

# NOLA: Susan Werner Goes to New Orleans

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## A MOMENT (TREES)

TAKE A BREAK FROM THE PARADE  
REST A MOMENT IN THE SHADE  
AT CHARTRES STREET AND ESPLANADE  
BENEATH THE LEAVES OF GREEN

SOUTHERN OAKS AND CYPRESS TREES  
STANDING HERE FOR CENTURIES  
WHO CAN COUNT THE TRAGEDIES  
OF WHAT THESE TREES HAVE SEEN

IN THE DAYS OF COTTON KINGS  
DAYS OF WHICH THE OLD SOUTH SINGS  
WHITE FOLKS CAME HERE, SHOPPED FOR THINGS  
THINGS CALLED HUMAN BEINGS

HUMAN BEINGS KEPT IN PENS  
SAME AS HEIFERS, GOATS AND HENS  
TIME CAN NEVER MAKE AMENDS  
FOR WHAT THESE TREES HAVE SEEN

SEEN A HUNDRED THOUSAND MEN AND WOMEN  
BEING TRADED BOUGHT AND SOLD  
SOME OF THEM WERE THIRTY SOME WERE TWENTY  
SOME WEREN'T EVEN TEN YEARS OLD

THEY WERE LED AWAY IN ROPES AND CHAINS  
HISTORY BOOKS ERASED THE STAINS  
JUST ONE WITNESS STILL REMAINS  
OH WHAT THESE TREES HAVE SEEN

TAKE A BREAK FROM THE PARADE  
REST A MOMENT IN THE SHADE  
AT CHARTRES STREET AND ESPLANADE  
BENEATH THE LEAVES OF GREEN

SEE THE BRANCHES TOUCH THE SKIES  
SEE WHERE SOME GREW OTHERWISE  
REACHING CROSS TO SHIELD THEIR EYES  
OH WHAT THESE TREES HAVE SEEN

## FREE YOUR ASS

BACK WHEN I WAS YOUNG AND PRETTY  
I WAS IN THE CRESCENT CITY  
WALKING BY THE BAYOU SAINT JOHN  
I WAS ALWAYS IN A HURRY WITH MY HEAD ALL  
FULL OF WORRY  
TRYING SOME PHILOSOPHY ON  
I HAD TOO MUCH EDUCATION I HAD TOO MUCH  
INFORMATION AND I DIDN'T KNOW THE CURSE  
THAT COULD BE  
WALKIN BY THE MISSISSIPPI  
MET A HAPPY TRIPPIN' HIPPIE  
AND THIS IS WHAT SHE SAID TO ME

SHE SAID FREE YOUR ASS  
AND YOUR MIND WILL FOLLOW  
SHE SAID LOOSEN THAT BUM  
WITH BOURBON AND RUM  
ALL YOU CAN SWALLOW  
BECAUSE WE'RE HERE TODAY

AND WE'RE GONE TOMORROW  
FREE YOUR ASS  
AND YOUR MIND WILL THANK YOU  
THANK YOU  
THANK YOU VERY MUCH

WELL OF COURSE I DIDN'T LISTEN  
I WAS BRIMMIN WITH AMBITION  
HAD TO PROVE THAT I WAS SOMEONE  
YEAH I HAD TO CLIMB THE LADDER  
HAD TO SHOW THE WORLD I MATTERED  
COULDN'T MAKE THE TIME FOR FUN  
I WAS BURNING EVERY CANDLE  
IT WAS MORE THAN I COULD HANDLE  
I WAS CRIPPLED WITH ANXIETY  
SAW A DOCTOR AT A CLINIC  
THAT WAS PSYCHOANALYTIC  
AND THIS IS WHAT SHE SAID TO ME

