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Fri, Oct 20 at 3:15 PM

To: Andrew Rouse <arouse@dorrancepublishing.com>

My Versions of the Truth

"Gone"

A pretty woman can always have her way,  
she can go, or she can stay.  
They know they're in demand.  
The heart of any man, they can command.  
They can run your life, they can ruin your life,  
if you let 'em. No big deal to them,  
how you feel, but to you, it all seems so un-real.  
How they can change their man like a new pair of shoes,  
then they calmly break you the news.  
You're out, he's in, don't bother thinking about what could have been.  
Just move on, and be thankful for the time you had,  
get a grip, don't feel so sad. You said some things,  
you shouldn't have said.  
Now you're feeling you'd be better off dead.  
But listen to her, one last time,  
the hard cold truth you got to get it into your mind!  
It's time to move on. Your cook, your maid,  
your Lover is Gone. Yeah listen to her one last time.  
It's time to move on. Your cook, your maid,  
your Lover,  
is Gone.

"Crazy Over You"

Crazy, crazy over you, call me crazy for the things I do, nothing after work to do, just beer, and wine, and cigarettes, ok, maybe a few regrets, regrets over losing you, so go ahead and call me crazy, if you want to, but Girl if I'm crazy, I'm crazy over you. So don't tell me to find something else to do, I can sit around and be crazy over you, if I want to, Sue. So here's to you, Suzie Q! Everything you do comes back to you, just wait and see, all the things we did will come back to you and me. All the love we

shared, I only wish you really cared. I can't stop loving you, but you're not here, so what do I do? Just sit around and think of you? Well, I guess that's what I'll do, just sit around and think of you. So here's to you, Suzie Q !

### "All You Say I Am"

I'm all you say I am, I'm a cheat, I'm a liar, I could set your heart on fire. I'm a kind man, I'm a butt hole, I'm a guy with a heart as black as coal. I'm a sweet-heart who'd never hurt you, I'll be the first one to desert you, I'm the one you always wanted, but somebody you just don't need. I'm all you say I am, I'm all you say I am, I'm all you say I am, and more. And so much more.

### "Bartender to Bouncer"

Well, no he don't really wanna cause any trouble, he's just out to have a good time. Sometimes he goes over the line. Well, he was right out of it wasn't he? Well, no I kinda thought he was getting right into it, he had those girls going round and round. Well, yeah sure, after he bought 'em a round. Yeah, but it wasn't that, I think. It was more a matter of the way he was liking the sound, the sound of that band, jammin down, the way he had to just get up and jump around. He didn't need a partner, but he had one in a little while. And didn't he make her smile! He made her smile, and she was jumpin around to. He made it look so easy to do.

Well yeah, if he comes back in here again, I'm not sure what I'll do. So don't do nuthin then, just let him be him, and you just be you. There's no reason for a problem, between you two.

### "Bartender to Drunk"

She said to me, you're a handsome man, but you got a problem, you know. I said, yeah, yeah I know. You can't handle your Booze, she said. You let it handle you. I said, yeah, yeah I know. Why can't you change? She said to me. I don't know, was my reply. Well, until you can, just keep going in the gutter, and die! I don't have time, to care, or cry. I have a life to live, and a whole lot of love to give! But not to someone who can't even love them self! So go on and ruin your life! But do it somewhere else! I don't want to see! Just go on, and let me be! Now would you? Now would you, Please?

### "Don't make me a Fool"

I went on down and into the bar. She said what you doing here? Don't you know you're barred? I said, oh, come on please, I'll behave, don't make me leave. She said, if I give you one more chance, are you going to make a fool of me? Because if so, then I wish that you'd just go! I said oh, no! No, no, no, I'll be good, and I'll be good to you, I'll even tip you up, and you'll see it's true! Oh baby, I'll be good to you! So she let me stay for a while, every now and then she even gave me a smile. Weren't too long, and I

was feeling good! I put my money in her jar, like I knew I should. But myself, I can never trust. All it takes is a little buzz, for me to start acting the fool. So I asked her if she'd like to play some pool. Well, we aint got no table you know. So now I think it's time for you to go! We aint got no table round here! So now I think you need to just finish your beer! Just finish your beer my dear, and get on out of here! Don't try and make me a fool! You know we aint got no pool! The next thing you know, you'll be asking me, do I want to go Swimming? Oh no!..no, no, no! Just finish your beer, and go! Just finish your beer, my dear, and get on out of here!

