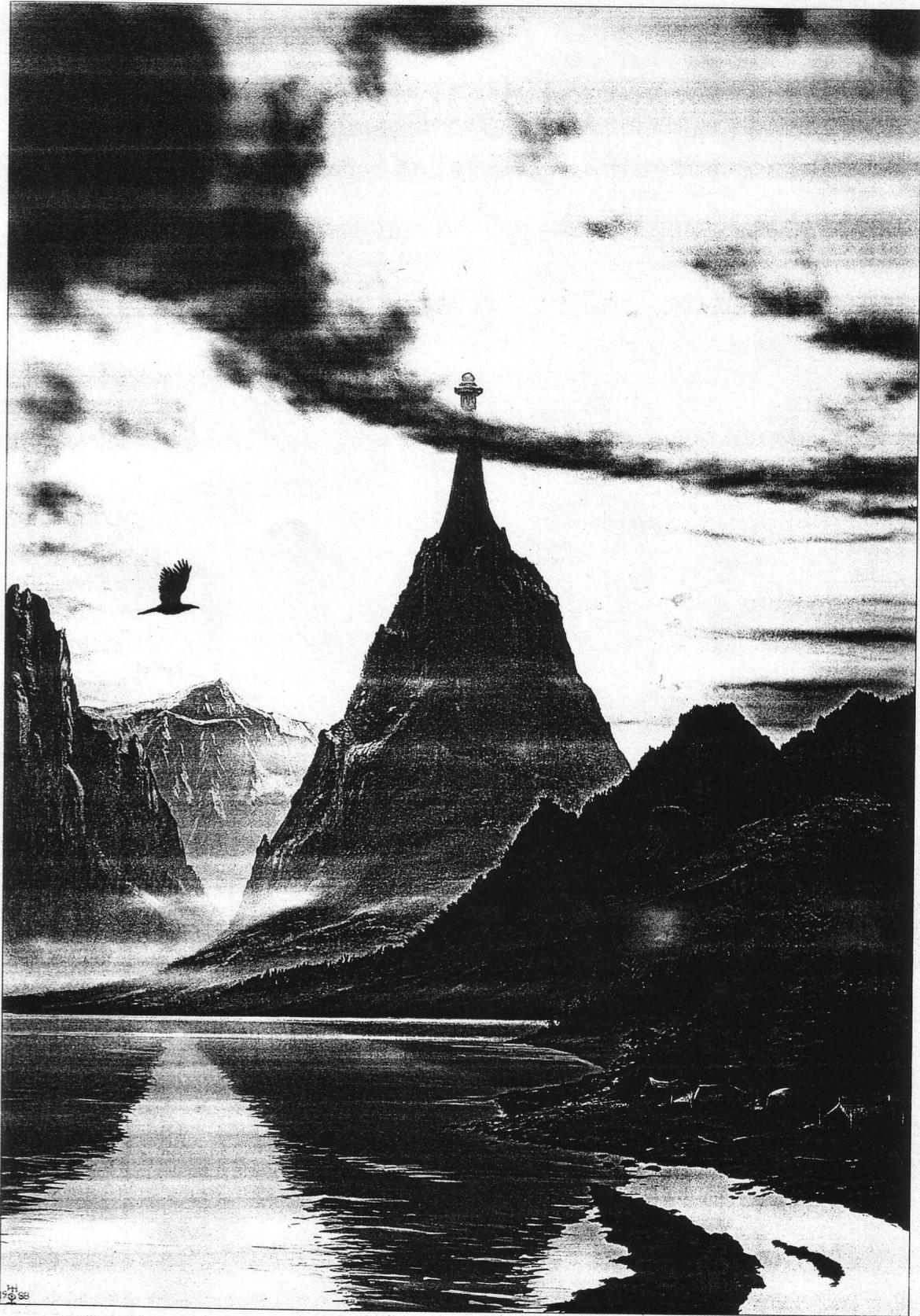


From This Widening Gyre



*the 4th collection in the
Words Once Spoken
series*

by Company Of The Mantis,
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Now, when an innocent of this world is faced with outright villainy (and of course that innocent doesn't wish to jeopardize his fragile position of innocence, but must protect his innocence in a very uninnocent way) he must fight fire with fire to get his virginity back.

-Kees

If only I could excuse myself as human... But so's Jesus Christ in his aerospace suit.

