

Terry Kitchen

Lost Songs

Award-winning contemporary folk singer/songwriter **Terry Kitchen** has always written songs that didn't quite fit. *Lost Songs* weaves together new recordings of unreleased songs from all phases of Kitchen's career (including some brand new ones) into a compelling whole that's musically rich and emotionally satisfying.

1. Opposite Day 3:41
2. Here's to Us 4:26
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All instruments by Terry Kitchen unless noted.
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Cover photo by Terry Kitchen, Seal Cove, Maine, 2020.
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1. Opposite Day 3:41
Brian Middleton harmony vocal

When the cat brought in the paper it was nothing but good news
Nobody died and nobody cried about who did what to who
I ate a healthy breakfast, was early for work
And I didn't lose my temper or call my boss a jerk
'Cause I love my job except they give me too much pay
Opposite Day

Then coming home this evening I heard your favorite song
It made me feel so good, cranked it up and sang along
And I felt sharp all day 'cause I didn't drink last night
The house did not seem empty, not a pizza box in sight

'Cause I got your message you're comin' home to stay
Opposite Day

On Opposite Day the moon is bright
til the sun comes up on Opposite Night
I go to bed and wake up yesterday

I'm vacuuming the carpet just like I'd always do
When you were out carousing and gettin' home at two
And I'm sleeping like a baby with the bed all to myself
And I'm laughing at the image of you with someone else
'Cause I know I'm so much better off this way
Opposite Day

On Opposite Day the moon is bright
til the sun comes up on Opposite Night
Forgive and forget, that's what you'll say

On Opposite Day the blind can see
That's how I know you still love me
And dreams come true if you tap your toes
And cross your eyes and touch your nose
What's good is bad, what's best is worst
Happy's sad and last is first
And love never up and blows away
On Opposite Day

2. Here's to Us 4:26

Norman Zocher pedal steel
Sarah Telford harmony vocal

I'd like to take you out on the town
Spend the evening with you someplace nice
That's not too loud, not too crowded
With a view of the city lights
We'll both get all dressed up
I'll comb what's left of my hair
The waiter will pour something that sparkles
I'll lift mine to the air, and say

Here's to us
and the quiet adventure we've taken together
through the years
Most of them good ones, some of them tough
Looking back it's amazing how far we've come
So raise your glass, dear
Here's to us

You'll help me if the menu's in French
So I don't order snails by mistake
We'll talk about Paris, talk about Venice
and trips we've yet to take
We'll ponder if fate brought us together
or if we met purely by chance
And if there's music I'll wait for a slow one
and then ask you to dance, saying

Here's to us
and the quiet adventure we've taken together
through the years
Most of them good ones, some of them rough
Looking back it's amazing how far we've come
So raise your glass, dear
Here's to us

And just like our story
The evening's not over yet

So here's to us
It's quite an adventure we've taken together through the years
Most of them good ones, some of them tough
Looking back it's amazing how far we've come
So raise your glass, dear
Here's to us
So raise your glass, my love
Here's to us

3. Nickel Bag 4:37

I was cool in high school
Good friend to have
Kids would all come over
to buy their nickel bag
Nickel bag, nickel bag, nickel bag

I had all the albums
Good stereo
I hid my stash there
behind the speaker cone
Nickel bag, nickel bag, nickel bag

Pink Floyd was coming
to the Nassau Coliseum
I'd make a fortune
off the kids who went to see 'em
Nickel bag, nickel bag, nickel bag

Guess I got careless
'Cause the next thing I knew
I'm up against the wall
Bein' frisked by you know who
Nickel bag, nickel bag, nickel bag

They locked me in a squad car
No handles inside
Drove me to some holding cell
Where I waited half the night
Nickel bag, nickel bag, nickel bag

Two crestfallen parents
and one stone-faced detective
Sat me down across the table
to talk about my record
Nickel bag, nickel bag, nickel bag