"Don't tell me no lies"

Once I happened to meet, a lovely girl walkin down the street, she said she couldn't resist my eyes, then she said, Just one thing, Don't tell me no lies. I said, would you like to see my place, it's just up the stairs. Lead the way my man, was all she said. So I got her a beer, from the ice box, and then she threw off her shoes, and her socks. This place aint so bad, she said with a smile. Tell me about it, and all this gear, I might just like to stay for a while. Yea, tell me about it, and all this stuff here. I might just like to stay for a while. Just don't tell me no lies.

"If you leave something behind"

If you leave something behind,  
you're gonna have to make up your mind, and either go get what you're thinking of,  
or go ahead and leave it behind.

But you gotta go back, or go forward. And don't you dare change your mind.

Go back, or go forward. Or every step you take you're further behind.

And if you wanna live the good life, and you want it all of the time, you'll have to have the right solution, now you got it all on the line, you're gonna have to make up your mind, and either get it back, or leave it behind.

"I Needed You"

We'll is it another beer, or a cigarette,  
which one is gonna put me to rest? They both taste good, but I don't know which one I like the best. When I'm all done with my beer, I guess I'll have another cigarette, but I still don't know which one I like the best, I just know, the beer is all gone.

Cigarettes, well, yeah, I still have a few,  
but it's a sad shame, between the two, I

lost what I needed most in this world, yeah damn it girl, I needed you! But I was too stupid to see, how bad you needed me, not the old drunk, stinky guy, but me, to lay down by your side, and not need a beer, or a cigarette, just being so happy for the love that I get, and not make you feel, second best, to a damn beer, or a cigarette. Yeah dammit girl, I needed you!

## "Lost"

You were a child of the fifties, sock hops, and soda-pop. Alice Cooper was my idol, seems we're a world apart, but love and friendship was no problem, we were in each others' hearts, face to face, and down and dirty, right from the very start. Gut feelings shared between us, it seems weren't very smart, for man's a selfish creature, and now from me your love is lost.

There ain't too many things that I'd call crucial in my life, but having you to turn to, made an odd thing seem alright. But there ain't no use denying, as time goes rolling by, I'm gonna get that urge, and when I do, I'll just spread my wings, and fly. So tell me what's the point, in being happy for a day? Sweet woman you don't deserve it, I've already gone away. You need to find yourself a good man, who'd never leave you flat. I just ain't up to being, the one who can give you that.

Yes, man's a selfish creature, and now from me, your love is lost. Your love is lost, your love is lost. Yes man's a selfish creature, and now from me your love is lost.

## "Lost in solitude"

Lost in solitude, my thoughts always return to you. God I feel so blue. A moment in time, not to think about you, well for that, God knows what I'd do. My life's been full of ups and downs, but this time, I'm really turned around. Oh Sue, what can I do, with all of this, You, You, You? Our lives were so close to being true, but I stole you away from a pretty good friend, of course this is how me and you should end. Some guy takes you away from me. Now I gotta live with what will be. Realizing you're no longer with me. Yeah he's got you now, but for how long? Won't be long, and with another you'll be gone. So, go ahead, run around. Run around Sue. It's all you know how to do.

Yeah go ahead, run around. Run around Sue.

It's all you know how to do.

## "Midnight Craving"

I got a midnight craving for alcohol, and there's nothing I can do about it at all. All I got left, is a half a beer. and now I'm stuck right here. I knew I shoulda bought some wine, or a fifth of something oh so fine. Something with more kick, than this Schlitz. Yeah I got a midnight craving for alcohol, and there's nothing I can do about it at all. Yeah I got a midnight craving for alcohol.

## "One More Girl"

Before I go outta this world, I just want to meet one more girl, one girl who could show me the way. one woman who'll stay, and stay! One person who really cares about me. Oh yeah, Me Me Me. But, I've givin so much, can't you see? When we do connect, what a change there'll be, when you bring out the love inside of me. Just be true, and

just be you, you'll love me baby, and I'll love you too! You, and what you need. When we're together or far apart, you'll feel the love, from deep in my heart!

### "Our Obscurity"

We have no doubts, or insecurity, regarding our obscurity. For you see, we are so very, very sure, we are obscure. The roots of our obscurity run very deep, yes very deep indeed. The depth of our obscurity knows no bounds for sure. For you see, our obscurity is very very pure. The purity of our obscurity is there to see. For you see, we are so very very sure we are obscure.

