

STEREO

Nikka Costa
Pebble to a Pearl



1. Stuck To You (3:43)
2. Can't Please Everybody (5:06)
3. Pebble to a Pearl (4:30)
4. Someone for Everyone (3:47)
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8. Love to Love You Less (4:26)
9. Without Love (4:24)
10. Damn I Said It First (6:52)
11. Loving You (5:28)
12. Bullets in the Sky (4:37)

Produced by Justin Mitchell Stanley
Co-Producer: Nikka Costa

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Records, Inc.

1. Stuck To You

(N. Costa-Ʒ. M. Stanley)

If you a star I be your Milky Way
If you a bar I drink up every day
If you the town I be the talk
If you the talk baby I be the walk
If you wanna dig I be your gold baby
If you wanna live I be your old age
You be the time I be the clock
You be the tick I be the tock
If you wanna race I run like crazy
If you wanna ride I drive ya daily
If you a beach I be the sand
You wanna give I be your hand
You got me stuck to you
If you a case I be a jury
If you a sin I be your mercy
If you a beat I be the moves
If you a tree baby I be the roots
If you a bride I be your wedding
If you a soul I be your Otis Redding
If you a verse I be your song
If you a king I be your kong
You got me stuck to you
Yeah
Clap hands c'mon
Headed for a breakdown
I'm a fool, I'm a clown
But you stuck me so good
That's right I been shot down
You got me stuck to you
Stuck it to me good now baby I'm stuck to you

Cantneverdidnothing Music/Soundhustler Music (BMI)

2. Can't Please Everybody

(N. Costa-Ʒ. M. Stanley-S. Balbi-P. Searles)

Bendin' over backwards
You walk on shells like a prisoner
But it's shaky ground when you livin'
in a house of cards
Your nerves are shot
You can barely cope
(You're) spread so thin like a tightrope
Trippin' over yourself to make sure
you never miss a mark
Don't you know
You can't please everybody
No you can't please everybody
No matter how hard ya try
Whatcha lookin' at me for
I used my tears to mop the floor
One stick one stone ain't enough to make me fall apart
Somebody waits for you with a crown
And somebody else wants to take ya down
It don't matter which side of the fence
that you choose to ride
Don't you know
You can't please everybody
No you can't please everybody
No matter how hard ya try
You need someone to hold your hand
Someone to understand
But you tiptoin' tryin' to find it's just a waste of time
So many people up in your face
Only hold ya back
Only slow your pace
You'll lose it if ya keep on tryin'
Hey hey hey/Don't you know

You can't please everybody
No you can't please everybody
No matter how hard ya try

*Cantneverdidnothing Music/Soundhustler Music/
Stephen Vert Balbi-Control/Bug Music (BMI)*

3. Pebble to a Pearl

(N. Costa-Ʒ. M. Stanley-K. Ciancia)

Baby girl too shy to shine
Let everybody else take the light
Didn't want to burn too bright
So she kept it all inside
Little girl go beat your drum
Go and see what all you can become
Playin' small don't serve no one
Face your fears and you will overcome
'Cause the tears that we been cryin'
Been workin' overtime
It's about time that we got our joyful
That we got our joyful on
Don't be afraid to live out loud
Never squash who you are be proud
You're a universal sound
Whatcha gotta say, say it loud
Baby don't ya act demure
So nobody else feels insecure
Be yourself and liberate the world
Don't ya be a pebble be a pearl

*Cantneverdidnothing Music/Soundhustler Music/
Mistergreen Music (BMI)*

4. Someone for Everyone

(N. Costa-Ʒ. M. Stanley)

Where is my someone
Who'll always understand
The person who'll give everything
Just to take my hand
What if I never feel it
What if I never know
And what if it just gets easier
To spend this life alone
Rollin' with the punches
Hope my black and blue don't show
Put the bright in my eyes
So no one ever knows
How I feel on rainy days
Or what I'd do to have always
My hopes are almost suffocating
But inside I know there's...
Someone for everyone ooh
Someone for everyone
There's got to be more
Than just getting thru the day
But I don't want to settle
Just to numb the pain away
I'm holdin' out for everything
The obvious and in between
And some say pride lets heartache in
But inside I just know there's...

