

# THE SCENT OF TRUTH



*the 10th collection in the*  
***Words Once Spoken***  
*series*

Company of the Mantis,  
1998

Who am I, spinning?

**-Nomad**

Never let your parents have children.

**-Darker Exist**

Well, it's an amber light right now. It's like when you knock on somebody's door. Sometimes you have to wait for them to answer. If you just bust in, she might call the cops on you.

**-The Existential King of Concrete**

That pisses me off like a race horse.

**-The Existential King of Concrete**

As it is, I now have a soft, moody, low-lit but energetic memory to color my Pig Canvas.

**-the dark penguin**

It's not dinner conversation. The microwave is passé.

**-Gwok**

That's alright. I'll just talk to someone unattractive, who'll be nice to me.

**-vuurcatalyst**

I can lift stuff, I just can't carry it.

**-Jay Dylan the Town Schrinky**

You're so P.C., you recycle your waste.

**-The Azure Follicle**

Ah, yes, nothing like ox's blood. Errr... err... Marinara sauce.

**-Agent Peludo**

And so I got on my belly to stalk the goose.

**-Agent Peludo**

But you'd do it in a restaurant. And you'd GET sweaty.

**-The Azure Follicle**

Yeah, he brings out the Judaism in everybody.

**-Nomad**

I am glad you have a dog now so that you can love someone without feeling uncomfortable around him.

**-Nomad**

Charcoal's everybody's color.

**-The Queen of Bean**

I don't mind being wrong, it's just being so damned consistent about it that gets me.

**-The Azure Follicle**

Gimme some luvin. Just be in touch with my humanity.

**-SOBAH**

We are helpless before the onslaught of the mundane.

**-THE LOVE WARRIOR**

Let me tell you, buddy, I'd rather read a dictionary than a Bible anyday.

**-Inquester**

Yeah, but she might fuck somebody else and think of you, though.

**-Grill Sergeant**

I am truly an individual who enjoyed my mother's uterus.

**-Simone**

You'd listen to your daughter if she knew what she was talking about. And someday I'll know what I'm talking about.

**-Nickel Weed**

Up! What? Have you seen my list? It goes on for... Sentences.

**-Gwok**

Oh no! Why are you doing gang signs at the dinner table?

**-Gwok**

Money doesn't buy happiness. But it buys the illusion of happiness. And if you buy enough illusions...

**-THE TRUTH**

**CONSULTANT**

I used to get this kind of ecstasy from quesadillas.

**-The Existential**

**King of Concrete**

I know, I'm a freaky bastard. Deal with it. I do.

**-Lawrence**

You know, they may not be rich, but they have some good trauma.

**-Mother Minnie**

**Mouse**

It's real Mexican. To the point that there's a baby crying in the next room.

**-THE TRUTH**

**CONSULTANT**

You smell faintly reminiscent of smoke and strawberries.

**-Inquester**

You're like a Kafka character. (Man, I thought it was just literature.)

**-The Existential**

**King of Concrete**

You don't have to grill in camouflage. The vegetarians don't kill things.

**-Inquester**

It's my chocolate time of the month.

**-Simone**

She may have mentioned something about getting sick in the heart about me in a deliberately casual way.

**-Lawrence**

It's like the freedom of speech; you use it but you don't abuse it. That's my philosophy on peppers.

**-The Existential**

**King of Concrete**

Well, I wasn't spreading  
prose butter.

**-Lawrence**

You guys wanna have some  
fun?... No, wait, nothing  
sexual... Let's go to the  
Natural History Museum and  
check out the holotypes.

**-Iguana Girl**

When I'm eating, I don't  
know you.

**-The Existential  
King of Concrete**

I just know about using  
that kiwi on myself that  
one time when I was six.

**-Latasha**

It is better to be in  
trouble than to be ignored.

**-Agent Peludo**

Gambling is a recreation  
for the math-impaired.

**-THE TRUTH  
CONSULTANT**

When the temperature drops  
to zero, it gets cold. And  
I don't have to be there to  
know it.

**-Gwok**

It's just that sometimes  
you odn't want to admit  
those things. It's like  
admitting, Oh, I'm such a  
Hopkins.

**-Simone**

No confessions. That's not  
my style. I grew out of it.

**-The Ukrainian  
Viewpoint**

Or you'll what? Open up a  
can of super-deluxe Whup-  
Tron on me? I don't think  
so.

**-Nomad**

Those boys. There are no  
boundaries to your self-  
satisfaction.

**-The Ukrainian  
Viewpoint**

(Use Me As You Please.) I  
like it.

**-The Existential  
King of Concrete**

Bathrooms should be a fun  
place!

**-The White Dove**

Oh, sure, I turn my back,  
and all of a sudden it's,  
"Throw raisins at the white  
guy!"

**-Inquester**

I don't find vomit funny,  
for example.

**-THE TRUTH  
CONSULTANT**

The content of an exam, mm,  
sometimes does weird things  
to people.

**-Kirk Goodlife**

The questions were a  
helluva lot of fun. We just  
didn't come up with any  
answers.

**-THE TRUTH  
CONSULTANT**

Maybe with women, the best rise to the top. Evidently that's not always so with men.

