



*the 7th collection in the
Words Once Spoken
series*

Company of the Mantis,
1997

loosening the cracks

You are the Molotov Bitch.

-Thezbian

It's one of those watching sort of movies.

-Your Jackal

The banquet served to unite the dead assassins once again.

-Your Jackal

I wonder if we're going to have a lot of snake dicks left around.

-Dencoze

There's a little gay man in all of us.

-Perspective

The tidal wave of my complacency has just come crashing to shore.

-The Queensburry Catcher

Maybe he has inhibitions in his pocket.

-Your Jackal

We've got some pretty rough girls on our floor.

-Sunshine

After I have sex, I have so much energy, I just want to go do some housecleaning or something.

-Betty

I'm all about easy access.

-Rainthorns

I am what rests beneath your flesh, ready to rise without warning and tear you all asunder.

-Ian

It's never been about ordering a sandwich to me!

-Ewok

I'm not even going to stop to say hello, I'm just going to whomp ya.

-Gaea

I lost my shoes and landed on my face.

-Beenie Weenie

No! Gangbusters, man!! Let it be fisticuffs if it may.

-The Queensburry Catcher

Sometimes sleeping with a stuffed animal is better than a woman.

-Perspective

A long walk over a short pier, this is what is given.
Better to walk with eyes level. Better to hold the presence
of mind at bay.

-Ian

Well, thank God for human error and job security.

-Lawrence

It's raining caulking in here.

-Gwok

Nothing's ever done gently in this family.

-THE LOVE WARRIOR

The only reminder I have of the bad times are the nearly
invisible lines across my arm, traces of brown beneath a
deepening tan.

-Nomad

It is a rare woman you kiss who does not warrant a poem;
Yet there comes the sweetness of the Oblivion.

-Ian

And, well, the slaves were a funky bunch.

-Thezbian

My problem is the inside of my head's a big jungle but I
just have a small machete.

-The Queensburry Catcher

Tell her she's pretty any way you turn her.

-Monkeyboy Floyd the Screw-tailed Shrimp

It's cheesecake, you bastard! Of course it's rich!

-His Graciousest

He tries to beat up her image to fool his own mirror.

-Ian

I am not a Sani-wipe.

-THE LOVE WARRIOR

I have the need to both be in something bigger than myself and to be as far away from that as possible. I don't think that is unusual.

-Nomad

I suffer from guilty indifference.

-The Queensburry Catcher

It's kind of get-your-funk-on-real-hard.

-Thezbian

You just settle down or I'll have to turn the water hose on ya.

-Gwok

They're awfully groovalicious.

-Thezbian

There are some Bohemians out there who would pay to rent a dog to walk.

-The Queensburry Catcher

Ravage me gently.

-The Watcher

Funny the way some of the silliest things can be so deeply imbedded in you.

-Ian

Just like a damned chicken hawk, huh?

-Agent Peludo

But how many seagulls would you expect to find in the middle of the continent?

-Nomad

He always had to be different. He was the kind of guy who would drive off out of the sunset.

-the dark penguin

It was Bittermanspeak, a litany of crap recited over something as meaningless as a carbonated beverage but really meant as some sort of parallel to something else entirely, say a jilted relationship.

-Ian

I'm not picking her nose. She doesn't have my kind of boogers.

-Agent Peludo

I'll just stay home and play with my native's navel.

-Miss Construed

There is something haunting about a silent plant.

-the dark penguin

Your dog's name is Blowjob?

-Mizz Rogers

I don't have time to drive. All I do is sit at work.

-Bipressual

I'm the sort of guy who dreams about becoming the FFA president before being a member or even knowing what it is.

-Lawrence

I'm never natural with chicks. I'm supernatural.

-The Queensburry Catcher

Distance always draws us closer.

-Ian

I know this sounds bitter. It is. But it is with understanding (believe me) and sympathy.

-Nomad

I have to respect my girlfriend. She drives me around.

-Tucson

She emanated a cruel and whimsical malice.

-THE LOVE WARRIOR

I have a conversational fetish towards gay Asians.

-The Queensburry Catcher

The Big Dog barks and we listen.

-Positively Proofed

Paging all dolphins: Flipper, please dial 291 please.

-Straightlace

Ya'll are gonna hafta take some beans home.

-Gwok

You just wiggle with it and just everything comes out all right.

-Mistress of the Grand Polka

He's trying to ween me off of excellence.

-Straightlace

That's just another thing to look out for with a particularly devious hugger.

-Agent Peludo

It is a lonely and frisky life I lead.

-The Watcher

I tell you, these jobs are like old girlfriends. You remember them all. Some not good, but you remember them all.

-Shavenrose the Finder

I get around the global block.

-Nomad

What, I'm not ripe enough to eat yet?

-The Wily Accountant

If you're an Athlete, I mean if you do it your whole life, it's about the Competition.

-Positively Proofed

I often enjoy the spontaneity of an action more than the action itself.

-Nomad

The only thing that could make me happier is to have this served to me in a frosty mug by a beautiful rootbeer wench.

-The Wily Accountant

He had a good slam-per-sentence ratio.

-THE LOVE WARRIOR

That man is a knee-jerk reaction upon us all.

-Straightlace

You have talent for the cooljacking industry.

-The Queensburry Catcher

I go out of my way to have a little personality.

-Big Johnson

If you wait another year to put your kid into kindergarten, he'll have better chances at sports scholarships in high school.

-Kiddoc

When you wear dresses like that, the world is your gynecologist.

-Nobebe

You can't spend all your time watching the Cholesterol of Life.

-The Queensburry Catcher

Lightning strikes only long enough to blind and thrill and leave one to wonder if it had ever even been. And only the thunder follows.

-Nomad

Take care of you.

-Gaea