Cantneverdidnothing Music/Soundhustler Music (BMI)

5. Cry Baby

(N. Costa-L. Dozier-Ĵ. Poyser)

Go ahead and cry baby
Cry baby all night long
Just like I cried baby
On the pillow that you used to lay on

The sun is out and my
Sorrows finally drowned
So go on and turn it up
'Cause it's my favorite song
I sucked it up
And washed your memory down
I've finally let you go
And now you comin' back around

One minute sooner and my heart
was good as gold
But time's a bitch and now it's
turned my heart to stone, so

Go ahead and cry baby
Cry baby all night long
Just like I cried baby
On the pillow that you used to lay on

You made our bed
And now I gladly lay in it
'Cause there's way more room
And I use every single bit
It's true it's sad
'Cause you and I we were the shit
'Cause our love was real
And all you got now's counterfeit

But it's cool I'm feelin' better all the time
As long as I know that you sittin' home cryin', so

Go ahead and cry baby
Cry baby all night long
Just like I cried baby
On the pillow that you used to lay on

No wonder you cry baby
Cry baby all night long
Just like I cried baby
On the pillow you used to lay on

One minute sooner and my heart
was good as gold
But time's a bitch and now it's
turned my heart to stone, so

Go ahead and cry baby
Cry baby all night long
Just like I cried baby
On the pillow that you used to lay on

Need a little something to make me feel better
Need a little something to make me feel better

*Cantneverdidnothing Music/ Song Chef Music Publishing
(BMI)/Ĵajapo Music (ASCAP)*

6. Keep Wanting More

(N. Costa-Ĵ. M. Stanley-Ĵ. Falkner)

Tired of oozing sentimental like a candy store
Tears trickling down like blood from a sore
'Cause your sun don't shine anymore
It's just a manufactured star on a worldwide tour
C'mon try to touch somebody with your ten foot pole
Microwave yourself put some fire in your soul
Instant joy being bottled and sold
It's a new generation wearin' a sugar coat

What you so busy lookin' for
When you know you're already there
But we keep wanting more
Yeah we keep wanting more
But we end up with less

Watch the smoke you blowin' don't inhale the fumes
So busy flossin' but it don't get to the root
I'm so sick of tryin' to consume
Another one trick pony singin in my living room

*Cantneverdidnothing Music/Soundhustler Music (BMI)/
Arthur Unknown Songs (ASCAP)*

7. Keep Pushin'

(N. Costa-J. M. Stanley)

When the man's
Got ya down
Ain't no love
To be found

(Keep pushin' keep pushin'
Keep pushin' keep pushin'...)

When the sky
Fallin' in
Feel like
You'll never win

(Keep pushin' keep pushin'
Keep pushin' keep pushin'...)

When ya try
To get ahead
But ya fall
Back instead

(Keep pushin' keep pushin'
Keep pushin' keep pushin'...)

When the lies
Outweigh the truth
Feels like nothing
You can do

(Keep pushin' keep pushin'
Keep pushin' keep pushin'...)

I have lived among the non-believers
They'll tell ya that it can't be done
The fool will have you second guess the dreamer
But I'd rather be the one that tried
So I'm just gon' keep on...

When the world's
Cavin' in
You can barely
Find a friend

(Keep pushin' keep pushin'
Keep pushin' keep pushin'...)

When they say
Go away
We don't need
No one like you

(Keep pushin' keep pushin'
Keep pushin' keep pushin'...)

When ya hangin'
By a thread
Dig your heels
In instead

(Keep pushin' keep pushin'
Keep pushin' keep pushin'...)

I have lived among the non-believers
They'll tell ya that it can't be done
The fool will have you second guess the dreamer
But I'd rather be the one that tried
So I'm just gon' keep on...