**-Gwok**

My happiness seems all too dependent upon my perceived ability to tackle the universe.

**-Nomad**

Hm, I think what I need right now is a warm, cozy fire and a big, black butt plug and I'd be set.

**-vuurcatalyst**

Well, some people, in today's vernacular, would be "totally creeped out."

**-THE TRUTH**

**CONSULTANT**

You don't have to know what you want to do for the rest of your life. But it's probably about time to decide where to start.

**-THE TRUTH**

**CONSULTANT**

Don't stay somewhere and have a big pity party. Be a victor.

**-Big Woman on**

**Campus**

Some people try to make a political "hey" out of this.

**-No Hard Mule**

I think I'm lactose intolerant. And drinking milk only seems to make it worse.

**-THE LOVE WARRIOR**

Hey, while you're down there, could you help me with something? Could you pull the underwear outta my butt?

**-de la Arkbed**

Hey, what's the deal, man? They're calling my integrity into question. I could go in and just grab a tree.

**-The Existential**

**King of Concrete**

Hey. You know what? The capillaries on your eyelids look like lightning bolts.

**-de la Arkbed**

You were born to be a sprocket.

**-Manhandler**

No, I wasn't masturbating, I was simply fluffing my pubes.

**-The White Dove**

Wh wants to see an open toilet looking up at you, anyway?

**-Inquester**

Go ahead and chastise me; I will take it under consideration.

**-Nomad**

Actually, you should know this about me. There are a great many things which I know nothing about. Katamendhu is one of them.

**-Inquester**

Yeah, that's my only constellation.

**-Inquester**

I figured best just not to make the money funky.

**-Mona Ballcap**

You can tell so much about people by the garbage.

**-The Existential King of Concrete**

I just can't go with pop tarts. I've tried. They just don't do it for me, man.

**-The Existential King of Concrete**

I would like to be a reptile once in awhile. You only have to eat once every two weeks. And you even get to eat rats.

**-The Existential King of Concrete**

What does the name Mike mean? Godlike? I'd rather be kingly. Who wants to be schizophrenic and invisible?

**-Inquester**

It's my favorite holiday of the year because it legitimizes the turning of the world upside down.

**-Kirk Goodlife**

Everything's relative. It's the '60s. Let's all gather at the river, hold hands and sing hymns.

**-THE TRUTH CONSULTANT**

In a Great Books course, there is the claim that these individual books capture the essence of an age. That claim is problematic.

**-Kirk Goodlife**

I guess I thought it was more important to marry the right person than to marry the person with the right pedigree.

**-Gwok**

The sage advice of the window washer is, Don't step back to admire your work.

**-Radio-Empowered**

WOAH-WOAH, hey boss, chill down, Waco... Texas. Hey, Hey, What's the deal here? I think you are ready to marry. --Wrongo, Buffalo Breath.

**-Chorito Brothers in Cacophony**

I guess I'm old-fashioned enough to think that a man has to be ready enough to propose on his own or its bad for the marriage.

**-Gwok**

Radical doubting at his level requires a high degree of leisure. (It's class-specific.)

**-Kirk Goodlife**

I'm going to let it incubate in my mind.

**-Simone**

It'll choke like the big dog. Memphis expression. Ever seen a big dog choke? It's not pretty.

**-THE TRUTH**

**CONSULTANT**

Oh my God. You are a sneeze swallower. I don't know if we can still be friends.

**-Nomad**

It's so good to talk to you. You are intoxicating.

**-Simone**

You know what? You are infectious.

**-Gaea**

I stopped building TV stations. I was afraid I would lose my soul. (I never watch it.)

**-THE TRUTH**

**CONSULTANT**

I smell what you are breathing.

**-The Mexican Danish**

Don't marry someone you can live with. Marry someone you cannot live without.

**-Lofted Power**

That's what people say. But they keep feeding me different flavors and nothing happens.

**-The Existential King of Concrete**

He is my drug of choice.

**-Louise's Throw-out**

I never had a Barbie. I just had a monkey named Zip.

**-Chi Speaker**

If she says no, where are you? Just where you started.

**-The Professional Player**

I got no problem eating babe. Oops. I gotta go.

**-Nomad**

She's full of it - but love this time.

**-The Existential King of Concrete**

The greater the amount of your life that is monopolized by activity rewarded almost solely by money, the more you spend your small amounts of free time monopolized spending it.

**-Ian**

Well, hogwash my ass and call me Sparky!

**-Nomad**

Architects are weird. They  
don't sleep, they build  
fucking Barbie doll houses.

**-The Existential  
King of Concrete**

I am a prime candidate for  
a mid-life crisis. If I  
last that long.

**-Nomad**

Every breath a frontier.

**-Gaycynic**

My father told me, I would  
rather you be a prostitute  
than teach at KU.

**-Mama Marketing**

I would like some women in  
my water.

**-Inquester**

Life is full of adventure.  
All you have to do is root  
it out.

**-Nomad**

You know me. I was snooping  
around the backwaters of  
her mind.

**-The Queensburry  
Catcher**

For good times and happy  
daze, I'm the Kool Kid to  
Kall.

**-The Queensburry  
Catcher**