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# ***808s & Otherworlds***

***Memories, Remixes, and Mythologies***

**SEAN AVERY MEDLIN**

**Read by the author**



“Equal parts  
argument, meditation,  
and declaration, this  
book is a triumph.”

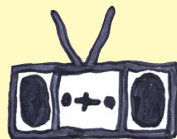
**Danielle Evans**



# Two Dollar Radio

## Books too loud to ignore

**WHO WE ARE** TWO DOLLAR RADIO is a family-run outfit dedicated to reaffirming the cultural and artistic spirit of the publishing industry. We aim to do this by presenting bold works of literary merit, each book, individually and collectively, providing a sonic progression that we believe to be too loud to ignore.



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**SOME RECOMMENDED LOCATIONS FOR READING 808S & OTHERWORLDS:**

During long car rides to neighboring cities, on a bed, chair, or sofa in the morning, at night by a stereo playing *PeteStrumentals*, with friends and family who also love rhythm and poetry, or pretty much anywhere because books are portable and the perfect technology!

**Book Club & Reade Guide**

of questions and topics for discussion  
is available at [twodollarradio.com](http://twodollarradio.com)

PHOTOs →

Nina Paz Photography,  
IG: @ninapazphotography





**SEAN AVERY MEDLIN** (he/they) is a gamer and Hip-Hop nerd, whose only wish in this world is to watch an unproblematic Black sci-fi T.V. show. Till then, Medlin teaches creative writing and guides cultural work for organizations across the U.S., while also creating rap, poetry, prose, and performance. Their music, literature, and theater all question the limits of Black masculinity, media (mis)representation, and personal narrative.

Medlin has shared stages with Saul Williams, J. Ivy, and Lemon Andersen. Their work's been featured in *Afropunk*, *Blavity*, the 2018–2019 Chicago Hip-Hop Theater Festival, and the 2020 Tucson Poetry Festival. Their Hip-Hop play and album, *skinnyblk*, along with all their previous work, is available online at [superseanavery.com](http://superseanavery.com). *808s & Otherworlds: Memories, Remixes, & Mythologies* is Medlin's debut collection.

# References & Credits

## *Table of Contents*

Epigraphs and notes ..... 9

***Record I*** ..... 10–11

new amerika (i)

Iggy & Carti (prelude)

How To Be A Rapper

Money is Temporary

Hidden Cloud Remixed

Free Pt. I

**Record II** ..... 12–13

new amerika (ii)

How To Make Trap Music

THUGLIFE Contrapuntal

Celebration (Ode to Trap Music)

FURVA LUX (Black Light)

Sun Valley (Shadowboxing)

CORPUS MEUM I

Free Pt. II

**Record III** ..... 14

new amerika (iii)

Consequence

CORPUS MEUM II

Hurricane (Storm gives a lecture on the Middle Passage)

Darrien's from the Hidden Cloud

Curse

Blackgirl Rock (Ode to My Sister)

Love Poem

***Record IV*** ..... 15–16

new amerika (iv)

Paradox

Nobody

Love Letter

CORPUS MEUM III

Consequence (DOOM Ode)

Pokedéx Entry #238: Smoochum

In Our Dreams

***Record V*** ..... 17

new amerika (v)

record of Blackfolk in az

Debt

Touch

CORPUS MEUM IV

Reclamation

King of Nothing

On Sight Contrapuntal

***Record VI*** ..... 18–19

in amerika

R.T.C. (Right to Carry)

explorer's pack

Battlefront

Mr. Popo (Erasure)

Hallie

Iggy & Carti

Suit of Wands

CORPUS MEUM V (Afro)

What It's Like To Be A Suburban Black Demiboy

***Excerpts from skinnyblk*** ..... 20

The Making of an Album & Play

Power Ranger

Tuxedo Mask

Hulk

Silver Surfer

demiboy

demiboy reprise





# References & Credits

## Epigraphs and notes

The title of this collection, *808s & Otherworlds*, comes from the title of a 2008 Kanye West album *808s & Heartbreak*.

The opening quotations are from Danez Smith’s “Why The Hood Bangs With Naruto,” and Kanye West’s “Say You Will.”

The *new amerika* personal essay series is named after Erykah Badu’s album series *New Amerykah*.

CORPUS MEUM is Latin for *my body*.

