

# BEYOND THE LANDING



*the 11th collection in the*  
***Words Once Spoken***  
*series*  
Company of the Mantis, 1999

Happy Birthday. Just remember, no matter how young you feel, you'll always be the dominant male. Er... I mean, you'll always be older than me. **-Perspective**

I'm just cutting out the middle man and passing on the savings to my mouth. **-THE LOVE WARRIOR**

Oh, oh (with all these "yeah, babies") I'm in some kind of hell, I know I am. **-Gwok**

Mom, don't come home. They're celebrating New Years and you might get shot. **-The White Dove**

Oh, that's the way it goes. I was getting it confused with the way it doesn't. **-Nickel Weed**

In Vino Veritas. **-Agent Peludo**

Man, I wish I could be around for the cataclysm. **-Nomad**

It takes the three-holer to a whole new level. **-Perspective**

We'll just stop right here and no one will ever know I'm a lady. **-Gwok**

It's bad enough to get involved in dependent, twisted relationships with losers in real life, but to fantasize about it? **-Nomad**

I figured she wouldn't stay a maiden long if she was all that. **-Gwok**

You know, you don't pop like you used to. **-Mr. Java**

Don't grasp my darling by the waist. **-Miss Construed**

I can only say this so many times before I start repeating myself. **-Miss Construed**

Swedish girls think of Swedish guys like a Big Mac - dull, but you always know what you are going to get. **-One Sharp Fin**

It's a great world we live in. Well, it's a great world some of us live in. **-Ian**

Anyhow, the hamster in my head is getting tired of running around the fortuneless wheel of chickitude. **-The Queensbury Catcher**

I think I'm doomed to fall for ambiguously energetic women -- are you touching me cuz you like me, or just cuz you are a toucher? **-The Queensbury Catcher**

Screw the butter! **-Underwater Welder**

It is important to know: for some, the gift of a coffee maker is a commitment to things they aren't ready to give. **-Ian**

At least one ravenous man gets fed tonight, he said, and feasted on the succulent blaze of bell peppers. **-the dark penguin**

Listen, I am an adventurer. Let's put it this way, I have used a map and a compass in suburbia. **-Nomad**

You envisage a hero within yourself where before a person was. You speak of yourself in third person and dizzy yourself with thought and choice of beverage. **-Ian**

Yeah, I'd love to have a boss with that accent. Not a girlfriend. Just a boss that'd order me over at night to her house to give her head. **-Cherny Chesky**

A German? A Brazilian, a Swede, a Czech, of course. A French Muslim, a Mexican, a Russian, an Irani, okay. A Canadian, well, who's going to mind? But a German? Who would have thought? **-Nomad**

Sometimes the norm of drinking is as much a social lubricant as the alcohol itself. **-Ian**

I have earned, despite and in fact because of my stupidity, a good night's sleep. **-Nomad**

He has happy garlic within him.  
**-the dark penguin**

I once thought stupid and determined people were just stupid. Having been stupid but determined, I have decided that it is noble.  
**-Nomad**

It is important to know: for some, salvation comes on the bathroom floor. **-Ian**

In this capsule of truth, I will tell you, and you will know, but you will pretend not to, that I am attracted to you. But legally I am restricted to other. **-vuurcatalyst**

What kind of underwear do I like her to have? Well, nothing too whitey-tighty, or something with little colored flowers on it. That shit will make me feel like I'm with my mom or a little girl. It doesn't have to be anything super sexy, just something that makes me feel like I'm with a WOMAN.  
**-Under Discourse**

Don't be a player-hater, baby.  
**-Avante Bronx**

I love it when people speak as if they were writing (i.e., using parentheses and abbreviated transitions.) **-Nomad**

Have fun. I'll stop by in Prague when my Panzers take me that way.  
**-THE LOVE WARRIOR**

Look, everybody has their buttons to push, you know? For some of us, they just happen to include things like Mikes, Cyprus and aerospace engineers. **-Nomad**

The mayor is probably hanging off of the top of city hall crying, "Send all the virgins to me to wax my loins!" **-Cherny Chesky**

