

ICE BABY

SYNOPSIS

by Michael Steven Gregory

San Ysidro, California. On the border DMZ parting Mexico from the U.S. a band of migrants scurry into the scarred badlands leading to "el norte" and the distant San Diego skyline. Among them, a Mexican-Indian boy named Chopi huddles protectively with his mother as helicopters swarm overhead like mechanized wasps, strafing the land with fierce white spotlights and drowning the claps of gunplay along the line.

Suddenly, Border Patrol vehicles sweep in to herd the "illegals" together for immediate deportation back to Mexico. But discovery of the *tejido* Chopi's mother agreed to carry across the line -- her only means to afford costly escort into America -- ensures a fate far worse. And when an agent tackles her to the ground, Chopi grabs it and runs.

From out of the swirling darkness motorcycle whine shreds the night and a firefight rages between border agents and faceless Ninja Bikers who swiftly overwhelm them. Chopi crouches unseen in the shadows as their leader, the Red Ninja, Torch, confronts his mother: "The parcel. Your boy has it. Give it to me!" he demands. "Give me your boy!"

But before Chopi can reveal himself, the Red Ninja kills his mother. "Where there is mercy and a cross," come her final words. "Find your father!"

Again hell goes on holiday as border reinforcements move in. Mind reeling, Chopi escapes the clutches of Torch aboard a northbound trolley -- the *tejido* and its mysterious contents still tightly in hand.

With pursuing Ninja Bikers only seconds behind, the orphaned boy ditches the trolley and steps into a world even more macabre than the border DMZ: *El Dia de los Muertos* ("The Day of the Dead") in Chicano Park. All around, barrio chollos & chollas rally in honor of the most sacred holiday of the year, the day on which all are sworn to commit no violence. But when Chopi refuses to relinquish his *tejido* to a dealer named Vato, only the arrival of Isaac Speeks, a black cab driver in search of the woman he loves, Loyola, jewel of the barrio and sister of Vato, can spare him from harm.

Together, Speeks and Loyola have made a bid for a new start, a new life "where *living's* even an option!" Speeks insists. In an effort to escape the deadly feuding of the streets, they've turned their backs on those who would pull them down, only to be faced with a beginning rife with uncertainty. Discovering that the mysterious parcel Chopi carries is possibly the most lethal drug there is, "ice," at the cost of further rivalry between warring cultures the duo vow to help the boy find his father. And agree to gamble on their one sure ticket out of the 'hoods.

The couple's dream of escape, however, begins to unravel when possession of the drug rains doom down upon them, and the nefarious Ninja Bikers close in.

Eluding immanent capture by Ninja Bikers, and the dauntless pursuit of a federal agent sworn to rescue the boy, Chopi is cast once more into the friendless underbelly of "America's Most Liveable City" as Isaac Speeks gets snagged by G-men and Loyola is taken captive by Torch.

But as the dark machinations of a supremacist conspiracy begin to unfold, in a race against time to save Loyola Isaac Speeks takes matters into his own hands, reaching back to the barrio to strike a shaky accord with the one man determined to see him dead -- her brother, Vato.

A double-cross later, the shit hits the fan.

Beneath a curdling sunset atop Mt. Soledad, where America's ethnic tapestry riots beneath the razing of a monumental cross, the real purpose of "ice" is unveiled to all. There, Chopi must grapple with the strength to out-wit an unlikely Aryan overlord and destroy the drugs in a hair-raising foot-chase climaxing along the treacherous 10 lanes of Interstate 5. There, he must be brought face-to-face with his mother's murderer, and the tragic truth about his father.

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