



—Coming Out of Nothing—

*the 3rd collection in the*  
**Words Once Spoken**  
*series*

by Company Of The Mantis,  
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JAC 95

You must watch what you say. The dark penguin has ears.

**-Jay Dylan the Town Shrinky**

Penguins have ears? Where?

**-Echt Niemand**

The comedy of life has no need of a laugh track.

**-Holden**

It's a great life if you don't weaken.

**-Gwok**

He is one of those people who is simply abused as a matter of course.

**-the dark penguin**

Trust in God, but lock your bike.

**-Queen Enigma**

I don't care what religion you are, you just don't fuck with a man's cup of Joe.

**-The Brass Duck**

Everybody eats, everybody works.

**-Gwok**

The humility people want of you is not just accepting that you are less able than others. It is accepting that you are less worthwhile than others.

**-Lawrence**

I heard her say with a laugh, "Death is a priority; put it in the first paragraph."

**-Jay Dylan the Town Shrinky**

Karl is contained. We are cleared to proceed.

**-Holden**

Your face prevails.

**-The Brass Duck**

Happiness may be temporary; but then again, so is sorrow.

**-Lawrence**

Sometimes you just have to eat to keep from getting hungry.

**-Monkeyboy Floyd the Screw-tailed Shrimp**

I hate people who laugh at badminton.

**-Queen Enigma**

Betrayal is a very strong word. I know from its taste on my lips.

**-Lawrence**

Tip my hat to the heretics of the times who have the time to stand on their truths.

**-Lawrence**

Sweet is for kids.

**-One of 3 Options**

She told me I was born into desire in a wasteland.

**-Lawrence**

I just... I just want to be somebody worthy of me.

**-Lawrence**

Letzgitem.

**-The Queensburry Catcher**

Well, you know, they're just granola bar factory sort of people.

**-The Brass Duck**

I can't keep up this pace, keep up hope, when all I seem to be working toward is where I am.

**-Ver**

And all the discipline you thought you could just make, it will laugh in your face as it blows away, blows away, like so much ash that burnt itself into oblivion before it was ever born; an inverse phoenix.

**-Lawrence**

You know, you're kind of smart. I mean, you don't look like someone who would have a good vocabulary.

**-Queen Enigma**

Well, actually, it's a tribute to my skill that I can even hit them.

**-THE LOVE WARRIOR**

My tribe's left me behind. What's left to pick up, but the scent of my own trail?

**-Lawrence**

There ain't no pink Starbursts, baby.

**-Douglas**

Why is it that whenever I turn around, she's either there or she's not?

**-The Brass Duck**

I guess I'm what you might call a stone-hugging, world-affirming, polytheistic, tarot-card-reading, strictly non-Bahai, nonsecular unitarian dabblist of witchlike proportions.

**-The Brown Sauce Druid**

The art of living lies in the constant readjustment to one's surroundings.

**-Wayne the Potato Maiden**

Alright. New paragraph and that's it.

**-The Queensburry Catcher**

Some morality is only important because it is socially enforced.

**-Holden**

Come on, Jezebelle, don't fail me now.

**-Gwok**

Be a little brutal.

**-SARAH**

Please, never forget the immigrant mice.

**-the dark penguin**

We must come to grief anyway -- and I for one would rather regret the reality than its phantasm, knowledge than hope, the deed than the hesitation, true life and not mere sickly potentialities.

**-Queen Enigma**

You're going to die anyway. Why put it off?

**-Nickel Weed**

The Law of Drinking: The more alcohol people imbibe, the closer in proximity they find themselves to be with other people.

**-the dark penguin**

How did Adam and Eve really KNOW they were made for each other, even if they were technically made for each other?

**-Holden**

There is never an exception, except for when there is. This is the only exception that confirms a rule.

**-Brothers in Harmony**

Don't thank me... Just thank the good Lord that I was here to do it for ya.

**-Monkeyboy Floyd the Screw-tailed Shrimp**

Hint: Never shave while wearing a turtleneck.

**-the dark penguin**

She just got ahold of it by accident; you know, like a dog gets ahold of poison.

**-Fabio**

You bring forth intangibles.

**-The Queensburry Catcher**

The only thing crueller than playing solitaire is finding that you've been playing it a lot longer than you thought.

**-Holden**

Well, maybe you should just think of this. When the cheese is rotten and the ghosts of a thousand British heroes walk the earth, no one will give a damn about the price of fishing tackle.

**-The Brass Duck**

Good pickax? Or cheesecake in a pinch, if you prefer. But not so fast... What's your motive at 6 in the mornin'?

**-The Azure Follicle**

I would joy.

**-The Queensburry Catcher**

You know, the best way to get to know people is to go through their stuff when they're not home.

**-DAVEY DAVE BOY**

Bleed yourself till no blood remains.

**-Holden**

Sometimes it's NECESSARY for your personal space to be invaded.

**-Queen Enigma**

You, hate someone? You're too asocial to hate.

**-The Queensburry Catcher**

That's when I was disenchanted with sea gulls, learning that they eat at McDonald's like everybody else.

**-Billy Pythagoras**

Man, she was coming at me with her Big Idea Approach, going straight for my netherlands.

**-The Queensburry Catcher**

Jesus was just another good man screwed over by religious fanatics who knew all the answers and wouldn't tolerate anything else.

**-Ian**

Now I'm thinking in imperfect sentences.

**-Mac Bebe**

That's pure capers.

**-The Queensburry Catcher**

Yes. Hi. I just turned 19 in Paris. I was mugged, then gassed and I saw James Brown. Talk to you later.

**-The Hooting Hair God**

You two sit somewhere on the border.

**-Rainbowmaker**

I still don't know where Abraham got the mustard, but I'm no fifty.

**-Fisher**

Does anyone exist on the other end of a stamp? Or are they just people who died but say hello from time to time to remind you they've passed away?

**-Holden**

A magnet clings to our souls that no one wants to admit. It is, simply, ourselves.

**-Holden**

And then, one day, at 1:23 in the afternoon, in mid-sentence, he broke. Utterly.

**-Holden**

Don't eat the Russian, alright?

**-The Queensburry Catcher**

Raindrops, pissdrops, blooddrops. Purifying myself while splattering what is below, like the rain I piss my life away...

**-Kordo**

This situation may be a little bit of a Dutch toilet, but I'm just going to treat it as if I have a Swede.

**-the dark penguin**

A good BBQ sauce can cover a multitude of sins.

**-Agent Peludo**

I always respect people more when they're dead.

**-Nickel Weed**

And stay away from any federal buildings.

**-De Moeder**

I have found some people entirely too proud of their humble character.

**-the dark penguin**

He just about shit Solid Gold dancers.

**-CD Ashley**

I think racism is cool and there's not nearly enough of it.

**-Jay Dylan the Town Shrinky**

Just stay with me, here. I've seen worse men than you through better times than this.

**-Tacelon**

Likewise, when one leaves the building, one will experience a volumetric transition.

**-Roark**

We build people up, not tear people down.

**-Gwok**

Too many love her. She needs a manager in her corner.

**-Lawrence**

Strangers and acquaintances don't often give you the unpredictable. You EXPECT them to act weird.

**-Billy Pythagoras**

Look, I know enough to fiddle, alright?

**-Lawrence**

I get the once-over more than once, if you know what I mean.

**-The Queensburry Catcher**

But this man has an excellent ear, and a memory like Babar and Horton put together and gone wild.

**-Billy Pythagoras**