It is somewhat difficult to hold onto any sense of the sacred amidst arguing couples, the strobe of amateur photography, a priest receiving confessions behind a glass window and the shrill summons of cell phones. **-Nomad**

My head is a jumble of tongues.  
**-the dark penguin**

Red wine, she said, soothes the soul inside, while white creates pleasant and festive aggravation. Not so, I decided afterward. Perhaps it is the company you keep more than the color you drink. **-Ian**

Ah, well, chicks, if I've said it before I'll say it again, they're an ambiguous bunch, feeling their way around the objectivity of my manhood. **-The Queensbury Catcher**

The history of the world is the history of chasing money. **-Ian**

Ah, yes, well, there I go again, carrying on the canon of Western thought. I think I'll go carry it right on to the bathroom. I'll be right back. **-Nomad**

After 42 days without sun, you start to think that AK-47 is a really neat collection of letters and numbers. **-Dorothy Heart**

It's a cheap place to learn the hard knocks lessons of alcohol consumption. **-Nomad**

The Czechs think that the best vegetable is the one that goes through the pig. **-Ucitelka the Jazyk Mistress**

God, I love the smell of an oncoming subway train. **-Kraska**

It is through the reading of good writing that one is at once inspired to write and simultaneously discouraged from doing so. **-Nomad**

It's just another example of rich people having built a temple to their own egos. **-Ian**

Budapest is like Chicago: it's big, it's dirty and it's fun. **-Madison Linguist**

So this is the new Bohemia. Hmmm. Somehow I thought it would be more exclusive. **-Nomad**

Listen, you may be a serial killer from Massachusetts. But if you come here and say you're a ballerina, and you can dance to prove it, you're a fucking ballerina. **-Interior Missouri**

Perhaps it is easy to think the world is brimming with opportunity and centers around one's self when one was born with all the advantages and everything works out to one's favor. **-Ian**

I was pretty down... Not in the "I really want that chick" sense, but rather in the "there has been some damage to the structural integrity of my ego" sense. **-The Queensburry Catcher**

Maybe this is a place where people with colorful hopes and sad realities come to find a way. **-Nomad**

So I went to New York to become a starving artist, but I didn't have enough money to starve. **-Cat Clinger**

Break glass in case of fire. (Or confusing e-mails.) **-The Brass Duck**

Ahhh. The beauty of a good mocha. Has it been so long? How could one forget? Like forgetting the Island of Transcendence in a good sneeze or orgasm. **-Nomad**

It's just like Geneva. I get people coming up to me off the street, telling me their life stories because I am behind a desk. **-Cat Clinger**

The rabbis aren't exactly holier. They're just kind of the ones with life's instruction manual. **-Weenie the Learned**

I'm building a tree house. Not your run of the mill tree house, but rather a culmination of vernacular structure, coupled with phenomenological design, and just a dash of spatial transition. **-Roark**

Why don't you write a paper on the protocols of the Elders of McDonalds? **-Cat Clinger**

There is a saying that if you question God in Catholicism, you are a heretic, but if you question God in Judaism, you are a rabbi. **-Weenie the Learned**

This is the sort of country where you can't even get a non-smoking section in your own bathroom while taking a shower. **-Nomad**

I just had a look at the rest of my life, and it doesn't look very well paid. (So drink! Drink up!) **-Nomad**

Urine will find a way. **-the dark penguin**

I am new to smoking. In fact, I haven't even started. **-Nomad**

As they say in the Czech Republic, time on the internet is valuable, so keep in touch, hang tough, hang ten, hasta la vista, kill them commies in a cesspool of hell, don't count your chickens before you send in your taxes and I'm outta here. **-Dr. Lovegum**

It can be an asset to never stop living life as if you are a tourist, even in your own space. **-Nomad**

And he said, well, you could always keep going to school and get your masters in business. And I said, what kind of madman do you think I am? Not that kind, I'm not. **-Nomad**

My darling, I fear I must bear to you the most sorrowful news. Our midnight haven to Middle Eastern fast food, warmth and comfort has gone dark. Probably by method of some monstrous public health edict or other such prejudice.