FREE YOUR ASS  
TAKE THOSE PANTS  
GIRL GO DANCE  
DON'T SIT HERE AND WALLOW

FREE YOUR ASS  
GIRL CUT LOOSE  
WHATS THE USE  
OF ALL THE WORRY AND SORROW

## THE NIGHT I ATE NEW ORLEANS

THE MOON ROSE ABOVE THE RIVER  
STARS SPARKLED THROUGH THE SWEET GUM  
TREES  
I STEELED MY SPINE  
STOMACH AND LIVER  
FOR THE EVENING AHEAD OF ME  
HAD TO START IT OFF WITH TURTLE SOUP  
AND CHEAP MARTINIS AT COMMANDERS PALACE

THE NIGHT I ATE NEW ORLEANS  
NEW ORLEANS STOLE MY HEART

FIRST STOP MUFFALETTA  
CENTRAL GROCERY, IT WAS WORTH THE WAIT  
NEXT STOP, JAMBALAYA  
WENT TO COOP'S PLACE AND I CLEANED MY  
PLATE  
OYSTERS ROCKEFELLER AT ANTOINES  
AND THEN TO BRENNANS FOR BANANAS FOSTER

STOLE MY HEART AND GAVE ME HEARTBURN  
HEARTBURN ALL THE WHOLE NEXT DAY  
OH BUT NOW I FEEL MY HEART YEARN  
FOR SOME FRESH BEIGNETS  
AND CRAWFISH ETOUFFEE AT FELIX'S

## GET YOU FROM BELOW

HELLO AND WELCOME TO NEW ORLEANS  
YEAH THERE'S A THING OR TWO THAT YOU SHOULD  
KNOW

WE GOT STUFF DOWN HERE, HONEY, GET YOU  
FROM BELOW

I WAS BORN OUT ON THE BAYOU  
OUT WHERE THE PEOPLE SAY THE LOGS GOT EYES  
AND EVERY LOG THAT BLINK'S AN ALLIGATOR IN  
DISGUISE

I'VE SEEN THE WATER RISE  
FROM UNDERNEATH MY FEET  
I'VE SEEN MY FRONT PORCH DOOR  
GO FLOATING DOWN THE STREET

TONIGHT YOU'LL GO TO PAT O' BRIEN'S  
YOU'RE GONNA ORDER UP A HURRICANE  
AND THEN YOU'LL WAKE UP ON THE SIDEWALK AT  
DECATUR AND DUMAINE

## NOLA

DIDN'T WE PASS A GOOD TIME  
DIDN'T WE HAVE SOME FUN  
DIDN'T YOU WEAR A BIG WIDE GRIN  
BY THE TIME OUR FUN WAS DONE  
NOW IT'S MONDAY AND YOU'RE FLYING AWAY  
BUT I KNOW YOU'LL BE BACK SOMEDAY  
COME NEXT WEEKEND, COME NEXT MAY  
I'LL BE HERE  
WITH LOVE ALWAYS,  
NOLA

DIDN'T WE FAIS DO DO, CHER  
DIDN'T WE SING THE BLUES  
DIDN'T YOU WASH THOSE OYSTERS DOWN  
WITH SOME TASTY TOP SHELF BOOZE  
YEAH THERE'S GOINGS ON ALL DAY AND NIGHT  
HELP TO MAKE YOUR BURDENS LIGHT  
YOU NEED ME, JUST HOP A FLIGHT  
I'LL BE HERE  
WITH LOVE ALWAYS,  
NOLA

SAN FRANCISCO OR NEW YORK  
MAY CATCH YOUR FANCY FOR AWHILE  
MAKE YOU FAMOUS, MAKE YOU RICH  
BUT I'M THE ONE WHO MAKES YOU SMILE

WITH BRASS BANDS 'ROUND THE CORNER  
STREETCARS ROLLING BY  
SUNLIGHT ON THE QUARTER  
WHERE THE STEEPLES SCRAPE THE SKY  
SO GO TRAVEL 'ROUND THIS GREAT BIG WORLD  
GIVE THOSE OTHER TOWNS A TWIRL  
HONEY WHEN YOU MISS YOUR FAVORITE GIRL  
I'LL BE HERE  
WITH LOVE ALWAYS,  
NOLA

