

an open space



the 8th collection in the
Words Once Spoken
series

Company of the Mantis,
1997

I don't like my car being affected by things outside my responsibility, like Acts of God or other people's ignorance.

-SOBAH

I am MISTER Ball Rolling.

-Nomad

I instigate no ruckii.

-the dark penguin

Everyone who comes into this house gets a little frisky.

-Miss Construed

Boxers are like chicks, clingy but not supportive.

-Perspective

You leave a door wide open, you can't expect somebody not to come right in.

-Gaea

I wish I were Elvis. I'd be dead, but man, I'd be rich.

-Uberman

I'm looking forward to totally not walking very much.

-Jay Dylan the Town Shrinky

I have good Catholic credentials. I could invite over the Jesuit Boys Club.

-The Queensburry Catcher

My horse pees neatly.

-The Mad Madagascan

I am so much James Earl Jones.

-Nomad

The University is like the Church: It's full of so much shit, but I love it.

-Great Wise Open

I was going to sleep, but I thought, How often do you have people in peach robes dancing and feasting on your ceiling?

-Inquester

If I brought all my intellectual assets to bear... It would hurt.

-THE LOVE WARRIOR

I'm getting a little frisky. Everybody duck!

-the dark penguin

I think I feel a fetish coming on.

-Beenie Weenie

I'm desanitized! Lick my finger!

-The Brass Duck

Well, you can change your shirt even if you can't change your underwear.

-Homina John

I had two girl scouts under me.

-THE LOVE WARRIOR

She is pretty, even if she is blonde. She has a young, porcelain-pixie face and a to-die-for Canadian accent.

-Nickel Weed

Help! I'm being refuted!

-Belle

I'm de-socializing.

-Nomad

You get my hair, I'll get your curtain.

-SOBAH

It's all illusion, baby. It's just how you fabricate it.

-Nomad

I miss Pokchi. I would eat his fish now.

-Mother Theresa

Oh, Job! I've heard wonderful things about that being a horrible book.

-Nomad

I'm a self-indulgent dancer. I don't need you.

-The Queensburry Catcher

It's so startling to step on a nail. You don't know what happened for awhile... It sucks.

-Jay Dylan the Town Shrinky

It's just that horse germs and people germs are two entirely different things.

-The Mad Madagascan

It was a great little movie about love, fish, women, and dj's. Need I say more?

-The Queensburry Catcher

Oh, that? That's just the Hari-Krishnas running around up there. They're a bit rowdier than the Mennonites.

-Inquester

I could be safe in any Western World country... Maybe not Prague; I'd be set up in jail perhaps, on the meal program.

-The Queensburry Catcher

It's all very paradoxical. Because you live in common, you come out unique.

-Great Wise Open

You're just trying to take advantage of the whole 4 a.m. factor.

-The Queensburry Catcher

I don't have to go to church. I live in one.

-Inquester

What, is this guy a bagpipe-tease or what?

-Nomad

We are all equal in the eyes of the toilet.

-the dark penguin

This class is like Geraldo.

-Cultural Nonentity

You're so in the closet, you're decorating.

-McMan

I was anally motivated.

-THE LOVE WARRIOR

Hon, when you get that right, come back and say it again.

-McMan

If nothing else, I am always a diversion.

-vuurcatalyst

Who needs drugs when you have love?

-OralFix

Castro is cool. He quit smoking, you know.

-Prophetboy

Large breasts are starting to grow on me.

-vuurcatalyst

You may have a kernel of truth there, but I'm eating the whole goddammed popcorn, so no little kernel is going to make a difference.

-The Queensburry Catcher

He is eager, no, almost desperate, to make certain that we realize there is more to the world than America. Well, I do. There's Canada, for example.

-Nickel Weed

She was an emotional accident waiting to happen on the road.

-The Queensburry Catcher

The beauty of it is that the triumphant form is whatever I desire.

-The Queensburry Catcher

I look around and think everybody is crazy but you and me. And sometimes I wonder about you.

-Monkeyboy Floyd the Screw-tailed Shrimp

I'm at the top end of the ugly stick, you know what I mean?

-The Queensburry Catcher

I'm instant, huh?

-Nomad

Don't keep bugging us or we'll go postal on you.

-Johnny's Cultist

You're the Prince of Preposterous Proposals! You should be caged.

-The Queensburry Catcher

In the eyes of love there is no tomorrow. Eternity begins today.

-SOBAH

Dude. There are like, four. Pancakes.

-Jay Dylan the Town Shrinky

I'd make a great stalker. And it's in my nature, too. I kind of have to repress it, though. It makes people uncomfortable.

-vuurcatalyst

It's not impossible to get guns here, it's just not like the States, where you can go pick up a handgun like a slushee.

-The Queensburry Catcher

I'm a truck in touch with my feminine side.

-Perspective

You know, you'd be the kind of guy who, if you'd ever played sports, would've snapped guys' asses with the towel.

-The Queensburry Catcher

I was sitting cross-legged reciting my mantra: "I am such a bad Buddhist, I am such a bad Buddhist."

-folkstress

Your mother wants you to see the world... In a trench coat.

-Agent Peludo

You couldn't kick my ass if somebody handed you the foot.

-Nomad

My vulnerability is like a ripe apple.

-The Queensburry Catcher

Are we going to stand around and argue about whose is longer, or are we going to rent one?

-Agent Peludo

You speak the truth. You've been writing the Bible, I see.

-The Queensburry Catcher

Some things are beautiful in moderation. Western Kansas, for example.

-Nomad

You are a tough substitute for your answering machine.

-The Queensburry Catcher

I've always wanted to say something was in my other pants and mean it.

-Jay Dylan the Town Shrinky

If she can put out, I put up.

