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## Ben Harper - Burn To Shine (1999)



1.Alone 3:58 2.The Woman In You 5:41 3.Less 4:05 4.Two Hands Of A Prayer 7:50 5.Please Bleed 4:37 6.Suzie Blue 4:29 7.Steal My Kisses 4:05 8.Burn To Shine 3:34 9.Show Me A Little Shame 3:44 10.Forgiven 5:17 11.Beloved One 4:03 12.In The Lord's Arms 3:06 Ben Harper - guitar, vocals Richard Barnes - washboard Bruce Bishop - guitar Jim Bogen - clarinet Eve Butler - violin Dean Butterworth - drums, snare drums Jon Clarke - English horn, oboe Joel Derouin - violin Tyrone Downie - keyboards Michael Fay - banjo David Firman – bass Matt Funes - viola Suzie Katayama - cello David Leach - percussion James Leigh - trombone David Lindley - banjo, fiddle, mandolin Juan Nelson - bass Real Time Jazz Band Nick Rich - human beatbox Eric Sarafin - piano, harmonium, recorder

Burn to Shine presents proof positive that you can always distill the essence of rock & roll down to a solitary man alone with his guitar and conscience. It sounds inventive yet firmly rooted in the blues-rock singer/songwriter/guitarist tradition of Taj Mahal and of Neil Young and Cat Stevens at their most confessional. Harper's guitar with falsetto vocal in "The Woman in You" even suggests a Curtis Mayfield tune in the hands of Prince. "Steal My Kisses" is one of those uncluttered, radio-friendly rock shuffles that simply makes you bob your head and feel better. Even Harper's detours -- like the wobbling New Orleans shuffle with the Real Time Jazz Band, "Suzie Blue," and charred Black Sabbath metal in "Less" -- prove worth exploring. Other cameos include guitarists David Lindley and former Bob Marley sideman Tyrone Downey. Burn to Shine is a minor masterpiece that may prove to be not so minor. ---Chris Slawecki, Rovi

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