

73

VOLUME 2



www.novasankofa.com

Never Settle.

13, Vol. 2

**Encounters
Gambling
School to Prison
Because
Love Yourself
Green Lights
Take What You Need
Blunts and Sage
Heathens**

Encounters

New city
 New experience
 Before you judge
 Know that we all
 Have a connection
 We get
 nowhere else
 From
 nobody else
 Why would we
 Even want to
 Recreate these
 moments
 That only taste well
 The first time
 We try
 To step out
 On a limb
 Expectations
 Not quite low
 Enough to limbo
 Under
 but
 Not high enough
 To be disappointed

Let's go and
 Let go and
 enjoy
 Each moment
 Like it's
 The first
 And last time
 Because this is
 The only time
 We will ever be in
 This mind
 And space
 And although
 Cliche

It's true
 It really is
 it really is
 Both at the
 Same time
 Neither at once
 Coexistence
 complements
 Itself even when
 At odds

What are the odds?
 You know
 The chance that on
 This planet
 And at this time
 That things would
 Refine and the
 Way our words
 On paper align
 Allows us both to
 Climb
 up these steps
 This ladder of words
 We sometimes overstep
 And skip steps
 While running upstairs
 You make me
 Want to
 Ascend slowly
 holding
 Your hand
 Holding
 The rail
 Trust can come
 With safety nets
 Lest we free fall
 Backwards while
 Smiling.

Gambling

New city
New experience
Before you judge
Know that we all
Have a connection
We get
nowhere else
From
nobody else
Why would we
Even want to
Recreate these
moments
That only taste well
The first time
We try
To step out
On a limb
Expectations
Not quite low
Enough to limbo
Under
but
Not high enough
To be disappointed

Let's go and
Let go and
enjoy
Each moment
Like it's
The first
And last time
Because this is
The only time
We will ever be in
This mind
And space
And although
Cliche
It's true

It really is
 it really is
 Both at the
 Same time
 Neither at once
 Coexistence
 complements
 Itself even when
 At odds

What are the odds?
 You know
 The chance that on
 This planet
 And at this time
 That things would
 Refine and the
 Way our words
 On paper align
 Allows us both to
 Climb
 up these steps
 This ladder of words
 We sometimes overstep
 And skip steps
 While running upstairs
 You make me
 Want to
 Ascend slowly
 holding
 Your hand
 Holding
 The rail
 Trust can come
 With safety nets
 Lest we free fall
 Backwards while
 Smiling.

School to Prison Pipelines

School to prison
 pipelines have lead in'em...
 Turning us into zombies
 Looking for a leader
 Hypnotized by preachers
 Indoctrinated by teachers
 I see now, to reach ya
 I've gotta go a little deeper
 Look...
 Lie when they report it
 Can't get justice
 even when recorded
 It's just us
 No back-up dispatched
 No equal starting place
 In this race
 All races mismatched.
 Played against each other
 Big match
 They laugh to the bank
 While we fight over scraps

Ahhh ahh ahh
 3 shots in my back
 I bet they bring up
 Black on black crime
 After my death
 As if their argument
 Justifies the loss
 Of life
 I could have been
 A doctor, lawyer,
 Fuck that
 I was a brother
 Son, cousin,
 Someone endeared
 By someone endearing
 But I'm endangered
 People don't see my

Value unless
I'm holding a ball
Or dropping the ball
I matter to us all
And most just don't
Know it yet

Because

Because we are we.
 It is supposed to hurt,
 so we remember.
 And to be honest,
 you are the only person
 I have these convos with
 and I appreciate you.
 You aren't a stranger.
 Just an extension of myself
 to reconnect with.
 That's why
 we feel so familiar.

Although I don't show it
 Because my shoulder
 Is the one being leaned upon
 At this moment
 Truth is,
 Our conversations
 Are my kickstand
 An even exchange of
 Intellect, emotion, ideas
 I write about you
 So you may live forever
 What a gift

This life is like
 A flash in a pan
 80 years maximum on
 A 5 billion year old planet
 Holding onto it
 Is like trying to hold
 Water with open fingers
 I'd rather enjoy the sensation
 While it sifts through
 My knuckles
 Let's look alive
 And love it
 ...Preferably,
 Together.

Love Yourself

She said
 She tatted
 Two lines of
 Her favorite
 Poem on her
 Skin...
 Then
 Showed me.
 I saw my own
 Words covering
 Cuts on
 Her forearm
 My eyes said
 Please explain
 Her face said
 Ease the pain
 I obliged

That's when
 I explained
 I once hated
 My life too
 Thought of
 Taking my own
 Life too
 Expectations
 Too high
 I was getting
 Too high
 Still couldn't
 Reach them
 Until I was like
 Why try?

Went from
 Filthy paid
 To dead broke
 Tried hanging
 Myself
 And the belt broke

Brother held
Me while I slept
Nowadays
I stay woke
Meds had me
Feeling like somebody
Else or not
Feeling at all
Numbness
Isn't healing at all

We have more
In common than
You thought
Happiness can't
Be bought
Love is war
We fought
For something
We never saw
But somehow
Got taught
We should
Strive for
Stay alive for
Or die trying for

So fuck it
stop trying
And just
try living

Green Lights

Green lights illuminate
Your bedroom
How could we stop
Wait,
Can I write about you?
Okay, go.
Kissing you feels
Like singing my
Favorite song while getting
Off work on a Friday
Speeding home
With the sunroof open
And no plans
Just enjoying the freedom
Holding you feels
Like beating Bowser
As a young child
And freeing the princess.
I'd jump through
Hoops of fire
To reach you.

Take What You Need

Passed relatives visiting
 Me in my dreams
 With omens and advice,
 More than imagination
Forcing me to think twice
 Enough to ponder, wander
 And take heed
 Extending arms of love
Saying, "take what you need"
Some take from us til we bleed
From wrists, feet, and crowns
 Walking barefoot,
Stories exist beneath grounds
 Afrikan graveyards become
 Parking lots,
 Is anything sacred?
Police strip us of our freedoms,
 Wanting us dead and naked-
 Tell me how we take it,
 It's amazing,
We make love, children, and art,
While simply trying to make it...
 Just trying to make it.

Blunts and Sage

first
 Stepped into your
 Home
 Blunts and sage burning
 Spraying rose water
 Perhaps cleansing
 From something
 Before
 or preparing
 For something to come
 Foreshadowing
 spread light
 Gucci robe on the floor
 A clue into your
 earthly ways
 Can't always have our
 Heads in the
 clouds
 Nowadays we compare
 Gods and religions like
 Sneakers
 Walk in it before
 You form an opinion
 Some of the greatest
 Achievements,
 accidental
 Us meeting,
 merely by accident
 But let's not
 take it for granted
 What are the chances
 We'll accidentally
 encounter
 Each other by
 happenstance
 You know, that stars align
 Type of mumbo jumbo
 Crossing
 space and time

While we meet in DC over
Chicken with mumbo sauce
wings,
Hold the MSG
You make me feel like
Ewing on the MSG hardwood
Oakley was better than
Pippen on the lowest of keys.

Heathens

rolled two dutches
While conversing
About god consciousness.
Not necessarily non-believers
we just invest more in ourselves
Have faith in ourselves
Until we tap into and awaken
Ourselves
Both of us dressed
Like we just woke in 1999
Tongues partying
Our conversation
In dance
Would look like
The best tango
And it takes two
To successfully two step
Or maybe it just feels better
Either way
Let's move on
Get past
Past moments
Mistakes, things we wish
We could take back
But forgiveness is given

Fin.