-The Queensburry Catcher

Pain is inevitable, misery is optional.

-Gazebo

Even my odors are complex.

-Nomad

That's the problem. You've got too many excuses, and none of them are good.

-Belle

When I look at you from the nose up, I can't decide: your mom, or Edward Scissorhands?

-Perspective

I don't know how I feel about it when a urinal smells like Fruity Pebbles.

-Nomad

I wouldn't want you to do that. It would be stupid. In fact, if you did it, you might die of stupidity.

-Belle

I am sorry, wild spirit, but a movie was as close as I got Memphis.

-Nomad

Raw is beautiful.

-The Queensburry Catcher

Make me a virgin, baby.

-Miss Construed

How can you keep saying "the fact of the matter is" when you have to renunciate every statement I refute?

-Ian

The fact of the matter is that Catholics are good and Mormons are money-pinching bastards.

-The Queensburry Catcher

Immolation is the sincerest form of flammery.

-Mungsta

Exscrews me, do I know you?

-SOBAH

I've been living in the shadow of the gay community all my life.

-The Queensburry Catcher

These are the sort of people who come out at night in a town like this. Who are these people when the sun is shining?

-Ian

I had some business to take care of on the dance floor.

-The Queensburry Catcher

I'd shoot you in Arkansas.

-Nomad

Are you looking for David Koresh? I know he's dead, but are you looking for him?

-Priscilla

She took the moral subway.

-The Queensburry Catcher

We all operate within flawed institutions.

-Great Wise Open

You're like a little kid on Christmas. Except you're generous!

-The Queensburry Catcher

E-luv, you never stop with the snippets.

-Monick

If I get a gun, I'll shoot you twice.

-The Triangle

The women in my family are very open about their farting.
Or, at least, I am.

-The White Dove

Look, they call the Civil War the War of Northern
Aggression down here, all right?

-Freshly Squeezed

She did what she said she would! Wow. That's courtesy.
That's humanity. And I appreciate that in people.

-vuurcatalyst

We're the Anti-Guys. We're the ones all the girls want,
right here.

-Don Justo Aviso

Hahahahahahahahaha---... I'm trying to figure out if that's
really funny or not.

-Don Justo Aviso

I'd better not, I'm drinking. I mean, I'm driving. I mean,
I may drink, too, but...

-Agent Peludo

I wish I could remember when I became so I could remember
what it was like when I end.

-Nickel Weed

People are crazier than anyone.

-Agent Peludo

God has plausible deniability.

-Slimjim Victim

Yes, OK, but please just remind me again that we don't
believe in God?

-Shafali

We danced tower-to-tower.

-The Queensburry Catcher

Sometimes my hair is like a Doors song.

-the dark penguin

I have Window Envy.

-Inquester

That's the Feast of the Slaughtered Innocents. I don't know if you want to move in that day.

-Brother Habitom

We are not Pop Tart people.

-Shafali

What's her name? Bless you.

-Perspective

I think we are the only men who slap each other on the back for not getting laid.

-Inquester

It's no fun when they throw a fight and no one shows up.

-Wednesdayman

OK, here's the thing that sucks about being friends with you...

-Freshly Squeezed

I'm so glad you're here. Otherwise I wouldn't have a tortilla.

-The White Dove

Look, I'm not going to orgasm unless I'm in there.

-Inquester

Yeah, I just imagine meeting a mother's daughter and having sex with both of them. It wouldn't be incest. They'd just do a little Tune-in-Tokyo with each other.

-SOBAH

You are becoming a regular wildebeast around here.

-Inquester

I'm glad you brought that up...

-The Wildebeast

GOODness.

-Don Justo Aviso

Death is against my philosophy of life.

-Shafali

The only thing that separates me from you is you have a smoother car.

-vuurcatalyst

You'll see jealousy out the raja here.

-Wednesdayman

I think your head is shaped like a heart.

-Shafali

Don't try to be right. It doesn't suit you.

-Nomad

Uh-oh. More boynoises.

-Miss Construed

We decided we were too young for each other.

-Nomad

It's five-a.m. good.

-Shafali

My lovelife is more like the Coliseum than Circus Maximus... Like being chased around by a bunch of psychotic animals.

-Flying Saber

I'm covered in the chocolate sauce of self-indulgence.

-The Queensburry Catcher

This music has no soul I can relate to. It melts together and then doesn't go anywhere.

-Nomad

Look, this community -- it's a club, not a gang.

-Tiger

I really enjoyed your snake.

-The Wildebeast

So here I am, a catechist by day.

-The Queensburry Catcher

Son, you got a bear on your nose.

-the dark penguin

I want to smell.

-The Wildebeast

I didn't ever talk about it. I went like a squirrel. I just took a nut here, took a nut there and I was gone.

-Latasha

This is just another Tibetan love song.

-SOBAH

Why should we be shy about how cute we were as babies? It's all we've got.

-Shafali

My teddybear, Ned, he's been through a lot. A drunk Indian almost cut his head off one night.

-The Brass Duck

In theory, I'm a hero. In practice, I'm a theory.

-The Queensburry Catcher

Hey, your eyes were closed, I saw an opportunity.

-The Brass Duck

I've never seen your bra before. Or at least, not the color of it.

-vuurcatalyst

I find disemboweling rather amusing at times.

-Gaea

Slap it to me, give me your but clause.

-vuurcatalyst

Oooo, I like that adjective. Tell me what it means.

-Nomad

Well, I think we're planning on having a good relationship.
-Inquester

I really endure triumph.
-The Queensburry Catcher

Aaaaa! He was wearing his grape smugglers!
-SOBAH

Brother, you make a fine woman.
-Don Justo Aviso

Just look at it this way, you'll be so much more finished
when you're done.
-Nomad