### "Poor Man"

When a poor man has a little cash, there's nothing that a beautiful woman, can not ask, she can ask the world of him, his very last dime, he'll be happy to spend. Money don't mean that much, when you're looking for that special touch. Oh girl, to me, you mean so much! Just to have the opportunity, to feel you, next to me, well girl I know it is not free. And if I wind up broke, and all alone, well at least I'll know I tried, yeah, tried to take you home. Come on baby! Come on home with me! Oh well, maybe next time.

### "Pretty Pictures"

Pretty pictures on the wall, get off that railing, before you fall. Come on over, anyone, you just can't imagine, all the fun! It's happening here, above the street. Go somewhere else, if you want to eat. Listen to the river move along. Get it right now, for a song. Passing cars, and cloudy days, get your mind set, forty ways. Give it up, or hold on tight. Just let the day drift into night. It's raining now, so don't be shy. There ain't no need to wonder why. I've got my problems, so do you. What it is, or ain't, ain't nothing new. Life will go on, with, or without you. Feeling good here's not a crime. No need for guilt, just passing time.

### "Road Trip"

I took my pay and bought a ticket for a Greyhound Bus. I headed north. Just had to clear my head, from all the confusion, and the fuss. I told her I was tired of trying so hard to make everybody happy, and watching them look so blue. She said, that's alright, you aint got it to do! Get on down the road, I can find a replacement for you! Once you're gone I'll have a lot more time, to stop living your life, and start living mine! I'll have a man in our bed, before your first stop, might be a lawyer, hell, might be a cop! I'll be better off without you, anyway, so why the hell should I try to make you stay?

I've been up here now, I guess, about three years. She calls me up, and she's all in tears. Oh won't you come back down? I just can't make it baby, without you around. You were the only man for me. Come on back, and I'll make you see. We can still have a life so fine, Baby you and me! Come on back, before I lose my mind! Well, girl you know, I loved you dear, and I'll think about it, while I'm out tonight, just having a beer. You want a caretaker, and that aint me. I can't help it if your life aint the way you want it to be. I gave it my all, but you never gave that back to me. Oh girl, can't you see? I'll think about it. Yeah, I'll think about it. I'll think about it, but for both our sakes, well I'll probably just stay here, just stay here and have another beer.

### "Sanctuary"

Let the worries of the world, just slip away. You're safe right here with me, right here with me, in our, our little, Sanctuary.

Well there aint no phone, no TV set, what you see, is what you get, but it's warm in here, and you can usually find a beer.

Yeah baby, you're safe right here, right here with me, in our, our little Sanctuary.

### "Sunshine"

In the game of life, we don't always get the cards we're looking for. Just when you think you've hit the bottom, lady luck comes round and knocks you down some more. When you came along, I had given up, and was about to fold. But you showed me your love, was there to have and to hold. In the middle of a cold black storm, your sunshine caressed me, and it kept me warm! Now my days are sunny and bright, your love and your kindness are there in the night.

It's worse than any nightmare, just to think of how it could have been. The booze and the drugs it seemed would have no end! But now that I've found you, and I can wrap my arms around you, well it's not hard to see, just what a fool I'd been. The way I wasted precious time it was a crying sin. Your sunshines been the answer to my every prayer the dark clouds have all scattered now your warmth is there. Now all it takes to get me high is just to see your face, your loving smile has turned my world into a different place. You're my lifeblood, you're my perfect friend! You're the one I know will be there for me, till the end!

Sunshine I Love you! Sunshine I need you! Sunshine shine down, on me!

### "Take a Chance on Me"

If by chance we should happen to meet, if we run across each other on the street, could you be the one? Maybe you and I could have some fun, we're just as entitled to it, as anyone. You got that look in your eyes, just like me, you're sick of all the lies, scared to trust, or count on anyone, they say, I love you baby, then they turn around and run.

You deserve so much better than that. Still, I believe you'd risk it all, if you had the chance, risk being hurt one more time. Hope could make you lay it all on the line. Hoping to find a love so fine. Come on baby, take a chance on me, I'll take the time to try and make you see, you didn't go wrong, when you took a chance on me. Come on baby, take a chance on me.