People wanna know
Why I'm so persistent
Swim against the tide
Resisting the system

Don't I wanna be ridin' the charts
All she gotta do is forget about art

Shakin' their fingers but I'm holdin' steady
Goin' 'bout my bi'ness I'll wait till they're ready
Keeping my truth in whatever I do
Makin' sure the light inside of me
still shines thru

Cantneverdidnothing Music/Soundhustler Music (BMI)

8. Love to Love You Less

(N. Costa)

You can't keep a home
And you can't repay a loan
And both your cars have just been repossessed
I'd love to love you less

When we're alone
Half the time you're on the phone
Well maybe baby if I sent it in a text
I'd love to love you less

Much to my horror
You ain't the sharpest knife in the drawer
It's a good thing my friends ain't hard to impress
I'd love to love you less

Oh but I'd be sad I'd be blue
And if you left I'd cry about you
But I'd eventually forget
If it wasn't for this tattoo
You made me get

Oh look what you made me do
Now I'm stuck with you
And so is everyone who'll ever see me undressed
I wish I loved you less

Oh what can I say what can I do
My heart can't help but pound for you
And no matter how hard I try
And Lord knows how hard I've tried
Your hold on me just won't undo

But don't you cry for me
I've always had weak knees
For somebody who can go all night
Without rest
I'd love to love you less
I must confess I'd love to love you less
Oh yes I'd love to love you less

Cantneverdidnothing Music (BMI)



9. Without Love

(N. Costa-J. M. Stanley-D. "Mocky" Salole)

A flame can put a light in your heart
But burn you just the same
You will gamble any price at the start
But in the end the game

Leaves ya cold and alone
While you wait by the phone
Without love

You can count on many things in your life
You can count the times you choose
You can try and try once more to make
things right
But in the end you'll lose

When you give everything
Just get heartache and pain
Again

Without love you'll never catch me cryin'
Without love I'd never feel like dyin'
I'd have blue skies and dry eyes
I wouldn't miss a thing
Without love I'd have everything but you

For everyone who's been in love before
I don't need to explain
When you hear that knock upon your door
You just can't open it again

'Cause you've finally moved on
You're better off on your own
Without love

Without love you'd never catch me down
Without love no tears would hit the ground
I'd have sunshine, I'd be fine
I wouldn't miss a thing
Without love I'd have everything but you
Without love I'd have everything but you

When you give everything
Just get heartache and pain
'Cause you've finally moved on
You're better off on your own
Without Love

You'll never catch me cryin'
Without love I'd never feel like dyin'
I'd have blue skies and dry eyes
I wouldn't miss a thing
Without love I'd have everything but you

You'd never catch me down
Without love no tears would hit the ground
I'd have sunshine, I'd be fine
I wouldn't miss a thing
Without love I'd have everything but you
Without love I'd have everything but you

*Cantneverdidnothing Music/Soundhustler Music/
Heavy Sheet (BMI)*

10. Damn I Said It First

(N. Costa-J. M. Stanley)

Why is it when I get with you
I lose my cool
And end up playin' myself this way
I can raise a baby, get paid and captivate
So why I let you make me crazy

When we're lyin' here I'm in deep
I disappear
You got me feelin' oh, oh, oh
But nothing rips you out of bliss like
an accidental slip
Now he knows I'm whipped

What'd I say that for?
Damn I said it first
Why'd I say it first?
Damn I said it first

I know better than to show my hand
I understand don't jump the gun
just play the game
I spoke too soon and now I'm wonderin'
does he or doesn't he feel the same

I could kick myself for all that
comin' out my mouth
I'd take it back if I could
I couldn't hold it in, hold my breath
Just pretend
He just makes me feel too good

What'd I say that for?
Damn I said it first

Now my head's in my hands
Ladies you understand
When you profess to your man
He'll run for cover

The air's getting thicker
He's getting dressed quicker
Ya start to feel sick
'Cause you said I love ya

