

# LUCIA COMNES

love, hope & tyranny



All songs produced by Lucia Comnes and Gawain Mathews, except *Lie With You Tonight*,  
*Through the Dark* and *End of the Line* produced by Jeffrey Wood

Recorded at Fantasy Studios, Berkeley, and The Gawain Mathews Music Studio, San Pablo, CA

All tracks recorded by Gawain Mathews,  
except *Lie With You Tonight*, *Through the Dark* and *End of the Line*  
recorded by Alberto Hernandez and Jesse Nichols

All tracks mixed by Adam Muñoz at Fantasy Studios, Berkeley, CA  
Mastered by Ken Lee at Ken Lee Mastering, Oakland, CA  
Production Consultant: Jeffrey Wood

## FEATURING

**Lucia Comnes** vocals, violins, fiddle

**Gawain Mathews** acoustic and electric guitars, dobro, pedal steel,  
bass, piano, Hammond B3 organ, mandolin, mandola, banjo, percussion,  
harmony vocals, viola and cello parts, programming

**Kyle Caprista** drums, percussion, congas, harmony vocals

**Michael Papenburg** acoustic and electric guitars, lap steel on 3, 4, 9

**Paul Olguin** electric bass on 3, 4, 9

**Dawn Richardson** drums on 3, 4, 9

**Aaron Kierbel** drums on 8

**Kyle O'Brien** mandolin on 13, harmony vocals on 1, 2

**T Sisters** harmony vocals on 1, 2, 11, 13

**Bryan S. Dyer** harmony vocals on 2, 6

**Burke Trieschmann** harmony vocals on 1, 12

**Pauline Chew** harmony vocals on 3, 4

**Sharon Virtue** harmony vocals on 4

String arrangements by Lucia Comnes and Gawain Mathews

All songs written by Lucia Comnes, except *No Hiding Place* and *Will You Miss Me When I'm Gone*  
written by Lucia Comnes and Gawain Mathews, and *Because They Never Do* written by Lucia Comnes  
and Larry K. Potts, based on the book *Because They Never Do* by Patrick Erin Monaghan.  
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Cover photo by Gar

Other photography by Alessandro Illuzzi, Tamarind Free Jones, Ross Pelton and Gar  
Artwork and design by Alicia Buelow



**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**  
meine oma, Hedi,  
my dear friend, Willard Harris, Jr.,  
my teacher, Angeles Arrien,  
and my goddess mother, Judith.



## SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Jeffrey Wood for believing in me and my music from day one, for bringing me to Fantasy, and for giving your ingenious input every step of the way. Gawain Mathews for saying yes, for giving every song your all, and for bringing your brilliance to this album through your multitude of talents. The musicians on this album who make my songs come to life. The alchemists of sound: Adam Muñoz and Ken Lee. The team at Fantasy Studios: Allison Gomer, Alberto Hernandez, Jesse Nichols, Maya Pisciotto and Gina Medina. Delfina Records for giving this album a home. The close friends, family, teachers, mentors and colleagues that made this album possible: Alessandro Illuzzi, Brian & Barbara Comnes, Tamarind Free Jones, Gar, John Jacob, Joseph Feusi, Jessaiah Zure, Angeline Quintilla, Alicia Buelow, Raz Kennedy, Bonnie Hayes, Niall & Isabel MacCormack, Lynn Asher, Barbara Borden, Larry K. Potts, Gerry Hanley, Andrew & Amy Sinclair, Jonathan Frieman, Bruno Bowden, The Whelans, Melissa D'Amore, Hallie Austen Iglehart, David & Linda Myers, Mike Gale, Alan & Leslie Comnes, Laurette & Mike Rogers, Evan Hodgens, Gilbert Davoud, Loic Le Gland, Adam C. Bad Wound, Jack Thorpe, The Hempels, The Wiedemanns, Tom Sullivan, Catherine Valentine, Jacob Wieser, Michael Leonardich, Heiko Grosspietsch, Leo Giraldi, Tehra Braren, The Erlichs, Kathleen Duffy, and all the people who have supported this album by contributing via PledgeMusic and coming to my concerts. The artists who have inspired me to pursue my calling as a songwriter and whose recordings who have been the references for many of these arrangements: Emmylou Harris, Patty Griffin, Bonnie Raitt, Paul Brady, Buddy Miller, Gillian Welch, Ray LaMontagne, Bruce Springsteen, Tim O'Brien, Joan Bæz, Liam Ó Maolnai, Sade, Leonard Cohen, Bob Marley, Bill Withers and so many more.