-Lawrence

My eyes are slow and timid friends. Oh, my screams could tear souls asunder; mine isn't there to tear.

-Holden

Our love is like rat droppings: small and insignificant, but everyone notices and when they do, they say "eeuw!" very loudly.

-the dark penguin

Today, I have no penis... Women are guys, just like I am. No big whup. A sex goddess could introduce herself and I'd ask her how life was and whether or not she'd care to go bowling sometime or something.

-Jongen Valentino

Hair grows and vulnerability goes to different stages and he ages by the unkempt passing of time.

-Kees

Right now I feel pretty alone... Take this doubt and cast it far from me.

-Jay Dylan the Town Shrinky

Does anyone have any suggestions? Sitting here with a terminal illness, wasting away with a sigh. My disease is having no life; the circle is vicious, death by definition.

-The Falconer

Motion never stops, para definition. Hurtle it on, let it lift everything into something else.

-Kees

Solitary creatures mystify me and yet I expect myself to be one. I don't want to need someone, and yet I want to have one when I find her.

-Lawrence

We consider the baits and taste with half-open minds. We must allow ourselves to savor the bait to prove we could lose. But always the throat is closed and we spit behind our back.

-Holden

Any man who wants me to swallow is going to have to drink a cup first himself.

-Snake Eyes

Only in a country outside of East Asia would that have been responded to with anything other than a very large sword.

-Sugardaddy

I passed someone on the street today and she let linger the smell of indifference. Made me blink, forced to think of times I might have smelled it before.

-Lawrence

And it can be very embarrassing to tell people, "My friend died," and (when they ask how) to have to say, "He drowned in a desert."

-Gray Interloper

This is my lifeline no one is catching. Yes, this here, that thread crunching underfoot; might as well be my fingers.

-Lawrence

It is very difficult for me to be acceptably understanding of people I simply cannot understand.

-Ian

We'll always have Ponca.

-'t

She'd broken through everything: all my rage, my frustration and hate, to make me not care. To make me smile.

-Jongen Valentino

Which is the greatest sin: to lie, to cheat, to steal? Or to kill yourself and pretend you do not feel?

-Ian

That occurs... um, seven times weekly.

-CD Ashley

The first thing our parents used to ask us when we got stuff to eat was, "You in LOVE?" And we'd always say, "Nope. Just hungry."

-Man Chi Chi

Don't talk to me about the ultimate weakness. It is not loving someone. It is loving someone who can never return the sentiment.

-Lawrence

How are your Arabs, anyway?

-the dark penguin

Blood is thicker than water, but I prefer water in my glass.

-THE LOVE WARRIOR

Touch my butt. No, it's time for you to touch my butt now.

-Frankly

Always a yo-yo.

-Lawrence

Why do I always end up in abusive relationships? Guess I should just stop slappin' the ho.

-Perspective

You know, it could be the holocaust, and if you got me some great tunes, I'd be dancing.

-Lawrence

Sacrificed for humanity? Or for Christianity? Christ on a cross, God on a stick. Dead man of so many faces.

-Ian

Did you ever wish to wreck the life of one you loved? (To bring it all come crashing down to you.)

-Lawrence

Why? Well, it's an interesting paradox, perhaps.

-Shtuffy

Father, I'm tired. If only my anguish could be weighed, it would surely outweigh the sand in the sea. All your terrors are marshalled against me. My hands are sweaty and empty... But I will not be so complacent.

-Jay Dylan the Town Shrinky

Buddhism is just atheism with ethics.

-Reverend Direct

DUDE, ...

-Perspective

Don't keep running into a wall. Go find a door.

-Gray Interloper

White elastic eyelids that snap, screaming... There's somebody in here, and the horizon recedes, leaving me stumbling to the alcohol and voices, hiding from the alarm still screaming.

-The Falconer

Only thing I said today was hello to a stranger. Maybe tomorrow I could try a little more... The seat of mockers has a line to keep warm.

-Jay Dylan the Town Shrinky

Did you know that we're all fields of energy? Do you know that we're living in different realities? You have to find them in your inner self.

-Prophetboy

Death is the only infinity I can still believe in.

-The Falconer

Hey, just take the peachy-pizza-acid-shock.

-Nickel Weed n LOVE WARRIOR

People celebrate me / gratitude while heads expand / recognize my common motives.

-Jay Dylan the Town Shrinky

You just can't sit through movie after movie with the same actress, the same plot and the same dialogue.