## ***Record I***

### **new amerika (i)**

*new amerika (i)* contains lyrics from:

Erykah Badu. “Master Teacher.” *New Amerykah Part One (4th World War)*, Universal Motown, 2008.

Mos Def. “Know That.” *Black on Both Sides*, Rawkus/Priority Records, 1999.

Common. “Dooinit.” *Like Water for Chocolate*, MCA Records, 2000.

### **Iggy & Carti (prelude)**

*Iggy & Carti (Prelude)* contains an epigraph paraphrased from the title of an article on Linda Ikeji’s Blog.

*Iggy & Carti (Prelude)* also contains lyrics from Young Jeezy’s U.S.D.A. “White Girl.” *Cold Summer*, Corporate Thugz Entertainment/Def Jam Recordings, 2007.

### **Money is Temporary**

*Money Is Temporary* contains a lyric from Drake. “I’m Upset.” *Scorpion*, Cash Money Records/Republic Records/Young Money Entertainment, 2018.

## **Hidden Cloud Remixed**

*Hidden Cloud Remixed* contains lyrics from Kanye West. “Spaceship.” *The College Dropout*, Roc-A-Fella Records/Def Jam Recordings, 2004.

## **Free Pt. I**

*Free Pt. I* contains lyrics from Kanye West. “Never Let Me Down.” *The College Dropout*, Roc-A-Fella Records/Def Jam Recordings, 2004.

## ***Record II***

### **new amerika (ii)**

*new amerika (ii)* contains lyrics from:

50 Cent. “P. I.M.P.” *Get Rich or Die Tryin’*, Shady Records/Aftermath Entertainment/Interscope Records, 2003.

The Diplomats. “My Block (Freestyle),” from a 2003 episode of BET’s *Rap City: Tha Basement*.

Jay-Z. “Roc Boys (And the Winner Is)...” *American Gangster*, Roc-A-Fella Records/Def Jam Recordings, 2007.

### **How To Make Trap Music**

*How To Make Trap Music* contains rearranged titles of articles on 11Alive.com and Patch.com.

*How To Make Trap Music* also contains dialogue from the folktale *Anansi: How Stories Came to Earth*.

## **THUGLIFE Contrapuntal**

*THUGLIFE Contrapuntal* contains several lyrics from 2Pac. “Ballad of a Dead Soulja.” *Until the End of Time*, Amaru Entertainment/Death Row Records/Interscope Records, 2001.

*THUGLIFE Contrapuntal* is inspired by Tupac’s acronym (or acrostic) T.H.U.G.L.I.F.E. (The Hate U Give Little Infants Fucks Everybody).

## **FURVA LUX (Black Light)**

*FURVA LUX (Black Light)* is after John Milton’s *Paradise Lost*.

## **Sun Valley (Shadowboxing)**

*Sun Valley (Shadowboxing)* is after *The Great Migration: Indiscernibles in Arizona*, an exhibition by Clottee Hammons, creative director for Emancipation Arts, LLC, in collaboration with ASU’s School of Human Evolution and Social Change.

## **Free Pt. II**

*Free Pt. II* is after “Footnotes for Kanye” by Jasmine Mans.

*Free Pt. II* contains a lyric from Kanye West. “Power.” *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*, Roc-A-Fella Records/Def Jam Recordings, 2010.

## ***Record III***

### **new amerika (iii)**

*new amerika (iii)* contains lyrics from: Erykah Badu. “My People.” *New Amerikah Part One (4th World War)*, Universal Motown, 2008.

### **Hurricane (Storm gives a lecture on the Middle Passage)**

*Hurricane* is inspired by “The Deep,” a song from clipping, an experimental Hip-Hop group.

### **Curse**

*Curse* is inspired by *Naruto*, chapter 619: “A Clan Possessed By Evil,” pages 13-17.

### **Blackgirl Rock (Ode to My Sister)**

*Blackgirl Rock (Ode to My Sister)* contains a sentence inspired by dialogue from Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*.

## ***Record IV***

### **Paradox**

*Paradox* borrows the line “if you know, you know” from Pusha T. “If You Know You Know.” *DAYTONA*, G.O.O.D. Music/Def Jam Recordings, 2018.

*Paradox* cites articles from Narutopedia, including Sasuke Uchiha, Uchiha, and Danzo.

*Paradox* also contains a quote from federal bureau of investigations director j. edgar hoover, outlined in *goals for cointelpro*.

