



**Terry Kitchen**  
***First Album (Remastered)***  
**30th Anniversary Edition**  
**Urban Campfire Productions**  
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In 1990, singer/guitarist/songwriter **Terry Kitchen** needed a plan. He'd spent the '80s leading the innovative Boston band Loose Ties, who'd made some interesting music (releasing one album and appearing in both Boston's 1986 WBCN Rumble and NYC's 1987 New Music Seminar) but had broken up before breaking through. **Kitchen** contemplated moving back to Los Angeles (where he'd gone to Occidental College) to become a behind-the-scenes songwriter, when a friend asked why he needed a band, or stars to sing his songs. Why not just sing them himself? **Kitchen** began performing on New England's fabled coffeehouse scene – The Nameless Coffeehouse, Passim, The Old Vienna Kaffeehaus – and found he enjoyed the heightened attention audiences gave the music. In 1991 he recorded and released his solo debut. Now remastered, this 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition captures these formative songs and performances, and the music has never sounded better.

Though centered around **Kitchen's** acoustic guitar and plaintive vocals, the album features a wide array of guest musicians and styles as Kitchen explores possible directions. Opener "**Property**" with its rootsy groove and anti-capitalist lyric echoes acoustic Grateful Dead, and features ex-Loose Tie Brice Buchanan on lead guitar. "**The Favor**" has jazz changes and a haunting soprano sax solo from Matt Darriau. "**Stonecutter**," which received the most attention upon release, is a story song in the truest sense – it's based on a Zen folktale, and the flute and hand percussion create a real aura of magic. "**Fall Like a Rock**" is a radio-ready pop song, but its narrator's fatalism hints at Kitchen's true direction, as an observer too wise to believe in happy endings. Al Kooper's "**This Diamond Ring**" (the album's only cover) is powered by **Kitchen's** classical guitar licks and harmony from Leslie Sterling. "**Pray for Rachel**" is an ode to a young friend struggling with cancer, made even more poignant by Sandi-Jo Malmon's delicate cello accompaniment. "**Take Me Blues**" closes the album with Jack Paradis's harmonica echoing Kitchen's midnight keening.

In total, **Terry Kitchen's** first solo album is alive with the subtle electricity of an artist finding his voice, trying on sounds to see which ones fit. It hints at **Kitchen's** developing gifts for storytelling and finding compassion for characters we might not otherwise look twice at. In the years since the record's release, **Terry** has performed on folk stages across the US and Canada, 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 *First Album*

**1. Property** (4:57) "*Old stray tomcat...*" From the album's very first lyric, Kitchen draws a line in the sand between comfort and adventure, with Terry choosing the latter. With ex-Loose Ties Brice Buchanan (lead guitar, harmony), Barry Singer (harmony), and Chris Peeler (drums).

**2. The Favor** (4:18) Kitchen's minor-key classical guitar sets the mood for these sketches of Terry's fish-out-of-water Ohio years. With Matt Darriau on soprano sax and Leslie Sterling on harmony.

**3. Some Things Are Worth Saving** (3:05) An environmental (and personal) love song given depth by Jennifer Shader's melodic upright bass lines. With Brice Buchanan and Barry Singer on harmony.

**4. Stonecutter** (4:40) Based on the Zen folktale, with the still-timely moral "be careful what you wish for." With Mckinley Black on harmony, Sharrhan Williamson on flute and Laura Wood on percussion.

**5. Fall Like a Rock** (2:48) A classic unrequited love song, flavored by Kitchen's own electric guitar flourishes. With Brice Buchanan and Barry Singer on harmony.

**6. This Diamond Ring** (2:34) An acoustic romp through this '60s hit from Gary & the Playboys, one of Kitchen's childhood favorites. With Leslie Sterling on harmony.

**7. Turn Your Head Around** (3:34) A song about perspective, with the singer doing his best to focus on the positive. With Brice Buchanan and Barry Singer on harmony and Laura Wood on percussion (and Kitchen himself on lead guitar).

**8. Tender Lee** (3:37) Gentle encouragement to a wallflower to finally find the sun and bloom, set to a subtle Bo Diddley beat. With Bill Kuhlman (from Loose Ties) on harmony and Jack Paradis on harmonica.

**9. That's the Way** (3:49) Self-pity as an art form, based on a letter from a summer camp friend (who's doing very well, thank you), powered by Brice Buchanan's Andy Summers-meets-Mark Knopfler guitar licks and Geoff Poister's mournful violin. With Leslie Sterling on harmony and Chris Peeler on drums.

**10. Pray for Rachel** (3:02) This moving story of a young woman's battle with cancer is also a glimpse into Kitchen's complex relationship with religion, also explored in later songs "Blues for Cain and Abel" and "Heaven Here on Earth." With Sandi-Jo Malmon on cello.

**11. Deep Like a Well** (3:53) Perhaps the most '90s singer/songwriter'-sounding tune on the album, as Kitchen was absorbing influences from Shawn Colvin, John Gorka and Bill Morrissey. With Holly Gettings on mandolin and harmony.

**12. Take Me Blues** (3:54) One of the sweet ironies of life is that singing the blues really does make you feel better. Good thing, too. With Jack Paradis on harmonica. A live version of the song appears on Kitchen's 2018 *Rubies in the Dust* album, with Annie Raines on harp.

Bonus tracks from *Blues and Grace* (1993):

**13. Blues and Grace** (2:49) with Annie Raines, harmonica

**14. Fix My Bike** (3:02) with Terry on slide guitar and harmonica

**15. Vodka for Crying (Wine to Make Love)** (3:14) with Barbara Kessler (harmony) and Geoff Bartley (harmonica)

All songs © 1991-93 Terry Kitchen, Urban Campfire Music, BMI, except "This Diamond Ring" by Al Kooper-Bob Brass-Irwin Levine, Little A Music-Unichappell Music, BMI. Recorded by Steve Friedman at Melville Park Studio, Hyde Park, MA (1991). Recorded by Coleman Rogers at Wellspring Studio, Newton, MA (1993). Remastered by Terry Kitchen at Ro's House, Roslindale, MA (2021). Cover photo by Linda Holt.