**-the dark penguin**

Death is kind of universal, I think. **-Weenie the Learned**

Often when I am filling out my tax forms, I think, why not run my family as a limited liability company? I would get more benefits from the government. **-Doctor Koruna**

Neon just doesn't go out of style. (The signs, I mean.)

**-the dark penguin**

Somewhere in all of this, spring arrived. I never saw it coming because of all the false starts. But now I will have a Prague spring of my own. **-Nomad**

Now I'm slim, trim and ready to give in. **-Nomad**

Why should I go to sleep? I would only have to wake up again. **-Nomad**

Too many white people dancing in Europe. **-Avante Bronx**

He is 62; so a young politician by Italian or Japanese standards.

**-The Questioning Diplomat**

I'll be back on the international streamline this fall, digging into the flesh of cultural ambiguity and whatnot. **-The Queensburry Catcher**

It was a little strange. I resigned, they took it well, then they fired me. **-Nomad**

I'm sure I'll miss school, like a prisoner of war misses his torturer, or like a pig misses his/her butcher, or like your momma misses... never mind. **-Perspective**

I don't care how beautiful she is, how warm and friendly and genuine - - the second she pinches her lower lip, dabs a hunk of Skoal in there and stuffs it down with her tongue -- Let's face it, she loses points.

**-The Watcher**

Disintegration is contagious. **-Ian**

Skinheads sleeping in your living room at 5:50 in the morning is absolutely not my department.

**-the dark penguin**

It was a complicated bit of topographical arrangement.

**-De Afrikaner**

Editor's note: 'Your Momma' in this case refers to a greater societal entity, rather than a specific figure of maternity. Such as to say, 'your momma' when there is no other appropriate response.

**-Dr. Lovegum**

Rob me of my pessimism and then what do I have? **-Nomad**

There I was, perched atop this fine rock, having my morning constitutional, when around the bend trotted 20 girl scouts.

**-De Afrikaner**

Whoa, hold it, listen to me. I have lived the Life of Riley, and this here ain't it. **-Nomad**

So, girls who make love to fall in love -- that's maybe 2%. If you meet one, give her my number.

**-The Merry Czech Republican**

Positive thinking is not bad.

**-Bright Studentka**

So, you know me, not much on length -- when it comes to letterwriting.

**-Dr. Lovegum**

Sometimes you have to go to Prague's Old Town Square to see Scots in kilts dancing arm in arm to Louisiana blues. **-Nomad**

When I walk there, I look respectfully (ashamedly?) away. Most of them smile and let me pass. Only the most desperate stand in my way and grab at my crotch. **-Nomad**

Sometimes you vie for positioning, sometimes you just listen and ask questions because your curiosity or your desire to be a friend win out over your attraction. Either way, you become The Confidant at 8:01 p.m. or 4 in the morning. **-Nomad**

I'm like flypaper to the most psychotic elements of the fairer sex. **-The Flying Dutchman**

I had my girl's father get my passport stamped without even leaving the country, I saw an eight hundred year old monastery, I plucked strawberries from the patch, and I just emptied an entire clip from a CZ. It's been a good day. **-Nomad**

Don't tell me I'm not dedicated to garage sales. I once got up at three o'clock in the morning and left the country to go to a garage sale. **-Nomad**

Take a deep whiff of this bar of pink soap. This, this, THIS is the smell of communism. **-Barbie the Younger**

I have an irrepressible stomach. **-Nomad**

But fruit is a hidden plural, you see, and there is the problem. **-De Afrikaner**

I'm the sort of person who runs to catch other people's trains. **-Nomad**

Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool. **-The Flying Dutchman**

Being drunk is like viewing life through a live action internet camera -- viewing is in occasional snapshots. **-Nomad**

Krakow's alright, it's just not all it's cracked up to be. **-De Afrikaner**

I don't know exactly what my faults are. But they seem to be overcome for non-North-&-South-American women by my American Englishness. **-Nomad**

