



Jean Synodinos • Girls, Good & Otherwise

liner notes & lyrics

Track List:

1. You're Only Human (3:24)
2. Five Things to Do Today (3:14)
3. Be a Good Girl (3:51)
4. Full Moon Eclipsing (3:52)
5. Enough Is Enough (4:39)
6. Red Vase (3:03)
7. The Scissors To My Rock (3:08)
8. Happiness Factor (5:44)
9. The Perfect Crime (3:48)
10. Knife (4:23)
11. Nothing But Love (4:17)

Credits:

Primary tracks for *Girls, Good & Otherwise* recorded by Matt Shultz at Satellite Studio in Austin, TX. Additional tracks recorded by Charles Rieser in our fancy pants living room.

Tracks mixed by Matt Shultz and Charles Rieser and mastered by Matt Shultz at Satellite Studio.

Photography by Mo McMorrow.
CD design by Christina Fajardo.

All songs © Jean Synodinos, except "Five Things To Do Today," © Jean Synodinos and Charles Rieser, and "Be a Good Girl," © Katie Gosnell.

The Band:

- **Jean Synodinos:** lead & background vocals; acoustic guitar (all tracks except track 2), ukulele (track 1), keyboards (track 2).
- **Charles Rieser:** all electric guitar tracks; acoustic guitar (tracks 1, 2, 5, 7); omnichord and vibratone (track 1); drum loop (track 2); keyboards (tracks 2, 10)
- **Bruce Hughes:** bass (all tracks), background vocals (tracks 1, 3, 4, 5, 11)
- **Rob Hooper:** drums & percussion (all tracks)

Guest Artists:

- **Red Young:** B3 & keyboard parts (tracks 1, 4, 5, 6)
- **Redd Volkaert:** electric guitar (track 9)
- **John Pointer:** cello (tracks 3, 10); human beatbox (track 2)
- **Carlos Sosa:** saxophone (track 8)
- **Katie Gosnell:** background vocals (track 3)



Thanks & Gratitude:

Big thanks and love to the artists (that includes you Matt), who touched these songs. They came out just right.

I can always count on a few women to be there 100% of the time for me, and life is better for it—my mom and sister, as well as my friends Adrienne and Wendy. I belong to a great book club, too, and I love those women. They get a big shout out just for being wonderful, smart, thoughtful people.

Five years have passed since the release of my last CD—plenty of time to learn some things, and I hope I've learned to write a better song. To that end, great thanks to Pat Pattison and my 14-day songwriting comrades. Among them is Katie Gosnell, and I can't thank her enough for letting me include "Be a Good Girl" on this collection.

It was hard to figure out the right order for the songs on this disc—so hard that I invited friends to help me out. Fifteen folks rose to the challenge, and their input (disparate as it was), helped drive the final order of songs. So big thanks to Pam, Elise, Stewart, Julian, Jan, Kevin, Jaime, Christy, Adrienne, and a few others who either forgot to include their name with their track list or asked to remain anonymous.

Finally, greatest love and gratitude go to Charles Rieser — producer, provocateur, excellent cook, and husband. Thanks for crawling into my grey matter and manifesting my intentions here—you nailed these songs. You + dog Freida + home = The Good Life.

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YOU'RE ONLY HUMAN

c. Jean Synodinos

Pat yourself on the back
You did good, right on track
You did good, what you should
It's understood.

Weary girl, it's a shame
Closed your eyes and shifted blame
Closed your eyes, told some lies
Changed the game

Do you think you crossed the line?
Lost your way, wasted time?
Oh darlin' never mind
You're only human
You're only human

Sleep it off, every night
Dream until you lose the fight
Dream until you find the will
To get it right

Bottoms up, wash it down
Make a wish and kick it round
Make a wish, plant a kiss
On the ground

Do you think you crossed the line?
Lost your way, wasted time?
Oh darlin' never mind
You're only human
You're only human

Look at what the lie's done to you
Questioning what you thought was true
And acting like everything's fine.
This time the boy and the promise
Weren't enough to really keep you honest
But does it mean, does it mean, does it mean....