## WHAT HE SAID IN JACKSON SQUARE

WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN HERE IN NEW  
ORLEANS

WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN HERE  
AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING ALIVE IN THE FIRST  
PLACE  
YOU'VE BEEN GONE NOW ALMOST A YEAR

HE SAID, HEY LITTLE SISTER  
I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRAZY  
BUT THINGS WORK SO DIFFERENT UP THERE

AND I FOUND THERE'S A STREETCAR  
THAT RUNS ACROSS HEAVEN  
IT'LL DROP YOU OFF AT JACKSON SQUARE

AND I'M HERE TO TELL YOU  
HERE TO SAY

DON'T GRIEVE FOR ME  
DON'T GRIEVE FOR ME  
DON'T GRIEVE ME ANYMORE  
CAUSE I'M DOING JUST FINE  
DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME  
DON'T GRIEVE ME ANYMORE

I SAID, YES BUT I MISS YOU  
AND HOW YOU LOVED MUSIC  
AND THOSE OLD VINYL RECORDS YOU'D PLAY  
YOU HAD JELLY ROLL MORTON  
AND PROFESSOR LONGHAIR  
AND JAMES BOOKER  
AND SIDNEY BECHET

HE SAID, YES BUT YOU'RE HERE NOW  
YOU'VE GOT THE WHOLE WEEKEND  
AND JOE KROWN'S AT THE MAPLE LEAF BAR  
AND ELLIS MARSALIS IS PLAYING SNUG HARBOR  
SO DON'T MISS BEING RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE

CAUSE I'M HERE TO SAY

DON'T GRIEVE FOR ME  
DON'T GRIEVE FOR ME  
DON'T GRIEVE ME ANYMORE  
CAUSE I'M DOING JUST FINE  
DON'T WASTE MORE TIME  
DON'T GRIEVE ME ANYMORE

AND HE SAID THAT NEW ORLEANS HAS ALWAYS  
BEEN WHERE  
THE TODAYS AND THE YESTERDAYS MEET  
THEN HE SMILED THAT GREAT SMILE  
AND FELL RIGHT INTO STEP  
WITH A JAZZ FUNERAL COMING DOWN THE STREET

### **NOBODY LOVES YOU**

YOUR FRIENDS ALL LOVE YOU  
THEY DO  
THEY'D SWIM THE OCEAN IF YOU WANTED  
THEM TO  
BUT BABE  
NOBODY LOVES YOU LIKE ME

YOUR SISTER LOVES YOU  
CALLS EVERY DAY

I THINK SHE THINKS I ONLY GET IN THE WAY  
BUT BABE  
NOBODY LOVES YOU LIKE ME

NOBODY LOVES YOU  
HEAD TO FEET  
OUT ON THE SOFA AND BETWEEN THE SHEETS  
LOVE EVERY FRECKLE, EVERY DOT ON YOUR SKIN  
SOMEBODY ELSE COMES KNOCKIN, DON'T LET  
'EM IN

YOUR MOTHER LOVES YOU  
TOO MUCH  
SHE THINKS IT TURNS TO GOLD WHATEVER YOU  
TOUCH  
BUT BABE  
NOBODY LOVES YOU LIKE ME

NOBODY LOVES YOU  
HEAD TO TOES  
I KNOW THE LITTLE THINGS NOBODY ELSE KNOWS  
SO CALL ME SELFISH  
I JUST DON'T CARE  
SOMEBODY ELSE WANTS IN, I'M NOT GONNA  
SHARE  
BECAUSE I LOVE YOU  
TO YOUR SOUL  
LOVE YOUR EQUATOR LOVE YOUR NORTH AND  
SOUTH POLE  
CAUSE BABE  
YES I KNOW EVERYBODY THINKS THE WORLD OF  
YOU BUT BABE  
NOBODY LOVES YOU LIKE ME