Cop ran down the list
of all the laws I'd broken
But he said, you straighten up, son
and I'll leave the file open
Nickel bag, nickel bag, nickel bag

I mowed the lawn at church
each Saturday that summer
That fall I left for college
and my uneventful future
Nickel bag, nickel bag, nickel bag

Now I watch the news and wonder
if my skin was black or brown
Would that cop have let me walk
or would he have sent me down
Nickel bag, nickel bag nickel bag

4. She Never Looks Out the Window 3:46
Sarah Telford harmony vocal

I'm a gofer at an office, each day I fetch the mail
Walk four blocks to the PO box down at Davis Square
On the corner by the traffic light there's a building that I pass
And I always see a woman just behind the glass

She's a redhead, kind of pretty, maybe 30 give or take
Snow white skin, a bit too thin, lines of worry on her face
She wraps the chord around her wrist talking on the phone

I want to tell her its all right, she's not so all alone

But she never looks, she never looks
She never looks out the window
She never looks, she never looks
She never looks out the window

So I wonder what's her story as she stares down at the floor
Did the rug get pulled, did she get fooled a thousand times before
Well that makes her the same as me and wouldn't it be nice
To get together, fall in love and win for once in life

But she never looks, she never looks
She never looks out the window
She never looks, she never looks
She never looks out the window

One day lightning will strike outside her door
She'll lift her head up to hear the thunder roar
And see me standing there, with a rainbow behind
And we'll hold our gaze til the end of time

So I walk back to the office, last chance to try my luck
And as I pass I touch the glass and whisper "Hey look up!"
But I get no satisfaction for this longing in my heart
Like it's her way of saying no before we even start

She never looks, she never looks
She never looks out the window
She never looks, she never looks
She never looks out the window

5. The Morning After (The Night Before) 3:21
Jackie Damsky violin

You're getting too old for this
It used to keep you young
The taste of a stranger's kiss
Burnin' on your tongue
It used to be your favorite sport
Somehow it's not as fun anymore
The morning after the night before

There's traffic out in the street
It's quiet in the house
Your new friend is fast asleep
Clothes all over the couch
You lift an arm and wiggle free

and tiptoe like a mouse to the door
The morning after the night before

Last night you were flying
On the wine and the sweet perfume
And the sparks of desire
That danced across the room
In the soft lights of closing time

Don't let the screen door slam
As you're shruggin' on your coat
Sure they will understand
If you don't leave a note
It's a perfect getaway
So why's that heart of stone feel sore
The morning after the night before

Seems to me you won the game
Just lose the war
The morning after the night before

6. Hard Time for Love 3:25

It's a hard time for love
It's a hard time for love
It's a hard time for holding hands
It's a hard time for making plans that won't crash down from above
It's a hard time for love

It's a hard time for dreams
It's a hard time for dreams
It's a hard time for taking risks
When every parachute has ripped apart right at the seams
It's a hard time for dreams

Oh why must it be so hard to break free
Of the weight of the world
Look around, can't you see
It's not us, it's not you, it's not me

It's just a hard time for love
It's a hard time for love
It's a hard time for holding hands
A hard time for making plans that won't crash down from above
It's a hard time for love

Oh why must it be so hard to break free
Of the weight of the world

Look around, can't you see
It's not us, it's not you, it's not me

It's just a hard time for dreams
It's a hard time for dreams
It's a hard time for taking risks
When every parachute has ripped apart right at the seams
It's a hard time for dreams
It's a hard time for dreams
It's a hard time for love
It's a hard time for love

7. Walk Around the Block 3:34
Sarah Telford harmony vocal

When my whole day goes wrong from the moment I get up
And my horoscope says hide and I spill my coffee cup
And the phone rings loud and early and a headache starts to knock
I take a walk around the block

I take a walk around the block
I talk to neighbors, my neighbors talk to me
I pet the cat who rubs against my knee
I walk around the block
I smell the flowers that grow along the fence
When I notice all the little things, the big things all start to make sense
I take a walk around the block

