



Stepney Sisters

We are an all-women feminist rock band. We formed just over a year ago. All the songs in the booklet were written by the band. Sorry we didn't have the time or money to put in the music as well as the words.

We'd welcome any comments about the booklet, or from anyone who has seen us play. Our address is

42 Westport Street  
London E.I.

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& to Angela + J.P for the photos*

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Surgery Blues

I went to the doctor's the other day  
I had an itch I couldn't explain  
I picked up a magazine  
Tried to escape to a dream  
And all the time I'm thinking  
I hope my knickers are clean  
What can you do surgery blues  
Don't take such an interest  
Doctor knows best

I lay on the table like I was told  
His speculum was freezing cold  
He said its not your affair  
Question me if you dare  
You just lie with your legs up in the air  
What can you do surgery blues  
Don't ask questions don't get lies  
Doctor is wise

He won't explain to you what's wrong  
He'll give you a lecture ten minutes long  
A case of hysterical fear  
Is your problem my dear  
Take these pills and come back in a year  
What can you do surgery blues  
Don't take such an interest  
Doctor knows best

I want to know what my body's about  
I'll join a health group and find out  
Not gonna speculate  
On my body's fate  
Get me a speculum and investigate  
What can you do surgery blues  
Don't ask questions don't get lies  
Doctor is wise



This song is about the pressures put on women by the media. Part of it is in the form of a conversation between 2 women.

It's only Make Believe

Chorus

Ist woman It's only make-believe  
2nd woman But you can't make me believe it  
Ist Fantasy makes things all right  
2nd Wake up from your dreams and fight  
Ist I can make it my own way  
2nd But you can't escape from every day  
Ist I can make it  
(So you think you can)  
I can fake it  
(Be a real woman)  
I can take it  
(Don't be so sure about it)  
2nd You don't need it

Woman sitting over there  
Spiky rollers in her hair  
Voice comes on the radio  
'Wash your panties in frillo !  
Stop that intimate B.O.  
Want to meet your ideal beau ?  
Leave the washing up let's go  
Don't you want to ?  
No no no 'cos

Chorus

Ist woman It's only make-believe etc.

Ist woman A woman's place is in the home  
2nd Who told you that ?  
Ist The thought's my own  
No one tells me what to think  
2nd That's why you're chained to  
the sink  
Ist They said my brain was undergrow..  
2nd Make decisions of your own  
Ist There's times, I'm feeling so  
alone  
2nd Wondering have I thought enough  
Build your dreams of stronger  
stuff  
Ist Was I blind ?  
2nd Leave that phoney world behind  
'cos

Chorus

Ist woman It's only make-believe etc.  
until  
2nd You don't need it  
Ist I don't need it  
2nd You don't need it  
Ist I sure don't need it  
No no more (ad lib)  
All It's only make believe  
You don't need it



The Family

Well mama isn't it time you knew  
I'm not your little girl  
I'm a grown-up woman now  
Don't you think you should let go  
Well father you were far away  
You didn't know how to care  
You just left it up to her  
You thought you did your share

Chorus

Don't you know about my family  
They're right inside my head  
Don't you know what they've done to me  
Kept me so well-fed well-bred

I can see you're not to blame  
Your roles were based on lies  
That family production line  
Just fucks up all our lives  
Capital relationships  
Go deeper than we know  
Love mixed up with ownership  
That's how children grow

Chorus

repeat verse 2



Lonely Man

Lonely man standing in a fortress  
You've got a castle but no home  
You'd like to think that you couldn't care less  
Then no one will see you're alone

Lonely man why can't you cry  
You bank on your freedom but what can it buy  
Hold in your tears smother your fears  
Lonely you'll live and lonely you'll die

Lonely man thinking you're unique  
Saying that women are just for show  
You expect love but you're too scared to speak  
In case your dream girl don't want to know

Lonely man in this world where we live  
You cannot take without something to give  
Don't look a fool hang on to your cool  
You'll only have yourself to forgive

Lonely man laugh the loud and longest  
You'll hear it echo round your tomb  
Pick on the weakest so you can be the strongest  
King of the insects in your room

Lonely man why can't you see  
That things should be different and  
if you can be  
True to yourself 'cos you aint no one else  
It's not just women that sisterhood sets free

This next song is about the 6th Demand of the Women's Liberation Movement, which calls for an end to discrimination against lesbians, and the right of every woman to a self-defined sexuality.