For an extended list of acknowledgements + artist references, please visit:  
[luciacomnes.com/albums/lovehopetyranny](http://luciacomnes.com/albums/lovehopetyranny)

**For as long as I can remember** I have been writing and making music. I am a student of language and folk music traditions, having spent more than a decade devoted to cross-cultural musical exploration. But this is the first album where I have put words and music together as a songwriter. This album marks the beginning of a new chapter for me.

**Songwriting** is an ongoing process, one of listening, selection and refinement. We swim in the ocean of possibility, of ideas, of mystery, until we choose a direction – a story, an emotion, a desire – commit to it fully and let go of the rest. Only then can we create something unique and worth sharing. The songs on this album are my own stories, the stories of my ancestors, the stories of our time, the stories of the land, the sky and the sea. They are stories of love, hope & tyranny.

**Love** in the sense of courage, longing, desire and great passion. The strongest emotion of life that transcends all boundaries and calls us forward on our individual and collective paths.

**Tyranny** in the sense of darkness, shadow and suffering. The unfair and sometimes violent nature of the world. The inner and outer struggle against oppression and the devotion to liberation – to fight for freedom against all obstacles.

**Hope** in the sense of light, trust, inspiration and dreams. Moving forward despite the bad news. “Not to be confused with optimism which is the conviction that something will turn out well, hope is the certainty that what you are doing makes sense regardless of the outcome.” - Vaclav Havel

Making music is largely an invisible creative process. It's an alchemy of emotion, sound, meaning and time. I have devoted my life to this calling and it is my greatest satisfaction to give you these songs.

**Lucia Comnes, San Francisco, CA 2014**

A note about genre: I have never been one to fit neatly into a box. My innate wildness pulls stronger than the desire to conform to a specific genre or classification. However, this album may fall within the boundaries of Americana. As defined by the Americana Music Association, **Americana music** is "...contemporary music that incorporates elements of various American roots music styles, including country, roots-rock, folk, bluegrass, R&B and blues, resulting in a distinctive roots-oriented sound that lives in a world apart from the pure forms of the genres upon which it may draw. While acoustic instruments are often present and vital, Americana also often uses a full electric band." Or simply put by songwriter, Mary Gauthier, "...people playing wooden instruments, electric guitar included, and singing songs that they wrote – living, breathing music from our roots."





# LUCIA COMNES

love, hope & tyranny



### 1. No Hiding Place

She will set your fields on fire  
She will burn your valleys clear  
Oh make me a little sparrow  
There's no hiding place down here  
x2

Who's that knocking at my window  
Knocks so loud and won't come in  
It's your own true-hearted lover  
Rise you up and let him in  
Go away don't wake my mother  
Love's a thing she can't endure  
She's been the ruin of many a lover  
She'll be the ruin of many more

She will set your fields on fire  
She will burn your valleys clear  
Oh make me a little sparrow  
There's no hiding place down here  
x2

I'm gonna whisper in your ear, love  
He is on his bed of rest  
I'm gonna win you of your mother  
Trust yourself in your darling's arms  
Go away don't wake my father  
He is on his bed of rest  
And on his breast is a weapon  
To kill the one that I love best

He will set your fields on fire  
He will burn your valleys clear  
Oh make me a little sparrow  
There's no hiding place down here  
x2

With the wings of a sparrow  
There's no hiding place down here  
I'd fly so far away  
There's no hiding place down here  
I didn't kill no one

There's no hiding place down here  
No I didn't kiss and tell  
There's no hiding place down here  
Who's that knocking at my window  
Knocks so loud and won't come in  
It's your own true-hearted lover  
Rise you up and let him in

He will set your fields on fire  
He will burn your valleys clear  
Oh make me a little sparrow  
There's no hiding place down here  
x2

### 2. Burning Eden

My mother has a fever  
It's more than she can bear  
If love alone could cool her  
She'd recover in my care

The clay that sculpts her body  
We bake her valleys dry  
And mine her hidden treasures  
To build castles in the sky

*chorus*  
We are burning eden and the waters rise  
Many will perish as they fight for their lives  
How will we survive?