### **NAPOLEON**

NAPOLEON IS DEAD AND GONE AND BURIED IN A  
COFFIN IN FRANCE  
HE COULDA BEEN A GENIUS BUT HE BLEW IT WHEN  
HE HAD THE CHANCE  
HE'LL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED FOR THE BATTLES  
THAT HE LOST AND WON  
BUT HE GAVE AWAY THE JEWEL OF THE SOUTH  
NAPOLEON

NAPOLEON WAS SITTING FOR ANOTHER PORTRAIT  
OF HIMSELF  
HIS HAND WAS IN HIS JACKET BUT HIS MIND HAD  
WANDERED SOMEWHERE ELSE  
HE SAID I'VE NEVER SEEN NEW ORLEANS AND I  
AIN'T A GONNA MISS IT NONE  
AND HE GAVE AWAY THE JEWEL OF THE SOUTH  
NAPOLEON

THOMAS JEFFERSON  
SENT A PARTY TO PAREE  
THOMAS JEFFERSON  
SAID GO AND GET NEW ORLEANS FOR ME

BECAUSE NAPOLEON WAS FIGHTING WITH THE  
BRITISH AND THE PORTUGUESE  
HIS ARMY NEEDED MONEY YES AND MONEY  
DOESN'T GROW ON TREES  
AND IT WAS FIFTEEN MILLION DOLLARS AND SOME

TALKING AND THE DEAL WAS DONE  
AND HE GAVE AWAY THE JEWEL OF THE SOUTH  
NAPOLEON

THOMAS JEFFERSON  
NOTHING THAT HE COULD NOT DO  
THOMAS JEFFERSON  
HE GOT NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA, TOO

NAPOLEON IS DEAD AND GONE AND BURIED IN A  
COFFIN IN FRANCE  
AND NOW THE FRENCH COME OVER ON VACATION  
AND THEY SING AND DANCE  
THEY LISTEN TO THE MUSIC AND THEY EAT AND  
DRINK AND HAVE THEIR FUN  
AND THEY CURSE A VERY FAMOUS NAME

NAPOLEON  
(BONAPARTE)

### **TALK ME INTO ANYTHING**

HONEY I JUST MET YOU BUT DO WITH ME WHAT  
YOU PLEASE  
BECAUSE THE WAY YOU CALLED ME BABY MADE  
ME WOBBLY IN THE KNEES  
OH YOU COULD TALK ME INTO ANYTHING

YOU GOT THAT OLD NEW ORLEANS ACCENT, IT'S  
THE SWEETEST IN THE SOUTH  
ITS LIKE THE VOWELS AND THE CONSONANTS THEY  
MELT INSIDE YOUR MOUTH  
OH YOU COULD TALK ME INTO ANYTHING

WHEN YOU SAY  
HEY 'DERE GIRL, GOOD MORNIN  
F'SHO IT'S A LOVELY DAY  
HEY 'DERE GIRL, GOOD EVENIN  
LAISSEZ LES BON TEMPS ROULER  
DAWLIN, PASS A GOOD TIME

AND NOW YOU'RE HERE IN MY HOTEL ROOM AND  
THE SUN IS COMING UP  
AND NOW YOU'RE BRINGIN ME MY REGULAH WITH  
EXTRA IN THE CUP  
OH YOU COULD TALK ME INTO ANYTHING

AND NOW YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU LOVE ME AND  
YOU WISH THAT I WOULD STAY  
AND I SHOULD MOVE INTO YOUR HOUSE  
BUT THERE'S A WOMAN IN THE WAY...

AND NOW YOU'RE SITTING NEXT TO ME  
AND I'M SITTING NEXT TO YOU  
AND WE'RE SITTING ON YOUR PORCH  
TAKING IN THE LOVELY VIEW  
OF THE WATER AND THE STARS  
AND THE BLUE ROTATING LIGHTS  
OF THE POLICE BOATS DRAGGING LAKE  
PONTCHARTRAIN TONIGHT

### **THE HOUSE OF THE RISING SUN (TRADITIONAL)**