6th Demand

Brothers you say that my sister is wrong  
Fucked up by some man, you suppose  
But one fine day the right guy will come along  
And he'll pluck her just like a rose

People you say that my sister is sick  
She loves another woman that's a sin  
She's only waiting for the right kind of prick  
Then her life will really begin

But just open your eyes  
It's time you realised  
That women are setting their love free  
So when you point that judge's finger  
Just be clear that you're pointing  
Straight at me

Sisterhood shows us what love is about  
Choosing our partners without fear  
If we choose men don't cast us out  
If we choose women hold us near

My sister is a lesbian my brother he's gay too  
What about me now and what about you  
Keep on examining your sexuality  
Let's shake ourselves from complacency

And just open your eyes  
It's time you realised  
That people are setting their love free  
So when you point that judge's finger  
Just be clear that you're pointing  
Straight at me

8

Can you count the Feathers  
in your Pillow

Chorus

Can you count the feathers in your pillow  
Can you count the breezes on the sea  
Can you count the tears of a weeping willow  
Can you count on always loving me

I love you when the sun comes through  
the window  
Lighting up the secrets that we share  
Talking soft and laughing long  
We weave our time together  
And stroke each other here and there  
You say we will marry in the summer  
How sweetly contented we will be  
But wedded is for ever and for ever  
That seems just like eternity to me

Chorus

I love you when I wake up in the morning  
Love you more than I did the day before  
Your hair is looking full of straw  
And you're still yawning  
Thinking what today has got in store  
And tho these doubts keep tugging at my sleeve love  
They fly my mind when you walk through the door  
Hey let's stay the way we are and just believe love  
We don't need the paper or the law

Chorus

9

Our version of a Phil Spector classic.  
(To the tune of 'And then he Kissed me')

And then he Bit me

Well he walked up to me as I was coming  
home from the dance  
He looked kinda filthy  
not my idea of romance  
When he smiled his teeth were green  
The rest of him didn't look too clean  
A greasy hand went down my jeans  
And then he bit me

The first time he bared his teeth  
I took a step back  
I wanted to get my fist up  
to give him a crack  
He pushed me to the ground  
I tried to scream but I made no sound  
His eyes were going round and round  
And then he bit me

Chorus

He bit me in a way that I've never  
been bit before  
So I stood back and punched him  
on the jaw

Well I knew that he was mine so I gave him  
all the muscle I had  
And left him to crawl off home to see  
his mum and his dad  
I felt so very uptight  
That I pursued him through the night  
I gave him such a terrible fright  
'Cos then I bit him

Repeat Chorus and verse 3

10

Don't want to be afraid of love

Chorus

Oh I really want to love you  
Want to hold you tight  
Why should I live without you  
Want you to stay the night

When I think of all the times  
that we've been through  
Remembering the things that went wrong  
When all the time I'm trying not to hurt you  
And all the time I'm fighting to be strong  
You know I want to live my own life  
I know you want to live yours too  
There must be a way that we can live together  
To work things out with you

Chorus

I want you to respect me in what  
I'm trying to do  
I want you to know and understand  
There's some things I must work out  
on my own  
There's times I don't want you around  
But if we want to live together  
We've got to learn to trust enough  
Not to lose ourselves in each other  
Don't want to be afraid of love

11

Sisters

Sisters hold up your heads  
stand up and be counted one two three  
Sisters walk hand in hand  
together we'll be free  
Sisters fight for your rights  
out of the darkness and the fear  
Sisters try out your strength  
with love you'll find the light  
is near

All you women  
Beaten and been robbed  
Lost your self-respect  
Ruled by petty gods  
Of jealousy and vanity  
Hatred of each other  
Keeping your true natures  
Hidden under cover  
Of stereotypes of dollies and chicks  
Divided from your sister

Chorus

Find your sister meet her  
Find your sister greet her  
Find your sister look her in the eye  
Know that womanhood is strong

Sisters it's been far too long  
you've been stranded on the street  
Sisters let's shake off our old memories  
let's get back on our feet  
Sisters take pride in yourselves  
let's love our bodies well  
Sisters discover ourselves  
there's so much truth we have to tell

Let's not quarrel  
Among ourselves  
Don't want to put you down  
For being someone else  
For choosing your own path  
Finding your own views  
We see through different mirrors  
But our experience is still true  
Let's move together on common ground  
Defend your friend and sister

Chorus

Find your sister meet her  
Find your sister greet her  
Find your sister look her in the eye  
Know that womanhood is strong (x 2)

This song is a house telling its own story  
of its fate under the GLC.

The House-me-go-Round

Well I was built in eighteen ninety three  
And my owners took care of me  
They kept me warm and sound as a bell  
I was their home they treated me well  
Got taken over by the GLC  
Different tenants came to live in me  
But sending workmen round was very rare  
Sinking fast into disrepair

'Cos in three years time they're gonna  
knock me down Chorus  
That's what they say in County Hall  
We can always move the people around  
They're grateful for a home at all

The GLC they've treated me real mean  
Called me a slum wrote me out of their scheme  
They've moved my tenants to another place  
Took out my windows and bricked up my face  
Sent in the heavies to smash up my loo  
Rip out the piping and power-points too  
Til I was nothing but an empty frame  
A pawn in their redevelopment game

Chorus

When I was thinking that my life was through  
Along came a woman her family too  
Took down the bricks and put a lock on my door  
They couldn't stand being homeless no more  
Put in the windows and another loo  
Replaced the piping and power-points too  
Put up some curtains and made it neat  
Helped some friends move in over the street

Everybody's got a right to a home  
And there's houses just a-going to rot  
If the council won't house you gotta  
go it alone

Don't let houses rot SQUAT  
Don't let houses rot SQUAT (repeat ad lib)

