



Terry Kitchen
Blanket
25th Anniversary Edition
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In 1997, Boston singer/songwriter/guitarist **Terry Kitchen** released what many consider to be his finest work - *Blanket*, a collection of songs about family, a loaded gun of a subject, especially to a mostly-only child. From the sparse first notes of "**Kid Who Looks Like Me**" right through to the final echoes of "**Lightning Strikes**", Kitchen explores scenario after scenario of people bound together - and pulled apart - in powerful and mysterious ways.

Musically, *Blanket* features a classic folk troubadour sound - intimate vocals, finger-picked guitar, lilting rhythms - fleshed out by some of the finest singers and players on the '90s Boston scene: vocalists Amy Malkoff, Jennifer Truesdale and Michael Holland, and musicians Seth Connelly (bass), David Hamburger (Dobro), Billy Novick (penny whistle) and Mark Simos (fiddle). Brice Buchanan, a veteran of Kitchen's band Loose Ties, adds electric guitar for a rock edge while Kitchen himself adds mandolin to the mix.

Though a quarter century has passed, Kitchen's song cycle is still alarmingly relevant, from dealing with unplanned pregnancy ("**Kid Who Looks Like Me**") to incarceration and solitary confinement ("**I Can't Remember Life Before I Got Here**") to a mysterious disease afflicting gay men ("**Michael**"). Kitchen's storytelling skills are fully developed, whether tracing a treasured musical instrument through generations ("**German Violin**") or bringing natural beauty to life with a few simple details ("**If Wishes Were Rivers**"). Kitchen confronts his own family's ghosts in the heart-rending "**Rachel Won't You Come**" and its buoyant flipside, "**Big Sister**." The album is dedicated to Kitchen's sister Amy, who passed when he was 13.

Kitchen also unearths a little known piece of Boston history in "**Three If By Air**," the true story of John Childs, who, in 1754, hang-glided off Old North Church, better known for Paul Revere's lanterns 21 years later. Kitchen also pokes fun at his own rock'n'roll past in "**Everything Makes Me Cry These Days Except the Rolling Stones**."

Though well received at the time, *Blanket* did not get the attention of Kitchen's later albums *The Post-American Century*, *The Quiet Places* and *Next Time We Meet*. Whether hearing these songs for the first time or revisiting an old friend, we hope you enjoy this 25th Anniversary edition of *Blanket*. **Terry Kitchen** has performed on folk stages across the US and Canada since the 1990s, releasing a dozen CDs of unique, literate songwriting. His songs have won the USA and Mid-Atlantic song contests and have appeared in numerous films. *The Boston Globe* calls him "one of New England's best songwriters."

About the SONGS on Terry Kitchen's *Blanket*

1. Kid Who Looks Like Me (3:51) "*There was nothin' much to do in Fairbanks...*"

While attention is rightly given to the pain of separation between mother and child, what about the other parent in the equation? With Amy Malkoff on harmony and Brice Buchanan on lead guitar.

2. I Can't Remember Life Before I Got Here (4:19)

Here in 2022 there are more tools to establish innocence for those lucky enough to get their cases reheard. But what of the guilty? With Michael Holland on harmony and Brice Buchanan on lead.

3. Three If By Air (5:04) A piece of Boston history - in 1754 inventor John Childs made wings and flew off Old North Church. With Billy Novick on penny whistle.

4. If Wishes Were Rivers (3:37) Terry is never happier than while canoeing down a swift river. Then he doesn't need to paddle. With Brice Buchanan on harmony and David Hamburger on Dobro.

5. Love Is Possible (3:56) A traffic light in Nashville almost leads to love. The only time the light ever changed too soon... With Michael Holland on harmony.

6. The Sweetest Poison (3:56) Love can be an obsession, with all the downsides of any addiction. But, what an upside, however brief. With Michael Holland on harmony and Brice Buchanan on lead.

7. Everything Makes Me Cry These Days Except The Rolling Stones (3:34)

Mick and Keith, the ultimate brothers. (And a girlfriend of Terry's really did look like Mick!) With Amy Malkoff on harmony and Brice Buchanan on slide.

8. Michael (2:41) For every reckless younger brother who happens to be gay. With Amy Malkoff on harmony.

9. Rachel Won't You Come (3:54)

Kitchen's own family, with its tragedy and vow of silence, wasn't much to learn from. So he borrowed his friend Rachel's and learned much. With Amy Malkoff on harmony.

10. Big Sister (2:58) Terry's life can be divided into two unequal halves: the first handful of years when his sister was healthy and ran his life, and the long anti-climax.

11. Homesick Angel (4:11) Kitchen's father served just after WWII, and looked with awe on those who saw action. His buddy Jack had been a POW in Burma, barely surviving. No wonder he drank so much. With David Hamburger on Dobro, and Brice Buchanan and Barry Singer on harmony.

12. German Violin (4:13) This true story, about the instrument a friend's dad brought home from the war, made Terry realize how lucky he was, never having to sell his guitar to feed his family. With co-writer Mark Simos on fiddle.

13. Lightning Strikes (4:41) We plan and prepare, but in the end life gets us, so we better enjoy the time we have. With Michael Holland on harmony and Brice Buchanan on lead guitar.

14. Kid Who Looks Like Me

(Instrumental Mix) (3:51) A hidden cut on the physical CD - which fades in after a few moment's silence - this instrumental mix is a rare opportunity to hear the interplay between Kitchen's acoustic guitar, Buchanan's electric guitar, Seth Connelly's fretless bass, and Laura Wood's percussion without all those pesky lyrics.

All songs © 1997 Terry Kitchen, Urban Campfire Music, BMI, except "German Violin" by Terry Kitchen and Mark Simos. Recorded by Huck Bennert at Wellspring Sound, Concord, MA (1996-97). Mastered by Jonathan Wyner at MWorks (1997). Digital album remastered by Glenn Barratt at Morningstar Studios (2022). Cover photo by George Pokrivchak, Easter Sunday, 1961. Design by Francisco Gonzalez

For Amy.