### **Consequence (DOOM Ode)**

*Consequence (DOOM Ode)* is inspired by MF DOOM’s “Cellz” (featuring Charles Bukowski).

*Consequence (DOOM Ode)* borrows from Charles Bukowski’s “Dinosauria, We.”

*Consequence (DOOM Ode)* contains a line from the poem “We Wear the Mask” by Paul Laurence Dunbar.

### **Pokedéx Entry #238: Smoochum**

*Pokedéx Entry #238: Smoochum* is after Marlin M. Jenkins' "Pokedéx Entry #778: Mimikyu," and cites Bulbapedia.

### **In Our Dreams**

*In Our Dreams* is after KiD CuDi's "In My Dreams."



## ***Record V***

### **Debt**

The ending of *Debt* borrows from Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, and Paul Laurence Dunbar's "Sympathy."

### **Reclamation**

*Reclamation* is inspired by Yasiin Bey's (f.k.a. Mos Def's) "Rock N Roll."

### **On Sight Contrapuntal**

*On Sight Contrapuntal* is named after Kanye West's "On Sight."

*On Sight Contrapuntal* contains a lyric from Kanye West. "New Slaves." *Yeezus*, Def Jam Recordings/Roc-A-Fella Records, 2013.

## ***Record VI***

### **Battlefront**

*Battlefront* contains direct quotes from *Chicago Tribune*'s 2005 interview with George Lucas: Caro, Mark. “‘Star Wars’ inadvertently hits too close to U.S.’s role.” *Chicago Tribune*, May 18, 2005.

### **Mr. Popo (Erasure)**

The quote attributed to Alice Sparkly Kat comes from “Why White Queers Love ‘Japan’” (May 21, 2020).

The text of *Mr. Popo (Erasure)* comes from the *Dragon Ball* Wiki article “Mr. Popo” ([https://dragonball.fandom.com/wiki/Mr.\\_Popo](https://dragonball.fandom.com/wiki/Mr._Popo)).

### **Hallie**

*Hallie* is after Morgan Parker’s “Matt.”

*Hallie* contains lyrics from Trinidad James. “All Gold Everything.” *Street Runnaz 71*, FUTURISTIC SWAGG ENT., 2014.

## **Iggy & Carti**

*Iggy & Carti* borrows the line “if you know, you know” from Pusha T. “If You Know You Know.” *DAYTONA*, G.O.O.D. Music/Def Jam Recordings, 2018.

*Iggy & Carti* contains lyrics from:

Playboi Carti. “Over.” *Whole Lotta Red*, Interscope Records/AWGE Label, 2020.

Kanye West. “Gold Digger.” *Late Registration*, Roc-A-Fella Records/Def Jam Recordings, 2005.

*Iggy & Carti* also contains quotes from:

Kanye West from NBC Universal’s 2005 “A Concert for Hurricane Relief.”

Rubi Rose, singer, song-writer, and model, in a 2020 VladTV interview.

Additionally, the essay uses statistics of Fulton County, Georgia, from the Neighborhood Scout website.

## **What It’s Like To Be A Suburban Black Demiboy**

*What It’s Like To Be A Suburban Black Demiboy* is after Patricia Smith’s “What It’s Like To Be A Black Girl (for those of you who aren’t).”

## *Excerpts from skinnyblk*

### **The Making of an Album & Play**

#### **Power Ranger**

Performed by Sean Avery Medlin and Carly Bates. Produced & engineered by Brandon “Mic Maven” Pink.

#### **Tuxedo Mask**

Performed by Sean Avery Medlin. Produced & engineered by Brandon “Mic Maven” Pink.

#### **Hulk**

Performed by Sean Avery Medlin. Produced & engineered by Brandon “Mic Maven” Pink.

#### **Silver Surfer**

Performed by Sean Avery Medlin. Produced & engineered by Brandon “Mic Maven” Pink.

#### **demiboy**

Performed by Sean Avery Medlin. Produced & engineered by Brandon “Mic Maven” Pink.

#### **demiboy reprise**

Performed by Sean Avery Medlin. Produced & engineered by Brandon “Mic Maven” Pink.

To find out more about the author, please visit the Sean Avery Medlin website:  
**[superseanavery.com](http://superseanavery.com)**

To access the Reader Guide for *808s & Otherworlds* and read reviews, interviews,  
and more, please visit the Two Dollar Radio website:  
**[twodollarradio.com](http://twodollarradio.com)**