I asked how I could serve her  
She looked me up and down  
She said there are millions of ways  
To gently kiss the ground

Down, down, turn it down  
We're gonna turn the fire down  
Down, down, turn it down now  
x3

*chorus*

### 3. Lie With You Tonight

My door is broken, only the walls  
Give me shelter, at least they are tall  
The roof is cracked and cold blows  
through, then Orion drifts into view

*chorus*  
Come in closer  
There's more than meets the eye  
I want to lie with you tonight

My body's built of stained glass  
Light a candle, you'll see my past  
In the shadows your hands are maps  
Steal me gently, let me be the last

*chorus*

Call me a fool  
I don't care  
Feeling this way for you  
I'm falling it's true

Love's a flame, so say the wise  
Is that how you shine from inside?

*chorus*

*to gently kiss the ground  
the art of fire*





#### 4. Through the Dark

At the crossroads I stand  
Amidst bloodshed in a foreign land  
I am marching to nowhere  
The scent of smoke fills the air

##### *chorus*

This time is not to hurry  
Slowly depart  
Take only what you can carry  
You'll be guided through the dark

The road splits and I cannot hide  
One way leads across the great divide  
Fallen heros haunt this place  
Frozen tears fall down my face

##### *chorus*

Its been long, we've come far  
Remember who you are

In the silence ballast attained  
I'm suspended between the reins  
Who will answer for what went wrong  
The forest is burning but we carry on

##### *chorus*

You'll be guided through the dark

#### 5. Give In To Grace

A single bird flies overhead  
No need to be afraid  
Call your footprints in  
Look at the path you've made

##### *chorus*

For all that you've given  
For all that you've saved  
Like water falls  
Give in to grace

Hold on and make your way  
You may need to crawl  
I'll be here to meet you  
Beneath the canyon walls

##### *chorus*

From the highest ridge  
You'll see beyond what you know  
Your weight no longer heavy  
The view makes you whole

##### *chorus*

#### 6. There Must Be A Reason

It feels unbearable to walk this road alone  
Heartache penetrates my bones  
The sky might as well come  
crashing down  
Gonna take this broken heart  
and drive it underground

To a hidden place it's safe  
to bring my wounds  
Take it easy for a while  
before love can resume  
I wish all this rage  
would up and turn to smoke  
What will it take to hang on to any hope?

##### *chorus*

There must be a reason that it hurts so bad  
I'm counting the days that pass  
How long will this last?

With the right bait you're bound  
to get a catch  
No guarantee that it will match  
There are many fish in the deep blue sea  
Make sure he's honest and bring him to me

The tide goes out but it rises again  
There's no tellin what's around the bend  
I'm gonna follow my desire  
let it lead me to more  
It's when you least expect  
that love comes to the door

##### *chorus*

Love will find you when you let go  
Love will find you x2

Only the ripest apples fall from the tree  
Only when you're ready can you let  
yourself be free  
I'd rather be alone  
than with the wrong one  
I'm gonna cast my net wide  
and face into the sun

##### *chorus*

To whom it may concern  
good love will find you  
someday

The tide goes out but it rises again  
There's no tellin what's around the bend  
I'm gonna follow my desire let it lead me to more  
It's when you least expect that love comes to the door

## 7. If You Knew How Much I Love You

In between the broken windows  
The abandoned ships at sea  
We were held by love enough to believe  
And how the sky did open  
and all our fear dissolved  
But brief the moment  
before the fog horn called

If you knew how much I love you  
Could you really walk away?  
I'm kneeling at your altar  
and all I can do is pray  
I would cross a hardened desert  
I would fast for ninety days  
For a night inside the cradle  
of your arms beneath your gaze

I'm ruled by forces that govern the river  
They forbid me to seduce you  
unless I can deliver  
I've given you the treasure  
of my loaded heart  
But you want the key  
and with this I cannot part

If you knew how much I love you  
Could you really walk away?  
I'm kneeling at your altar  
and all I can do is pray  
I would swallow the poison  
of cold hard jealousy  
If that would bring me closer  
to your company

Still I'd cross the widest ocean  
in a hundred days of rain  
For a morning waking by your side  
just to call your name

I would fly the great migration  
I would shed my outer skin  
For a close encounter granted  
of your tenderness again

If you knew how much I love you  
Could you really walk away?  
I'm kneeling at your altar  
and all I can do is pray  
So I carry the burden  
of all that could have been  
And I burn the delusion  
that you'll gather me in