I was doing some brilliant haceks last night. **-De Afrikaner**

I sometimes imagine myself as a priest. Then I remember how much I value pre-marital sex and that I'm an atheist at heart. **-Nomad**

This ice cold beer: it isn't heaven, but it's somewhere on the road there. **-De Afrikaner**

In Bohemia, you can hear the ice cream truck from all ends of the valley. **-Nomad**

Kudos to you for the brave consumption of said repellent yogurt. **-the dark penguin**

My dress is starting to be too short (all of a sudden.) **-Kraska**

This has been a message from the Land of Master Lovegum, where the emphasis isn't on killing two birds with one stone, just killing two birds. **-Dr. Lovegum**

He already has my daughter. Why shouldn't he have my swimming suit, too? **-The Good Soldier Zdenek**

I just took a dump in the oldest inn of all Germany. And I feel pretty good about that. **-Nomad**

Munich has a big sky. **-Nomad**

We say that you are living "like God in France." **-Jowly Hondmeester**

There are many beautiful women in Czechoslovakia. Too many.

**-The Dutch Bosnian**

Yes, higher education is good, but listen. A good plumber is hardly to be had anymore. **-Fisher**

Yes, they taste good, but they aren't very healthy no matter how you cook them. They're radioactive. **-Kraska**

Yeah, you're right, we have the same teeth. I guess we're gonna hafta get married. **-Nomad**

Things are pretty quiet at a height of 88 hundred meters. Providing you aren't dive-bombing with a hundred other passengers to your fiery conclusion. **-the dark penguin**

It's hard to be a humanist when you realize you don't really like most people. **-the dark penguin**

Take me to your lederhosen. **-the dark penguin**

So what if someone was a baker, and he just got sick of the dough? **-Fraulein RA**

Are you crazy? Hair is not hair! What kind of language do you speak? **-Kraska**

Yes, it was very nice. We had a fire and then the next morning they gave us a big American breakfast -- you know, with all kinds of food that doesn't go together. **-Kraska**

Ahh, you are going to make an airport! Mnyum. **-Kraska**

Well, also, I didn't want you to think I wasn't slusny. I am slusny, but not too slusny. **-Kraska**

Duration limited with these guys, you know? **-Agent Peludo**

What are you spinning over there... Tires? **-Da Tuttle**

You tried this hydrogenated creamer yet? Mess you up. **-Nomad**

No way. Pinto beans are just not photogenic. **-Inquester**

Some guys are just guys, if you know what I mean. **-Miss Hotsy Totsy Evolutionary Coolness**

The number one attribute in a prospective mate comes down to hygiene. I don't care if you're a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, go wash your under your fingernails. **-Miss Hotsy Totsy Evolutionary Coolness**

I'd believe in God if only I could experience consistent, unassisted mutual orgasm. **-Hrbitov Nightrain**

Pathetic fallacy set the stage for the clasping of our two souls. **-Ian**

Today, death is a knot in my stomach. **-Nomad**

What? She thinks you're too short? Tell her it all equals out horizontally. **-Agent Peludo**

One day I woke up and the whole world just told me to be gay. Of course, I didn't go with it because I had my own agenda, but it was weird. **-Nomad**

A good book has once more become valid. Albeit as a warm refuge for a man steeped in the error and inefficiencies of the world, but valid nonetheless. **-Nomad**

If you keep people apart, you can sell them things to make them feel closer. **-Gaycynic**

Don't underestimate the power of mind worms. **-the dark penguin**

If you have any concerns with the language, just consult some of us clergy. We've got experience. We've been cutting people's throats politely for years. **-Big Ole Presbyt**

You can't own feelings. You have to give love freely and let it go freely. **-Latisha**

I'm like a guy who strolls across a speedy freeway and always manages to get across without a scratch, but then complains about all the exhaust. **-Nomad**

Oh! She got you a globe. How nice. Then you can say, "Well, let's see, I have a girl here, and here, and here..." **-Gwok**

