

# Ed's Redeeming Qualities

Robert: I'm here with the members of ED'S REDEEMING QUALITIES; Dan Leone, Carrie Bradley & Jonah Winter. So.. I guess to start things off -- & this is a fairly obviously silly question -- who, exactly, is Ed & what exactly are some of his qualities that were worth naming yourselves after?

Dan: Damn. (laughter) I still haven't come up with an answer to that question.

Jonah: A wry lead . . .

Carrie: Ed is Dan's mantra --

Dan: Ed doesn't actually exist; it's just the name of a poem that we borrowed for the band. There's no real story to it -- or to the poem, particularly.

Carrie: Dan wrote a bunch of stories & poems with a main character, Ed.

Dan: A fictional character, whose claim to fame is having eaten 10 hot dogs in 1 sitting, at a bowling alley --

Carrie: -- & sometimes he says what he thinks.

Robert: You first started performing in Boston? Dan, you're originally from Ohio, so you, Carrie & Neno --



Dan: We all met in New Hampshire, including Jonah.

Carrie: The University of NH. We were in graduate school.

Dan: Neno & Dom were from Ohio too, so I already knew them --

Carrie: Dan being your cousin --

Dan: I grew up with Dom, so I knew him very well; Neno, Dom & I met Carrie, Jonah & Ray (Halliday) at UNH. Dom & Neno weren't in school there.

Carrie: Dan & I were doing fiction & Jonah was doing poetry -- it was sort of a lame writing program, but a really great community at the time & it seemed to provoke a lot of us into doing things we didn't expect to do. We all started writing songs & getting together to play music very casually & for some reason, people would, like, hear it out of the corner of their ears, which sort of led us on to more and more real band-like activities. It was one of those times & places where a lot of creative, collective energy kind of -- starts (finally notices Dan, who has been staring at her during this long spiel) What?

Dan: Nothing. I'm agreeing.

Carrie: That's the reason Dom left Vermont, where it wasn't happening. He was doing a correspondence writing program. It was a big magnet effect; people were drawn in & things started happening.

Robert: This was around '87, '88, or earlier than that?

Jonah: Yeah. Spring of '88.

Robert: So you all graduated --

Carrie: Dan & Jonah didn't exactly graduate.

Jonah: I dropped out at the last minute.

Carrie: Dan wasn't conferred with a degree because of parking tickets.

Jonah: But he finished his classes.

Dan: I never actually got my Master's degree because I had an unpaid parking ticket which I refused to pay, so I didn't technically graduate. (much laughter)

Carrie: His thesis was approved, though -- So then we all embarked on these writing careers. I was just thinking yesterday, what would've happened if ERQ hadn't happened 5 years ago.

Jonah: We wouldn't be sitting here . . .

Carrie: Definitely we would not be sitting here. One thing: a whole lot of songs that would never have been written & running through people's heads as they walk around. But maybe we would have been published novelists. (laughter) You really wonder.

Robert: That explains why most of the songs have a literary quality to them. What stuff do you do?

Carrie: What's been published?



Carrie Bradley



Dan Leone