

CALIFORNIA SOBER- This is one of the few songs I've ever written that's actually about someone specific, someone I really like actually. But they're kind of untouchable, inside this hazy cocoon which was probably spun for protection but it kind of ends up being it's own prison. I'm actually 43 years sober and not the California way. Yet.

PUT ME OUT OF YOUR MISERY- This sad fellow knows damn well he is not qualified for love and feels a responsibility to let her know it. I like the 80's ness of the track though, something almost Psychedelic Furs about it, I love that band.

ONLY CHILD- A song of sympathy for someone who had maybe a similar childhood to my own, but also just wanted to sound like Tom Petty playing with The Band.

I HATE FALLING IN LOVE- This is NOT autobiographical! It's just a SONG! I promise! A cynical take on romance with Harry Nillson vibes. At least I was going for Nillson, might have ended up with a toe in Tom Waits' bathtub.

HALF PAST NEVER- A true rocking love song for my wife stealing a few riffs out of my former employer Paul Westerberg's closet. It's ok, he's not using them right now.

IF I WAS YOU- This is my loving tribute to the Who. I started playing guitar at 13 learning from "Live At Leeds" but I've never indulged myself in such an extreme imitation, turns out it's not that easy to do! But Peter Anderson's drums and Ian Allison's Ox-like bass got it started right from the heart. I actually like the peace/love/hippy dippy lyric too even though that's not usually what I'm able to do.

NOT AS PRETTY AS YOU THINK YOU ARE- I think the pure piss and vinegar of this one makes up for the positivity of some of the others.... I mean, this is just mean spirited snottiness, a lot of the lyrics don't even make sense but that's kind of cool. If anyone can tell where I got the talking bit I'll give 'em ten bucks.

BE WHO YOU ARE- When I was 6 years old and my big sister got "Sgt. Pepper" she wouldn't let me in her room to listen to her play it on the "close n play" so I had to listen down on the floor under her bedroom door which I did gladly. Because I had a combination of low self-esteem and, starting there with "Within You And Without You", a lifelong fascination with George Harrison. How could one person be that cool? And what is this droning beauty? I still feel that way.

HURT ME BEAUTIFUL- I have no idea where this came from, I'm more of a punk guy than a pop/punk guy (except the Buzzcocks, I LOVE them!) but this just happened. Clever but pointless lyric, music sounds like early 2000's. My wife made me put it on the record, she loves it. I cut the drums a loooong time ago and I swear to God I can't remember who played the drum track. I sent it to every drummer I play with and they all deny it. One of them is lying and at some point I will get to the bottom of this.

ANOTHER WORD FOR GOD- I think I was watching ESPN or something watching a bunch of guys killing a bunch of other guys over differences in dress code and facial hair or something. So depressing. But I don't screen save on sadness, anger is my more comfy place so I started thinking how furious God must be with all these people He made (supposedly) and what little assholes they turned out to be. Instant hitsville, baby.