And when the sun beats down on the island of my day
And I'm writing out my message and the bottle floats away
And I'm desperate for a rescue from this lonely piece of rock
I take a walk around the block

I take a walk around the block
I touch the maples who offer me their shade
I spend a quarter on some lemonade
I walk around the block
I pass a stroller that hides a tiny face
When I notice all the little things, the big things all fall into place
I take a walk around the block

And when the shadows fill every corner of my room
And the ghost of things undone rises from the gloom
And I need to free my heartbeat from the ticking of the clock
I take a walk around the block

I take a walk around the block
Smell dinner cooking as the cars come home from work

I hear kids holler hey what's for dessert
I walk around the block
See streetlights flicker just like evening stars
When I notice all the little things, the big things don't seem quite as far
I take a walk around the block

8. The Way of the World 3:37
Deede Bergeron harmony vocal

Take a house full of memories
Put 'em all up on Ebay
The ones that don't sell
Drop 'em off at Goodwill
Take the pictures from the mantle
The vases and the candles
Strip out the carpets
Put it on the market

Dusty boxes of photos
Full of faces you should know
Old folks as little children
With their lifetimes before them
Wonder where the time went
What happens when it's all spent
If you stand here with your eyes closed
You can almost hear 'em call

Say a prayer, shed a tear
It's gonna take you years
To accept the way of the world
The way of the world

Your dad's discharge papers
from the U.S.S. Constellation
Mom's high school yearbook
with the classes that they both took
All the suitors that she turned down
to escort her in her ball gown
Told 'em she was waiting
for her boy in the Navy

Say a prayer, shed a tear
It's gonna take you years
To accept the way of the world
Dry your eye, raise a glass
And this too shall pass
Once you accept the way of the world
The way of the world

Take a house full of memories
Put 'em all up on Ebay

9. The Nederland Waltz 3:51
Brian Middleton harmony vocal

There's a poster of Jerry Garcia on the outhouse door
There's a pile of Mad Magazines down on the floor
You can contemplate Spy vs. Spy and the world it critiques
Or leave the door open and stare at the snow on the peaks

In Nederland, Colorado
The refuge of us refugees
But it's filling up fast and it's too good to last
So don't stay too long if you please

Michael's an underground DJ who just plays the Dead
Eugene sells T-shirts at concerts when he needs the bread
Betsy's home schooling her children who run wild and free
And they'd just as soon sell Manhattan for a handful of beads

In Nederland, Colorado
The refuge of us refugees
But it's filling up fast and it's too good to last
So don't stay too long if you please

Each Sunday the tribe gets together to play volleyball
Klaus and Summer spread woodchips to help break your fall
The play tends toward sloppy as the players tend to be stoned
There's a cookout and it's about Tuesday until folks get home

In Nederland, Colorado
The refuge of us refugees
But it's filling up fast and it's too good to last
So don't stay too long if you please

10. Brand New Laces (Same Old Shoes) 4:25
Rebecca Lynch lead vocal
Barry Singer sax, piano

I'm here at our usual table
But it's long past our usual time
Our two drinks are empty but I drank 'em both
While the jukebox took a handful of my dimes

There's a thousand explanations for his absence
There's a hundred reasons why he couldn't phone

But just one seems likely, I can hope that I'm wrong
'Cause the morning's such a long way alone

Seems like brand new laces for the same old shoes
Another pretty face but it's the same old blues
Winners walking away by twos while I lose

The bartender's watching me look lonesome
The waitress is acting extra kind
I'll wait one more minute, if he's not here by then
Guess it's me that's the one out of time

Seems like brand new laces for the same old shoes
Another pretty face but it's the same old blues
Winners walking away by twos while I lose

Where could he be, this has never happened to me
(since the time before, the time before, and the time before that)
I'm the sailor's doll but just til their next port of call