-Lawrence

People disappoint me: the things we destroy for the things we prize.

-Jay Dylan the Town Shrinky

I hated myself for doing it, I loathed myself for hating it. I despised myself for existing.

-Jongen Valentino

Sometimes I'm okay. Then, sometimes, my heart just stops. Those are the times I kind of wonder if I'll ever breathe again and if I want to.

-The Falconer

Rocket scientists send chills down my spine, because occasionally I realize with sinking doom that, in addition to everything else, they have the capacity to be human.

-Lawrence

And I do not want to descend... No one can seem to touch me here. I hardly touch myself, but impassively, as a bird cleans its wings.

-Holden

The world is in constant change. Not flux. I don't believe in fancy terms.

-Prophetboy

Your dog-like prophets lie around and dream. Oh, how they like to sleep.

-Jay Dylan the Town Shrinky

I'm just like Pearl Cream for Oriental women.

-Lawrence

There's a party in my mouth and everybody's coming.

-Snake Eyes

Daaaaaaaamn-skippy.

-Sugardaddy

I like form-fitting jeans and a nice sweater on a girl. I like her to look like she's made an effort for me.

-Sugardaddy

I will never look at wonder bras in quite the same way again.

-the dark penguin

The fact that none of this seems strange should seem very strange. But it doesn't. Except argumentatively.

-Shtuffy

I felt so bad. I still do. In fact, I just started.

-Lawrence

There stands to reason some reasoning to be done. It seems simple enough when the talking is begun, but the fact that consideration was initially required denotes difficulty in completion of the judgment.

-Kees

Yeah, well, your whole life is one, big, really lame masturbation joke.

-Perspective

I think you'll die someday... alone, in a study, quietly, from having no hope.

-Man Chi Chi

Since I'm bouncing around anyway, I'll continue to with poise and erratic dignity.

-THE LOVE WARRIOR

Okay, boss.

-harrison

Little birds, how come you don't french fry when you sit up there?

-Man Chi Chi

Love is the answer, baby. Any questions?

-the dark penguin

Are there those, on the edge of your world, who brush fingers with yours, who dream and hope and are silent... like you?

-Jongen Valentino

Well, first I'd ask your parents if I could have your stuff. Then I'd hope The Dark Penguin would come and consume your soul.

-Young Frank, M.D.

What the world promised us is not ours for the promising.

-Ian

I come of strong people. One day, perhaps, I'll be one myself.

-Lawrence

You have to understand... People, they just float through your life.

-CD Ashley

I am a Ninja, I feel no pain.

-Ewok

You know what? You have snake eyes. I hate snake eyes. My mother hates snake eyes, too.

-Queen Enigma

Well, that's just plain good-times-great-oldies.

-The Globetrotter

You complain like a lawyer over the hardship of investing wisely, while some of us would like to have the dilemma of deciding whether red wine or white wine with their meal of garbage rinds.

-The Visible Stalker

Well, it's like the Bedouin (who values himself only in his sheep) who had a brand new BMW.

-Gray Interloper

You're sorry? I don't need your sorrow. Just tell me it'll never happen again.

-Billy Pythagoras

Love is like cake. I like making it with your mom.

-The Brass Duck

You're reserved with your words. For the most part this is wise, but every now and then your mouth and mind compromise.

-Jay Dylan the Town Shrinky

But what does it MEAN? Oh, that's a good one. Even the chicken was never quite certain why he unintentionally managed to make bad joke history.

-Kees

Am I powerful in my howling hunger, or is life always
safest behind the sights of a rifle?

-Jongen Valentino

I don't care. Tell them whatever you want. (...Except the
truth.)

-Snake Eyes

We could always shave your underneath.

-CD Ashley

Hell hath no fury like that of a woman born.

-Agent Peludo

I think the purpose of life is to live it.

-Ian

My heart's breaking down for something; my heart's folding
out to you. These darts are laced with noises; these noises
are sounds for you.

-Jay Dylan the Town Schrinky

Lady knowledge, you are always showing a little leg from
the corner just beyond, then slipping away.

-Holden

Nothing quite like softly professing your love over a
cheese coney at Sonic.

-Lawrence

And I hate you like I cannot remember hating, with the
knowledge that it is hating me.

-The Visible Stalker

Leroy was the sort of guy who would step on a cat just so
he could feel bad.

-Kees

Forget Truth and Justice. All we need is the American Way.

-Ian