

BEN HARPER  
& THE  
INNOCENT  
CRIMINALS  
CALL IT  
WHAT IT IS



1 / **When Sex Was Dirty** (3:50) 2 / **Deeper and Deeper** (4:02) 3 / **Call It What It Is** (3:47)  
4 / **How Dark Is Gone** (3:38) 5 / **Shine** (3:55) 6 / **All That Has Grown** (3:25) 7 / **Pink Balloon** (2:22)  
8 / **Finding Our Way** (4:15) 9 / **Bones** (3:21) 10 / **Dance Like Fire** (3:09) 11 / **Goodbye to You** (5:06)

Produced by Ben Harper, Ethan Allen, Juan Nelson, Leon Mobley, Oliver Charles, Jason Yates, Michael Ward

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To all the sons and daughters of the boulevard the branches are black and the tree stands  
bare gun control mind control self-control as life traces the lines in our faces if you were all  
I had I'd have it all what we remember is what we choose first thing she wakes up pours  
herself a cup less still is many and some far too much go thank your mom and dad for  
breeding takes a lifetime to find yourself create each other's voids fill each other's needs

### 1 / When Sex Was Dirty

to all the sons and daughters  
of the boulevard  
who learned to go without sleep  
and to hide all the scars  
who believed in the vagrant  
on hollywood and vine  
when he said a mile of gold  
won't buy you an inch of time

we made everything we have  
out of nothing at all  
way back when marijuana  
was against the law  
we were always outnumbered  
we were always outmanned  
went down a road of ruin  
but here we stand

i remember when sex was dirty  
and the air was clean  
and everything worth knowing  
was in a magazine

### 2 / Deeper and Deeper

deeper and deeper until i drown  
hard going under without a sound  
i try to run but you hold me down  
deeper and deeper until i drown

longing is a ghost  
when the one you love the most  
no longer has you on their mind

deeper and deeper until i drown  
hard going under without a sound  
i try to run but you hold me down  
deeper and deeper until i drown

hell or high water  
and hold on tight  
and if you're not mine  
i'll wait all night

the branches are black  
and the tree stands bare  
haunted by the bloom  
that's no longer there  
clinging to the ground  
to grow another ring around

deeper and deeper until i drown  
so hard going under without a sound  
i try to run but you hold me down  
you've got me deeper and deeper until i drown

### 3 / Call It What It Is

they shot him in the back  
now it's a crime to be black  
so don't act surprised  
when it gets vandalized

there's good cops  
bad cops  
white cops  
black cops

Trayvon Martin  
Ezell Ford  
Michael Brown  
and so many more

government, policing, hard times,  
oppression, racism, fear, suffering  
ain't easy

gun control  
mind control  
self-control  
we've dug ourselves a hole

call it what it is  
murder

### 4 / How Dark Is Gone

aren't you glad you can still feel pain  
aren't you glad you still feel anything  
aren't you glad you can still complain  
aren't you glad you're still the same  
make you run through life when you could walk  
make you scream when you wanted to talk

would you rather wave a flag  
or wave goodbye  
would you rather flood your heart  
or dare let them see you cry  
rather fight a war or live in fear  
aren't you glad to be here

you can't know till you do  
by then lesser thieves have spoken for you  
with their quiet demands  
in a whispered hush  
you may have to lie  
when the truth hurts too much

as life traces the lines in our faces  
i won't look away  
some die too young  
some live too long  
how dark is gone

### 5 / Shine

we shine like a new tattoo  
scarred on skin bright as day  
across my heart  
there is no other way

give me tomorrow  
and i'll give you today  
in the end  
there is no other way

we are like two roads  
that lead to the same place  
won't leave a trace  
there is no other way

if you were all i had  
i would have it all

soul to soul we roam  
aimlessly astray  
that's over now  
there is no other way

some days we'll be lost  
we run out of words to say  
we both know  
there is no other way

### 6 / All That Has Grown

after the storm  
and the lightning fires  
and the last bird  
has flown from the wire  
after the rain  
the wind dries us cold  
after the storm  
just you and me growing old

after the storm  
and the skies are blue  
after everything  
we put each other through  
the dust and the mud  
have become stone  
after the storm  
just you and me on our own

our choices and our words  
like that bird have flown  
after the storm  
look at all that has grown

### 7 / Pink Balloon

she walks around  
with a pink balloon  
and if you try to take it from her  
your end will come too soon

she dreams about  
her pink balloon  
carrying her higher and higher  
up to the moon

she ties it to her waist  
she ties it to her wrist  
and if you're lucky she might let it go for you  
and make a wish

first thing she wakes up  
pours herself a cup  
before she's out the door  
she stops to blow it up  
sometimes she carries it high  
sometimes she carries it low  
people point at her  
and say there she goes

she don't worry about danger  
she don't worry about doom  
and she don't give a damn what you think  
about her pink balloon