I walk right past my bus stop
I'm taking my chances with the rain
It can wash off my make-up, steal the curl from my hair
But it best let my heart remain

Seems like brand new laces for the same old shoes
Another pretty face but it's the same old blues
Winners walking away by twos
I'm walking alone but that's hardly news
Brand new laces for the same old shoes
Another pretty face but it's the same old blues
Winners walking away by twos while I lose

11. You and Me and the Kama Sutra 2:54
Chris Peeler brushes

Snow comin' down like it's never gonna stop
Ain't nothin' on 'cause the power's off
Let's go to bed early and stay up late like we used to
Tonight it's just you and me and the Kama Sutra

I'll light the candles, you pour the wine
Phone's off the hook, let yourself unwind
There's nowhere to go, it's socked in from here to Worcester
Tonight it's just you and me and the Kama Sutra

There ain't no Jehovah's Witnesses knocking on the door
Let's start with lotus blossom on page eighty-four

A hot bubble bath if we need a break
Then resume with crouching tiger on page one eighty-eight

Two bodies flicker in the candle light
It's tension, release, repeat all night
Hey Leonard Cohen ain't the only one who'll be shoutin' out hallelujah
Tonight it's just you and me and the Kama Sutra

Two bodies flicker in the candle light
It's tension, release, repeat all night
Tomorrow we'll dig our way out, then it's back to the future
But tonight it's just you and me
No email, computer, TV
Tonight it's just you and me and the Kama Sutra

12. Don't Kick the Cat 2:20

I woke up thirsty in the middle of the night
A tall glass of water would set me right
I pulled back the covers, my feet came down
My slippers exploded in a big meow

Don't kick the cat, boys, don't kick the cat
She won't be happy if you knock her flat
She's a perfect target, she's low and she's fat
But don't kick the cat, boys, don't kick the cat

I felt a little hungry so I got the saltines
Then high on the shelf I saw the sardines
I took a step backward to get a better angle
A big ball of fur got my feet in a tangle

Don't kick the cat, boys, don't kick the cat
She won't be happy if you knock her flat
She's a perfect target, she's low and she's fat
But don't kick the cat, boys, don't kick the cat

I went back to sleep and dreamed of a trial
The jury had tails and Cheshire smiles
The lawyer cat said his footprint matches
The judge sentenced me to forty scratches

Don't kick the cat, boys, don't kick the cat
She won't be happy if you knock her flat
She's a perfect target, she's low and she's fat
But don't kick the cat, boys, don't kick the cat

13. Thirty-One Flavors 4:50

I lived for ice cream when I was a kid
We'd pester our parents until they'd give in
We'd pull off the highway at the big orange roof
Wolf down our dinners and then came the moment of truth

Thirty-one flavors, how can you possibly choose
Be glad for what you get, let go of those you lose
Thirty-one flavors and you only get to pick one
Life is sweet but life is short, then it's done
Before you can savor all thirty-one flavors

When I was in high school I had a girl
Her kisses were hot like cinnamon swirl
She asked for my class ring to wear round her neck
But I thought of all the girls I hadn't kissed yet

Thirty-one flavors, how can you possibly choose
Be glad for what you get, let go of those you lose
Thirty-one flavors and you only get to pick one
Life is sweet but life is short, then it's done
Before you can savor all thirty-one flavors

One scoop or two, a cone or a dish
Jimmies on top, whipped cream if you wish

Now I'm older and wiser and I've had my fun
Got a mouth full of metal for the tasting I've done
But maybe the choosing is what life's about
So the next girl who asks for my ring had better watch out

Thirty-one flavors, how can you possibly choose
Be glad for what you get, let go of those you lose
Thirty-one flavors and you only get to pick one (or two)
Life is sweet but life is short, then it's done
Before you can savor all thirty-one flavors
I want to savor all thirty-one flavors