Now it's too late
You'll just have to wait
Nothin' you can say
Gon' make it better

Three little words
Come out and shake up your world
And now you're freaky and needy
'Cause you said I love ya

Damn I said it first

Cantneverdidnothing Music/Soundhustler Music (BMI)

11. Loving You

(Johnny Guitar Watson)

I hear the people talk
Whistlin' when you walk
Your kind is all hard to find and
Darling I'm glad you're mine
Just wanna let you know that
I'll never let you go
I'm cool as I can be
Knowing you belong to me

Loving you
In the morning
Loving you
In the evening
Loving you
You're all there is
And then some

You call me on the phone
You say Nikka what's going on?
I jump off in my ride
'Cause I want you by my side
Now I can hardly wait
Till I get to your gate
Nothing can break our date
'Cause baby you take the cake

You are all there is
And then some
You are all there is
And then some

I never leave you alone,
You gave me a jones
I'm hooked just on your hug
A junkie now for your love
Now I can hardly wait
Till I get to your gate
Nothing could break our date
'Cause baby you take the cake

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12. Bullets in the Sky

(N. Costa-J. M. Stanley)

When your faith lights the canon
When your pride is pulling triggers
And nobody is left standing
Tell me where's the God in that
You can say the war is over
Try and sell that to a mother
Sent away her heart and got back a stone
Now it's quieter than she's ever known

Takes one second to breathe in and out
One decision to believe or doubt
One heart beating echoes in a crowd
Cryin' for change and only tears get out

Mama's cryin' bullets in the sky
Raining, raining tears on each side
Fight for love don't love the fight
Mama's cryin' bullets in the sky

Now the fewer and the braver
Hope and pray their faith won't waiver
Then fate taps them on the shoulder
A blink of an eye

The path of fear we're being lead to tread
Is paved with wasted life

Cantneverdidnothing Music/Soundhustler Music (BMI)

The making of this record was an act of enormous love, spirit and belief from so many people. Thank you, thank you for helping me find the joy again and being a part of it!
Love you guys...

Justin, all the amazingly talented musicians, Russell, Tom, Andre, Stephanie, Joel, Faryal, Jamie, Danny, Shanksy, Wendy, Mike and everyone at Henson Studios, Doyle, Jon, Melanie, Nonja, Len, Keith, Jamie Lidell, Mocky, Alain & Natasha, Nico, Steve Balbi, Bill, Shelley, Jess Rosen, David Zedeck, the entire team at Concord/Stax, Big Jesus Burger Australia, Scott at Istanbul cymbals, Anna & everyone who helped with Shuggie, my live band, all of our friends and family and last but not least, the fans!!!! You guys ROCK!!!!

Management: Boo Management & Consulting, Inc.—Andre Recke

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Co-Producer: Nikka Costa

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Musicians & Instruments:

James Gadson—drums on all tracks except 1, 2 & 4

J.J. Johnson—drums on tracks 2 & 3

Shawn Davis—bass on all tracks except 3

Chris Bruce—guitar on all tracks except 1, 4 & 8

Jason Falkner—guitar on all tracks, Sitar on track 6

James Poyser—B3, clav, piano & Moog

Keefus Ciancia—Moog, clav & voicebox

Paul Searles—Wurlitzer on track 2

Justin Stanley—drums & guitar on

tracks 2 & 4, piano on track 1,

mellotron on track 6 & all string arrangements

Davey Chegwiddden—percussion on

tracks, 2, 3, 7, 10 & 12

Keith Megna—acoustic guitar on track 9

Jon Gries—harmonica on track 5

John Shanks—banyo on track 5

Airpushers: Printz Board & Tim Orindgreff—trumpet & sax

Elizabeth Lea—trombone

Cameron Stone—cello

Charlie Bisharat—violin

Dima Kourka—viola

Nikka Costa—all lead & background vocals, piano on track 4

Jamie Lidell—background vocals on track 12

Jamie Lidell appears courtesy of Warp Records.