That you've crossed the line?
Lost your way, wasted time?
Oh darlin' never mind
You're only human
You're only human

FIVE THINGS TO DO TODAY

c. Jean Synodinos & Charles Rieser

Five things to do today: Number 1: make a list
Number 2: do the list
Number 3: look at yesterday's list
Number 4: go to the store
Number 5: arrive, arrive, arrive, arrive
Arrive, arrive, arrive, arrive

I've got a beautiful life
There's no paper peeling off the walls
My husband says I'm a beautiful wife
I can juggle multiple balls
Two perfect children and a dog
All I need to make me whole
Little helpers clear the fog
Sunday sermons soothe the soul

Five things to do today: Number 1: make a list
Number 2: do the things on the list
Number 3: look at yesterday's list for anything that might've been missed
Number 4: make another list and go to the store
Number 5: arrive, arrive, arrive, arrive, arrive

Our picture perfect house and home
Says to neighbors we are well fed
Guarantees my spouse won't roam
Shuts up the jury in my head
And if you want a life like this
One to envy and adore
Focus on your list
Don't dwell on things better left ignored

Five things to do today: Number 1: make a list
Number 2: do the things on the list
Number 3: look at yesterday's list for anything that might've been missed
Number 4: make another list and go to the store
Number 5: arrive, arrive, arrive, arrive, arrive

We organize ourselves
We organize ourselves
It's like our youngest one always says
Those deer won't shoot themselves

Five things to do today: Number 1: make a list
Number 2: do the things on the list
Number 3: look at yesterday's list for anything that might've been missed
Number 4: make another list and go to the store
Number 5: arrive, arrive, arrive, arrive



BE A GOOD GIRL

c. Katie Gosnell

Crooked front teeth in a second grade smile
Fuzzy blonde hair not been combed in a while
A scar between her eyes from the corner of a TV set
And a pushy big brother who takes all he can get

Be a good girl
Be a good girl
Be a good girl
Be a good girl

She was more than a photo in her mother's locket
A little diamond tucked away in her daddy's back pocket
Dreams made of sidewalk chalk washed away
By a man who made a promise but he's never gonna pay

Be a good girl
Be a good girl
Be a good girl
Be a good girl

Is this what she was dreaming about?
She fed on fairy tales, and now the truth comes out
You get a little love, but it's never quite enough you realize
The price of your dreams is one big compromise

Be a good girl
Be a good girl
Be a good girl
Be a good girl



FULL MOON ECLIPSING

c. Jean Synodinos

Daddy's cooking dinner, mama's dancing with a glass of wine
Daddy's asking mama if she hasn't gone and lost her mind
She's singing loud and out of tune
'Bout some river and a moon
I'm stuffing all the clothes and money into any bag I can find

He's gonna turn the TV up now until the neighbors
complain
She's gonna tune out all the noise with a double shot of pills
for pain
I should help 'em but I don't
I should miss 'em but I won't
I should feel a little guilty but it's something that I can't
explain

Cause there's a full moon eclipsing tonight
And it's dark red where it should be white
Something's hidden from view
I wanna see what's out of sight
Where the full moon should be tonight

Johnny's got it all wrong, he thinks we're gonna last
But Johnny's got a car, and he drives it really fast
Johnny throw it into gear
Johnny get me outta here
I wanna see it disappearing in the mirror, Johnny hit the gas

There's a full moon eclipsing tonight
And it's dark red where it should be white
Something's hidden from view
I wanna see what's out of sight
Where the full moon should be tonight

And there's a cross around my neck
And a penny in my shoe
Even bad girls need good luck
And for me it's overdue
So I'm wishing hard on all the stars
I'm wishing I was free
But I'm howling at the moon
And it's hollow just like me

There's a full moon eclipsing tonight
And it's dark red where it should be white
Something's hidden from view
I wanna see what's out of sight
Where the full moon should be tonight



ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

c. Jean Synodinos

Grace's Liquor Store and Carwash is open New Year's Day
Cause my resolution this year's break the law in little ways
Tell your friends, if you trust 'em, as long as they're not cops
Just head up through the alley, and the back door'll be unlocked

Well, the taxes on this place have gone right through the roof
And that fool down at city hall says they're coming for me soon
He pretends that he don't know me, he used to come here, buy
his rye
Let 'em take me off to jail I'd like to see 'em

Enough is enough, it's a man's world of boys acting tough
Enough is enough, so watch me girls, I'm gonna call their bluff
Cause enough, oh enough, enough is enough

Well, it's kind of you to notice my favorite photo of my girl
I raised her on my own, you know our children are our world
Turns out that her daddy was an awful lot like mine
Some men tell you that they love you when they really love
their wine
And the day she joined the Army was the day I learned to pray
But that third tour was unlucky, one year ago

Enough is enough, it's a man's world of boys acting tough
Enough is enough, watch me girls, I'm gonna call their bluff
Cause enough, oh enough, enough is enough

And at home or in the world ain't it men make all the rules?
Rules and laws they turn around and break
And the way they lie and cheat, lord, they must take us all for
fools
Well, I swear it's like I'm finally awake
Now it's time for me to get what I can take

So New Year's Day there'll be a card game, ladies only, up the
stairs
Bring your wallets, bring your smokes, we'll show sailors how to
swear
I saved a case of sherry, it's top shelf girls, it's the best
And I don't plan to be here next year, so c'mon ladies be my
guest
Cause my resolution this year's break the law in little ways
And enough is enough so I'll be open New Year's Day.
Grace's Liquor Store and Carwash proudly open New Year's
Day.

RED VASE

c. Jean Synodinos

I've got a red vase more vivid than any flower
I've sat mesmerized hour on hour
All my vases can hold flowers
Only one vase can hold a memory

I've got a red vase in an otherwise blue room
I swear, when you stare this red vase will bloom
And it's sad, sad perfume
Washes your regrets over me.

But don't you want some peace
I know I need release
From our little roundabouts
Our whispers, our shouts
Now I'm tired and judgmental
Not at all sentimental
Move on, chalk it up
To some bad, bad, bad luck

But, thanks for the red vase, candy apple bright
As brilliant as we were in the right kind of light
I will keep it in my sight
A reminder of our best, yes sirree
Cause all my vases can hold flowers
Only one vase can hold a memory





THE SCISSORS TO MY ROCK

c. Jean Synodinos

You think I'm the runner up in your pageant
You think you've got the crown and the throne
But I'm a resilient little critter
Just give me some water and a bone
And I know you're not the sharp knife in the drawer
So let me try and be as clear as I can
Darlin' you can bet I got your number
And I'm never gonna let you take my man

Cause you're the scissors to my rock
Are you sure you wanna play?
You think you're gonna cut my man's heart?
Watch me break you apart
Watch me break you apart today

I've learned some evasive maneuvers
In my life as a modest worker bee
You see I could sting you now and die
But that really wouldn't work out well for me
Little kitty, here's a push from your tree top
I tell you what, I'm gonna meet you on the ground
Cause you know it's not the fall that'll kill ya
It's what you're gonna learn going down, down, down,
down, down

Cause you're the scissors to my rock
Are you sure you wanna play?
Think you're gonna cut my man's heart?
Watch me break you apart
Watch me break you apart today

You've got some imagination
If you think I'm gonna nod and smile and be polite
And I have got no hesitation
To give you an education on how to win a fight

Cause you're the scissors to my rock
And are you sure you want to play?
You think you're gonna cut my man's heart?
Watch me break you apart
Watch me break you apart today

HAPPINESS FACTOR

c. Jean Synodinos

No tears, no excuses, you're nobody's fool
But I hear the hurt down to your bones
Remember good girls aren't perfect and bad boys aren't cool
But no one need ever atone
You need a plan darlin, you need a way
To feel better than you've ever felt
Follow my lead, it'll all be okay

What do you want? What do you think?
Write down a list of what's missing in India ink.
What do you need to bring you rapture?
Now swallow the list and capture your happiness factor.