### "The Candle Song"

I almost lit a candle, the other night, while I was getting romantic, with my wife. But you've ruined all of that for me, in my life. One look at that flame, and the melting wax, and I just can't stop those memories, from coming back. Red, white, and blue, melting wax, and me and you, maybe some brown mixed in there too. And they each had their own special scent, girl do you remember, how much it meant? It meant so much, because it was a product of me and you! Just something that we both liked to do, making love, while our creation grew!

That ceramic vase you found, broken handle and a chip or two, but just right for what you had in mind to do! So you had me glue a plate to the top of it, pretty soon we had three candles lit. Red white and blue, three little flames, and me and you, holding hands, and praying to heaven, Lord our country needs your help right now, and that was just after nine-eleven. But time goes on, and we did too, while our creation just grew, and grew! Night after night in each others arms, how could everything have gone so wrong? Too many beers, and too many tears. In the end it was busted all to hell, just like me and you. We cleaned up the mess, the morning after it got busted, but things were never quite the same, I guess we lost the flame. I couldn't stop the drinking, but neither could you. All I can say is, I'm sorry Sue. So sorry about me and you.

### "Piracy"

A man starts out as a slave, rowing in the hull of a Pirate ship. He is an intelligent man and manages to work his way up until he is Captain of the ship and the terror of the high seas. He begins to feel guilty for the acts of his men and himself, and wishes he was a simple slave again. So he appoints one of his best men as the new Captain. He is soon made to walk the plank, and eaten by sharks. And, the moral of the story is, Don't strive to be good at something you don't believe in.

### "A Long way to Heaven"

A guy, wakes up one morning in a small New England town, looks out his window, and sees that quite a bit of snow has fallen, and is still coming down. Great, he goes, I guess no work today, and I'm down to my last soup. Oh well, he goes, God will take care of me, somehow. So he boils water, crunches his last Ramen noodle pack, dumps it in the pan, and adds the flavor pack. He gets dressed while his breakfast cools a

little, talking to himself, and God, the whole time. Lord, he says, I just need to make some money. He digs in the pockets of the pants he just put on, and pulls out a five dollar bill, and some change. Well, he goes, I guess I got enough for a couple of forties (40oz. malt liquor ) and a pack of tobacco, maybe a newspaper. So he sips on his soup, and sits down to put his boots on.

When he's done eating, he rolls a cigarette with the last little bit he has left. I know I shouldn't buy beer this early, he says to himself, but I got to have tobacco, so what the hell. He looks at the clock, it's ten O'clock. He says if Mark was coming he'd be here by now. He puts on his coat, and knit cap, lights his last cigarette, and heads out the door, making sure he has his key, to get back in.

He heads down the hill. Remembering what an old girlfriend used to tell him, when they would walk in the snow, stay on the crunchy part. Well, there aint no crunchy part, but I'll do the best I can. He makes it to the store down by the river, at the bottom of the hill, gets his tobacco, two big bottles of beer, and a newspaper. The cashier puts it all in a

brown paper bag, just like always. He starts back up the hill, the bag supported with one arm, the other holds it against his chest. When he reaches the crest of the hill, he happens to look over a steel guard rail, down at the rail-road tracks below. He sees what appears to be a large trash bag, full of empty cans, ( worth a nickel a piece ). Damn, he says, is that a bag full of nickels? He steps over the railing, to get a better look, not knowing there was ice just under the newly fallen snow. After stepping over the railing, he takes one more step, his last on earth. Oh Shit! He screams, as he is sliding head first over the ledge.

He releases the bag he is holding, and tries to break the impact with his hands, but the glass bottles, and his head collide with the steel rail-road tracks, and his earthly life comes to an end. As the camera surveys the scene, it becomes apparent that what looked like empty bottles and cans, was simply trash, and dirty diapers.

There are blinding lights, and a sense of flying through space, with swirling colors, and eerie sounds. When he stops he is face down in dessert sand. Get up, infidel! He hears a deep angry voice command him. He struggles, but is too weak. We will get you up, you smelly slob! You stink of beer! He is pulled from the sand, by two men, wearing turbans and robes. They tell him to come with them. He is frightened, and can't move. They take him by the arms and pull him to a place where a very large man sits upon a throne, dressed and looking much the same as those who brought him there. On the way, he sees camels and women who appear to be very beautiful, but veiled, so that only their eyes can be seen. The bearded man on the throne looks at him, and says, do you know who I am? He manages to speak, and says I don't know, but I'm pretty sure I'm dead, and this don't seem like heaven, so maybe you're the devil. You and your kind are the devils! But I will grant you a life as a slave, if you will bow down, worship me, and admit that you have been the enemy of all that is good



and right. You must swear you will do all you can to serve me, and destroy the evil empire of America.