14. Ex-Girlfriend Weekend 2:28
Brian Middleton harmony vocal

There's a party, there's a meeting, there's a lunch
There's a movie, there's a concert, there's a brunch
It's either on your own or in a bunch
It's ex-girlfriend weekend

There's a shower, there's a wedding, there's a church
There's a wake, there's a funeral, there's a hearse

And you're wondering just who has got it worse
It's ex-girlfriend weekend

Take a pill, take a powder, take a puff
Take another 'cause one might not be enough
How you wish that you were made of sterner stuff
It's ex-girlfriend weekend

You could move to Texas or Callou
Raise llamas in the middle of Peru
Friday evening she would still be passing through
It's ex-girlfriend weekend

Here's a message, here's an email, here's a text
And you're scared of what they'll be inventing next
There's nowhere you can hide that isn't hexed
It's ex-girlfriend weekend

You had problems, you had issues, you had spats
She even made you sit through all of "Cats"
You broke up before you got the baseball bats
It's ex-girlfriend weekend

You could move to Texas or Callou
Raise llamas in the middle of Peru
Friday evening she would still be passing through
It's ex-girlfriend weekend

You feel tense, you feel nervous, you feel blue
'Cause you don't know what you'll say or what you'll do
Sunday morning when she's waking next to you
It's ex-girlfriend weekend

15. Jack and Jill and Mary and Me 4:28

If only Jill had taken care of business
Shown Jack a little kindness when he was feeling down
A little dab of perfume in that V between her breasts
And he wouldn't have come sniffin' around

But it's too late and Jack's gone with Mary
And Jill's in the gutter just like me
Oh I wonder if she blames me like I blame her
For breaking up Jack and Jill and Mary and me
Jack and Jill and Mary and me

I can see Jill sit and bitch into her bottle
How if only I'd kept Mary satisfied at home

If I'd combed my hair more often, kept myself at fighting weight
Her eye might not have started to roam

But it's too late and Jack's gone with Mary
And Jill's in the gutter just like me
Oh I wonder if she blames me like I blame her
For breaking up Jack and Jill and Mary and me
Jack and Jill and Mary and me

I could pick up the phone, give a piece of my mind
But she'd throw right back everything I said
I could knock on her door, would she slap my face
Or would we settle this in bed?

Now it's too late 'cause Jack's gone with Mary
And Jill's in the gutter just like me
Oh I wonder if she blames me like I blame her
For breaking up Jack and Jill and Mary and me
Jack and Jill and Mary and me

16. No Heroic Measures 3:43

My father's getting up there, it was just a matter of when
something gave out, and it was now instead of then
A helicopter rushed him to the table
A dozen doctors worked all night to save him
We waited through the morning gloom and watched the drizzling skies
He never made my mom so happy just by opening his eyes

Now you say no heroic measures, all things have their time
We raise our glasses, is it hemlock is it wine
Me I'd fight tooth and nail to keep this love alive
But you say no heroic measures
Well no heroic measures sounds just like goodbye

Back when I was younger I didn't count on love to last
I grabbed the future and I let go of the past
But time has changed me, now I value what I hold
Love getting stronger and not just getting old
I watch my parents try and help each other through the years
And just to give that up so easy seems sadder than all tears

But you say no heroic measures, all things have their time
We raise our glasses, is it hemlock is it wine
Me I'd fight tooth and nail to keep this love alive
But you say no heroic measures
Well no heroic measures sounds just like goodbye

I ask you are past the point of compromise
I need some caring in your voice
Some daring in your eyes

But you say no heroic measures...
Me I'd fight tooth and nail to keep this love alive
But you say no heroic measures, no heroic measures
No heroic measures sounds just like goodbye

A photograph of a harbor scene on a foggy day. Several boats are visible on the water, including a larger white boat on the left and a smaller boat in the center. The water is calm, and the fog is thick, creating a somber and atmospheric mood. The text 'terry kitchen' is overlaid in a large, black, serif font in the upper half of the image.

terry kitchen

lost songs