She pays for all our sins -- and I'm runnin' up the tab! **-Majere Mirror**

I look at life like a burglar in a big mansion. You don't want to waste time getting just one big thing. So I grab a lotta little stuff and run. **-Nomad**

He wants a cubicle with a view. **-Perspective**

I'm tired of cooking in darkness, and he showed me the light. **-Miss Construed**

Blood is wetter than marriage. **-Perspective**

It's all tight. **-Nomad**

Four months after living in a world, a guy discovers the word that expresses a custom he had to observe there several times daily. **-Nomad**

I can feel the cold coming on. The call of fall is swallowed by rich evil cold ice love hope death. **-Ian**

Excuse me, but I have to go check on the hops fields. **-The Brass Duck**

The insidious thing about alcohol and the concurrent drunkenness one experiences as a result of its generous consumption is the at-least second or two extra delay of perception to cognition. **-Nomad**

Boy, you're broadcastin' when you should be tunin' in. **-Off the Mark**

The garlic chicken was more fulfilling than expected. However, I have obligations to the beer. **-Nomad**

I did not say I do not believe in the gods. I just think it's very interesting that the gods need the encouragement of men. **-The Blue Orc Cavalier**

Yeah, I have issues... Do we have a shovel or a pitchfork somewhere or not? **-Miss Hotsy Totsy Evolutionary Coolness**

How many times can I take money out of the bank before it's gonna cost me? **-Nomad**

Boy, you smell like you need a whuppin'. **-the dark penguin**

I'd rather not tell you to shut up. I'd rather have you yelling at me and then try to embarrass you. **-Token**

I err on the side of fun. **-Inquester**

Morals are fattening? **-Cool Fury**

When you're feeling sexy you just feel right. It's like a ray of sunshine has come down on you and just slapped you on the ass. **-Croc Girl**

Politically, free is a four-letter word. **-Ian**

Sports are the opium for the masses. I think Star Wars is opium for the masses, too. **-The Existential King of Concrete**

I realized I wasn't asking the right question. Instead of asking, "Do I feel secure and happy in this decision?" I needed to be asking, "Is there any other decision I can imagine that would make me feel better?" **-Nomad**

Watch out that dad doesn't get a grater when we aren't looking.

**-THE LOVE WARRIOR**

Gay men have the luxury most heterosexuals do not appreciate: that of the easy separation of sex and love when it is desirable.

**-Nomad**

The mule was... of age.

**-Agent Peludo**

The capacity for amnesia is great.

**-the dark penguin**

The face was not quite so red as the digital shows it. Still, alcohol was alcohol. **-THE LOVE**

**WARRIOR**

To his credit, he never screwed around with a cold watermelon.

**-Agent Peludo**

Some days, like today, on a brown Chinese junk of great but unpretentious finery, under the auspices of the Gypsy Kings and Bryan Adams unplugged, and beneath a glowing Prazky hrad in the black sky, you wish you could scoop up excess happiness in a bottle for later. **-Nomad**

Airports seem like the worst place you could possibly have to reacquaint yourself with America. But, since few people walk or swim overseas, it seems to be the most common. **-Nomad**

He took BB gun shots and blanket-pulling injuries from me. Yeah, he was my bitch. **-THE LOVE WARRIOR**

Lazer tag unites even while one destroys. **-the dark penguin**

There is a proficiency you acquire after some weeks that I will call Free Form Public Transport Riding.

**-Nomad**

Man, if she dallied, I was there.

**-THE LOVE WARRIOR**

The only thing I regret is that I'm talking in the past tense.

**-THE LOVE WARRIOR**

This is the sort of country where blacksmiths wipe their coal-smudged brows and take a break from the anvil to make calls on their cell phones. **-Nomad**

The rugged West and nicotine. Nothing more naturally matched for one's international marketing dollar. **-Ian**

Even the times I wasn't being sadistic to you, we had good times together. **-THE LOVE WARRIOR**

I don't know, man. I think evil comes in pink satin shirts.

**-Perspective**

He controls history because he talks the most. **-THE LOVE WARRIOR**