Now, I wouldn't ask for the moon or the sun
Nothing so large or so lofty
Maybe just get away with one good hit and run
Or at least feel more sexy and saucy.
Here is the ace you can slip up your sleeve
And use it to pull off a fast one
Cause I'm really the girl you can believe

Now, what do you want? What do you think?
Write down a list of what's missing in India ink.
What do you need to bring you rapture?
Now swallow the list and capture your happiness factor.

I suggest there must be one pure equation
That factors in goodness along with temptation
Angels and devils both have their talents
Won't happiness come from striking a balance?
A balance?

What do you want? What do you think?
Write down a list of what's missing in India ink.
What do you need to bring you rapture?
Now swallow the list and capture your happiness factor.



THE PERFECT CRIME

c. Jean Synodinos

Well, you know you've thought it through
You've been thinkin' it for years
And who would ever blame you
The way they bullied you for years?
You're gonna give it to those fools
For their history of lies
You have armed all your tools
You've rehearsed your alibi

Get ready for the perfect crime
You've already served the time
Baby, you've got the perfect crime

Leave the bodies where they lie
Drop the weapon where you stand
Bleach the room and say goodbye
Exactly as you planned
There will be no DNA
No fingerprints to trace
Nothing left in disarray
Like you were never in the place

Get ready for the perfect crime
You've already served the time
Baby, you've got the perfect crime

Invite a full investigation
And you could earn a reputation
As the dame who wouldn't take it anymore
Won the game and settled everybody's score

You've decided not to run
Cause your conscience is clear
And what could be more fun
Than watching everything from here?

Oh girl, get ready for the perfect crime
You've already served the time
You've got the perfect crime

KNIFE

c. Jean Synodinos

Come through our doors, come save a life
With merchandise made for the good faithful wife
All of our products are shiny and neat
All of our sales are always discreet

If you need an ally that's trusty and true
Come grip the handle that's made just for you
Cause our carbon and steel will never degrade
And a customer seen is a customer made

Are you prepared to be a wife
If you are scared you need a knife

Our knives are the finest you'll ever know
Slice through your meat past gristle to bone
Hack away all day with never a care
On blades that are heavy or lighter than air

If you have the need, we will find you the knife
To worry your enemies out of their life
Our daggers are always kept pointed quite sharp
To cut thick or thin and leave less of a mark

Are you prepared to be a wife
If you are scared you need a knife

Are you prepared to save a life
If you are scared you need a knife
Come buy a knife
You need a knife
Come by tonight.





NOTHING BUT LOVE

c. Jean Synodinos

We know wrong, and we know right
So why's it hard to find the light
When we want nothing, we want nothing but love?
We're on the move, we're in our cars
We chase the sun, the moon, the stars
We chase nothing, we chase nothing but love

Nothing but love
Nothing but love
Nothing but love

We take a chance, we make a choice
We use our heads, we use our voices
All for nothing, all for nothing but love
We do our jobs, we do our chores
We pay the bills that pay for wars
But we want nothing, we want nothing but love

Nothing but love
Nothing but love
Nothing but love

Let us put down burdens, and put down cares
Let us lift our eyes and hum a prayer
When we are weak in body, weak in mind
Give us grace to still be kind
And love
Let us think right, let us be whole,
Let love heal a worn out soul
Here below or there above
Help us find love

We work and play and play and rest
We give them all our very best
When we give nothing, we give nothing but love
We give thanks, and we say please
We're asking now, we're on our knees
Give us nothing, give us nothing but love

Nothing but love
Nothing but love
Nothing but love
Nothing but love
Nothing but love
Nothing but love



***“If I had to live my life
again, I’d make the same
mistakes, only sooner.”
— Tallulah Bankhead***