopped/chopping – Cutting up a car until it's nothing but a frame, because the VIN will

expose it as stolen, but there's nothing to identify the parts individually. A stolen car is almost always more valuable chopped unless it's extremely highline.

Drive-by – A fucked-up, cowardly way for one crew to take out a hit on another crew's members. A lot of innocents die in the process, and motherfuckers who do this deserve to burn for it.

End you – Often used as a warning that an ass kicking is imminent, but it depends on who says it. If someone like one of the Italians is threatening to end you, I suggest remedying that situation immediately. They're usually literal when they say something like this.

Going down—I have mixed feelings about this term. On the one hand, it's a reference to going down on a chica, and it's a much better pastime than getting blitzed. It's also slang for getting arrested and going to prison. Having done both, I highly recommend sticking with the chicas and avoiding prison. (Note: gangsters will sometimes just use this as a general term too. Like going down one way or the other, death or prison. So, um, going down in the nonsexy meaning of the term is never recommended.)

Green — Money.

Heat—The cops. Always pendejos. Haven't met one yet I like. Avoid unless you feel like going down in the nonsexy sense of the term.

In bed—When you're in bed with an organization, it means you're tangled up with them whether you want to be or not, and you could possibly get fucked in the process. So you better be really in love with the motherfuckers you get in bed with.

In deep—Imagine swimming out so far you can't swim back. All you can do is tread water and try to survive before the ocean swallows you, but you know the entire time it's pointless. You're going down eventually. That's what *in deep* means. Apply it to anything. You're stuck

in. You can't get out on your own, and it's highly unlikely anyone's gonna try to pull you out because all it'll do is force them to drown with you.

Ink—Tattoos, usually with meaning. Ink is powerful. It's forever. That means something to my people.

Jumping in—Letting the members of a gang beat the ever-loving fuck out of you without fighting back so you'll earn the special privilege of stealing/dealing/bleeding/killing/dying for the motherfuckers who kicked the shit out of you.

OG—Original gangster. A term of respect given to gangsters who have lived long enough

and bled for their gang to the point that they are no longer required to do grunt work. Sad, but most gangsters are OGs by their early twenties. (Note for young thugs: Very few gangsters get to be OGs, and if you do manage it, that means you buried most of your friends and/or you went down long enough to grow old behind bars. It's almost always a depressing combination of both mixed with losing your soul just to survive gang life. Being an OG is not as baller as you'd think.)

Jacked—Stealing a car, though it can refer to doing it at gunpoint. (Not a fan; where's the fucking skill in that?) It's also used as a general term for a stolen car.

Lying low – Hiding out. From the heat. From another crew. Basically staying hidden so whoever is after your ass can't find you. Not a fan of lying low. Hiding is for chicas without cojones.

Punked – Someone playing a trick on you or fucking with you to the point that you look around for cameras, expecting an amped-up gringo to jump out of the woodwork and start laughing his ass off.

Represent – Being aware of who you are and what people relate you to and making sure you keep up the image in order to give it more power. It could simply be cultural, like if you're Boricua, you better be good in bed because we

have a rep, and you're expected to represent. But if you're attached to a gang, you represent because your survival depends on it. Everything you do is to make sure you are contributing to the strength of your crew. Most organizations are like that. Don't believe me? Watch the Italians for a while; they represent like a motherfucker.

Smoked – Killed.

Snow girl(s) – Also known as a snow bunny. A white girl. More specifically, a white girl who is dating a Latino or one who's into Latinos. My people have been known to use the term *snow girl* as code for cocaine. Most Latinos have dated a snow girl or two ('cause word got out

that we do it better), and it's a code that'll keep law enforcement off our ass when we're on the phone. 'Cause, you know, big brother, he's always fucking listening.

Squat/squatting – Breaking in and living in an unoccupied house. You haven't lived until you've squatted in an abandoned crack house in the middle of the hood for a week or two. We should add it to the gangster brochures. (Note: that was fucking sarcasm. As bad as it sounds, I promise you, it sucks worse.)

Strapped – Carrying a gun, usually to avoid being smoked. (See above.)

The hood – The place God forgot. Trust me, when you get to the hood, you'll know it. (Note:

if you don't belong in the hood. Don't go looking for it. Watch a fucking documentary or something.)

Thugs—Hard, mean criminals, most often gangsters, because thugs tend to find one another at a young age and organize with a unified goal of them against the world. Avoid. They're always and without question pendejos, myself included.

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