What if I don't, he asks. You see that man with the sword in his hand? Yeah, I see him. He will use that sword, to cut your head off! Well, let me ask you a question, he says. Do you have a son named Jesus? I do not have a son named Jesus. Will you worship me or not? I can only serve one God, and he has a son, named Jesus, so I guess not. Off with his head! He is no good to me! The two who brought him there throw him to the ground, and the man with the sword slices through his neck, with one blow.

Once again, he is flying through space, but this time the sounds are different, more up beat. When he reaches his destination, he is in a very plain white room, sitting on the floor. He can see himself - headless, in front of his face. Hey, down here, John! He cries. His arms reach out and feel for his head. Over here! He yells. His hands find his head, and manage to place it back above his shoulders. As he holds his head in place, you can see a scar begin to form, and slowly work it's way around his neck, until he can turn loose, and move his head from side to side. Wow! That feels better, he says. He sees a door, and it opens up. In walks a gorgeous woman, who says hello, and waves her arm at the corner of the empty room. A bed appears. Wow! How did you do that? He says. We're in heaven, she says, we can do anything. She lies on the bed, and says, you must be tired, why don't you come lay with me? Well. that sounds mighty inviting, but I just got here, and after what I've just been through, I think I better wait, and find out a little more about what's going on. As you wish, she says. She gets up off the bed, which vanishes, as she walks out the door.

Then in walks Jesus, dressed in a long white robe, with long dark hair, and just wispy facial hair. Oh my God! The man says. Relax John; I'm here to help you. The man bows his head, and says, dear lord, thank you, and please forgive me of my sins, in Jesus name...Amen. So, John, why wouldn't you do what was asked of you, to save your life, or at least your neck from being sliced in two? My whole life, I have believed in a God, with a son named Jesus, he said he had no son named Jesus. Good answer. Do you believe you lived a good, and honorable life, on earth? I tried to, but I know I sinned. What do you consider to be a sin, John? Well, killing another person, I know is a sin, unless it just had to be done, for a good reason. Go on. Killing yourself is a really bad one. Stealing, and lying, and hurting people or animals, for no reason, are bad sins. What else? Cheating on your wife, or trying to take another mans' wife from him. And child abuse, and rape. Good. Now, you say you sinned, did you do all those things, you just talked about? No, not all, but some. I know all of your deeds, and misdeeds. You are forgiven.

Your life here can be very rewarding, John. Just keep in mind, what was a sin, is a sin, and will always be a sin. Now that you are here, try very diligently to remain sinless. You will find it very enjoyable here, if you play by the rules. You've passed two tests already. I will not test you anymore, unless you give me reason. Then Jesus touched

his neck, and the large ugly scar, faded away. Then Jesus turned, and slowly left the room. He felt his neck, and not only the scar was gone, but a lump he had had for years, was taken away as well. Thank God, he said.

Looking around the empty room, he said, I wish I could have that bed back, and immediately, there it was. Wow! He said, this is great, but I am kind of hungry. He walked into an area he hadn't noticed before; there was a fully equipped kitchen, with a table and chairs, and a large bowl of fruit on the table. He took a banana from the bowl, and began to eat. I wonder if there's a bathroom, he thought. He went back to where the bed was, and noticed a door he hadn't seen before. Sure enough, opening the door, there was his bathroom. God is great! God is truly good, he said.

During the course of the next few days, he sees many wondrous sites, meets lots of interesting people, some he knows, and he is reunited with his parents. He asks about Billy, his best friend from childhood, who killed himself, at the age of twenty years. Jesus explains to him, that what he had read about in the bible, of the devil, and the lake of fire, were not just fairy tales.

He meets a lot of good looking women, some married, and some, not. He realizes he better try very diligently to be sinless, just as Jesus had told him (especially with the lake of fire, and all ) He wakes up one morning, and is having breakfast, before going off to his voluntary construction work, and who does he see, but Laurie, his childhood sweetheart, standing at his open door. Laurie, is it really you? (She is just as beautiful as he remembered her) Yes, John, it's me. He remembers saying a prayer, the night before, that he would meet a beautiful woman, and marry, and have kids. He gets up, looks into her eyes, and says, Laurie, will you marry me? She says, of course I will John; I've been waiting for you.

