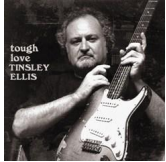


Tinsley Ellis - Tough Love (2015)



01. *Seven Years* (4:17) 02. *Midnight Ride* (4:39) 03. *Give It Away* (4:16) 04. *Hard Work* (3:06) 05. *All In The Name Of Love* (5:05) 06. *Should I Have Lied* (4:02) 07. *Leave Me* (5:02) 08. *The King Must Die* (5:10) 09. *Everything* (4:00) 10. *In From The Cold* (6:07) Tinsley Ellis – guitar, vocals Kevin McKendree – keyboards Steve Mackey – bass Lynn Williams – drums

“This album just flowed out of us in the studio, and that’s a good thing for a blues album to do,” says Ellis about the recording sessions. “Making a record is all about capturing a vibe in the studio and the vibe was great during these sessions. Each song had a different groove. We used an arsenal of vintage guitars, amps, drums and keyboards to make the songs sound more quirky. You can’t go wrong making an album for the fans, and that’s what we tried to do with *Tough Love*.”

The new album demonstrates Tinsley’s most-creative and versatile effort yet in a lengthy career of highly-acclaimed albums, revered as much by fans and concertgoers as critics and radio station programmers. The catchy lead-off track, “*Seven Years*,” sets the tone for a great musical journey, followed by the rollicking shuffle groove of “*Midnight Ride*,” which Tinsley describes as “a guitar conversation between Freddie King and Albert Collins” (with Ellis playing both parts). “*Give It Away*” features Ellis in a more acoustic setting, complete with Dobro and vocals that recall Eric Clapton’s 461 Ocean Boulevard in timbre. The Dylan-esque “*Hard Work*” also tips a guitar pick to JJ Cale, while “*All in the Name of Love*” sounds as if it could have been recorded in a 1970s Hi Records session in Memphis, with Kevin McKendree channeling Charles Hodges’ organ grooves and Jim Hoke/Steve Herrman guesting on soulful horns. “*Should I Have Lied*,” another song with guitar influences from one of Tinsley’s main mentors, Freddie King, is a plaintive soul-drenched ballad; and the Jimmy Reed-influenced “*Everything*,” complete with Ellis’ recording debut on harmonica, are just a few of the other standout tracks in an album full of highlights.

Since emerging as the driving guitar force in the seminal Atlanta blues group The Heartfixers in 1982, Tinsley Ellis has played in all 50 states, as well as Canada, Europe, Australia and South America. He has shared stages with almost every major blues star, including Stevie Ray Vaughan, Otis Rush, Willie Dixon, Son Seals, Koko Taylor, Albert Collins and many others. Whether he's out with his own band or sitting in with major artists like Derek Trucks, Buddy Guy, The Allman Brothers Band, Gov't Mule or Widespread Panic, he always digs deep and plays, as Guitar Player magazine said, "...as if his life depended on it." With Tough Love and ongoing non-stop touring, Ellis will bring his monumental guitar work and intensely powerful vocals to rock and blues fans all over the world, letting his songs and his guitar do the talking. --- bluesmagazine.nl

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