### 8 / Finding Our Way

damn all the judges who once thought they knew  
those free of grudges i fear are too few  
and less still is many and some far too much  
limping along on a gold plated crutch

how does one listen when deafened by you  
how does one wiser in the absence of truth  
how does one strengthen in the age of the meek  
when the dams and the walls that you build  
start to leak

let every moment be filled with grace  
don't let tomorrow just be another day  
we've come too far to suffering fools  
and we're much too young for these old rules

god knows what's in your heart  
so you can stay home from church  
who will survive the end of the world

we have a way of finding our way home

### 9 / **Bones**

when the writing's on the wall you better read it  
make your bones  
when the moment comes around you gotta  
seize it  
take your bones  
pain comes do your best to ease it  
throw your bones

a hundred people got a hundred problems  
in their bones  
hard not to feel like the odd one in my bones

every now and then i get so tired  
i rest my bones  
sitting alone with my desires  
in my bones

a hundred people got a hundred problems  
making bones  
hard not to feel like the odd one in my bones

i get to pick my poison  
you get to pick your poison  
i get to pick my poison  
and i pick you

when the writing's on the wall best get reading  
make your bones  
sometimes it's hard to know just what you're  
needing  
to make your bones  
go thank your mom and dad for breeding  
they made your bones

a hundred people got a hundred problems  
in their bones  
hard not to feel like the odd one in my bones

### 10 / **Dance Like Fire**

it takes four men to carry a coffin  
but just one to carry across  
takes a lifetime to find yourself  
a split second to be lost

the real revolutionary  
won't hide in his home  
the real prophet  
dies poor and alone

if we could dance like fire  
we'd never get burned

### 11 / **Goodbye to You**

i wake up feeling like i've aged a year  
'cause i go to sleep in fear of the dawn  
head full of dreams unclear  
make the days seem twice as long

after all we've been through  
i don't know how to say goodbye to you

passed by where we used to go  
where i now go alone  
everything we had to brave  
i'm left here to face on my own

maybe tomorrow i can start anew  
i don't know how to say goodbye to you

shattered and chained to our past  
battered and too proud to ask  
walked a razor's edge poisoned by degrees  
create each other's voids fill each other's needs

my options are plenty  
but my choices are few  
i don't know how to say goodbye to you

Produced by Ben Harper, Ethan Allen, Juan Nelson, Leon Mobley, Oliver Charles, Jason Yates, Michael Ward

Recorded and mixed by Ethan Allen  
Recorded at The Village, Los Angeles, CA  
Mixed at Royal Triton, Los Angeles, CA

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Mastered by Gavin Lurssen at  
Lurssen Mastering, Los Angeles, CA

Photography by Danny Clinch  
Design: Tom Dolan

The Innocent Criminals:

**Ben Harper** – vocals, guitar, slide guitar

**Juan Nelson** – bass, background vocals

**Leon Mobley** – percussion, bongos, cabasa, clave, congas, djembe, flexitone, music stand, shakere, tambourine, triangle, viber flap, wind chimes, whirly tube, background vocals

**Oliver Charles** – drums, djun djun, background vocals

**Jason Yates** – Hammond B3, piano, Fender Rhodes, Wurlitzers, clavinet d6, guitar, background vocals

**Michael Ward** – guitars, background vocals

Jaclyn Harper – additional vocals  
on "Pink Balloon"

Claire Wadsworth – additional vocals on  
"When Sex Was Dirty"

All songs written by Ben Harper, BMG Gold Songs / Three Chord Symphony Music (ASCAP), except: "Deeper and Deeper" written by Ben Harper and Michael Ward, BMG Gold Songs / Three Chord Symphony Music (ASCAP) / Monkeyfeather Music (ASCAP); "How Dark Is Gone" written by Ben Harper, Jason Yates and Leon Mobley, BMG Gold Songs / Three Chord Symphony Music (ASCAP) / Tocayos Music / Wixen Music Pub (BMI) / Leon Mobley Publishing (BMI); "Pink Balloon" written by Ben Harper and Jaclyn Harper, BMG Gold Songs / Three Chord Symphony Music (ASCAP) / LEND2HANDS (ASCAP); "Finding Our Way" written by Ben Harper and Oliver Charles, BMG Gold Songs / Three Chord Symphony Music (ASCAP) / Scent Music (ASCAP).

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Bentley RIP

Management: Will Botwin and Christine Kane for Red Light Management  
Web & Digital Management: Gavin Conaty

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