

Me and Julio Down by the Schoolyard

by Paul Simon

C F C G 4x

The mama pajama rolled out of bed,
and she ran to the police station
When the papa found out, he began to shout,
and he started the investigation

It's against the law;
it was against the law
What the mama saw;
it was against the law

The mama looked down and spit on the ground,
every time my name gets mentioned
The papa said "oy, if I get that boy,
I'm gonna stick him in the house of detention"

Well I'm on my way;
I don't know where I'm going
I'm on my way, I'm taking my time;
but I don't know where
Goodbye Rosie, the queen of Corona
Seeing me and Julio,
down by the schoolyard
Seeing me and Julio,
down by the schoolyard

C F C G 4x

Whoa, in a couple of days,
they come and take me away,
but the press let the story leak
Now when the radical priest,
come to get me released,
we was all on the cover of Newsweek

Well I'm on my way;
I don't know where I'm going
I'm on my way, I'm taking my time;
but I don't know where
Goodbye Rosie, the queen of Corona
Seeing me and Julio,
down by the schoolyard
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C F C G 4x (end on C)

In a July 20, 1972 interview for [Rolling Stone](#), [Jon Landau](#) asked: "What is it that the mama saw? The whole world wants to know." Simon replied "I have no idea what it is... Something sexual is what I imagine, but when I say 'something', I never bothered to figure out what it was. Didn't make any difference to me." This implies that Simon left the crime up to the imagination of the listener, allowing each person who listens to the song to draw their own conclusion from their own thoughts and experiences. This has not stopped speculation on a definite interpretation: commentators have detected references to [recreational drug use](#), and believe that the mother saw the boy buying drugs. More recently, in October 2010, Simon described the song as "a bit of inscrutable [doggerel](#)."^[1]