If you knew how much I love you  
Could you really walk away?  
I'm kneeling at your altar  
and all I can do is pray

## 8. How The Moon Made Me

Like a star invisible by day  
I hang in hiding very small  
And though the constellations are many  
I am alone and I have fought for this  
autonomy

*chorus*

Let me spread my wings they will  
carry me  
As midnight strikes against the sea  
I'll escape from the rules of gravity  
How the moon made me

From this place I cannot rise nor fall  
Below the deep ocean calls  
Dare I cut the ropes that pull and keep me  
From returning into the mystery

*chorus*

Beyond the jagged coast  
Two bodies collide  
Father let me go  
Lasso the tides

With a face of silver cupped by black  
A lantern of memory in tact  
Centuries of sailors tracked her satellite  
In orbit glowing through the night

*chorus*

How the moon made me

Watch the music video for  
*How The Moon Made Me* at:  
[howthemoodmademe.com](http://howthemoodmademe.com)

escape

cradle of you

that govern the river

seduce you unless I can deliver

treasure of my loaded heart

key and with this

I cannot part

## 9. End of the Line

Darkness on the horizon  
You're lucky if you see at all  
This is the last station, ain't no one  
to catch you when you fall  
Those who came before you  
Only shadows remain  
Voices echo off the platform  
They will call you by your name

### *chorus*

In the final hour no changing the time  
Who will cross you over?  
This is the end of the line

At the bridge awaits your maker  
The toll to cross is high  
Your record's on the table  
Now make your sacrifice  
Around the bend we'll settle  
No guarantees  
You've played your best cards  
Better get down on your knees

### *chorus*

Darkness on the horizon  
You're lucky if you see at all  
This is the last station, ain't no one  
to catch you when you fall  
The tracks are lined with roses  
Blackened by the night  
Surrender your armor and  
Face into the light

### *chorus x2*

## 10. The Day Love Dies

I'm sorry for hurting you  
For hiding the truth  
I wanted to shelter you  
I know that's no excuse

### *chorus*

No stars will shine  
No sun will rise  
Tears fill my eyes  
The day love dies

You've seen it all before  
Wouldn't help to explain  
But the echo of my love  
Still runs through your veins

### *chorus*

Waves crash into the sand  
I'm walking alone  
I'm still wanting that  
You'll take me home

If water were forgiveness  
And sunlight shame  
I'm standing in a desert  
Dreaming of rain

### *chorus*

## 11. Look Again

I held a child of Chernobyl  
In my very arms  
He was like an alien  
Hardly human in form

I felt the horror of his only crime  
To be born in the wrong place  
at the wrong time

### *chorus*

This is not the way  
The children should have their say  
For it's they who pay  
This is not the way  
There is a better way  
We have to look again

It just takes one day and one mistake  
To release a ghost  
That never goes away

It will haunt you, it will seal your fate  
You can't hide from  
What you cannot trace

### *chorus*

Look again, look again  
Look again, look again  
We don't want to live in fear  
Look again, look again, look again  
We will find a different way  
Look again, look again, look again  
and again, we're gonna start all over  
Look again, look again, look again

There answers are waiting

To be found

Inside your mind not only in the  
ground

In your imagination

When you choose life

There are seven billion  
reasons why

### *chorus*

## 12. Because They Never Do

First he smelled the rot  
Said death be on the run  
All the crops lay blackened  
In the year of '41  
He asked himself 'Will the English  
help? Will they see us through?'  
Then he answered 'No,  
Because they never do'

Beside the burning hearth  
His mother feared the worst  
Her son would leave by morning  
To escape the famine's curse  
He promised that he'd return  
As all the young men do  
She knew better than to hope  
Because they never do

### *chorus*

Like leaves torn from an ancient oak  
We scattered far and wide  
For the millions and the land we lost  
The longing never dies

'Aweigh the anchor mates!  
The captain did demand  
Their final tether with the past  
Was hunted from the land  
Not an eye was dry as Ireland  
Disappeared from view  
They'd likely never return again  
Because they never do

### *chorus*

Many years would pass but their  
Thoughts always turn home  
A son to his father says  
Upon a wall of stone  
'Da - are we going back?'  
'Yes, my son, I promise you'  
But he turned his eyes away  
Because they never do

### *chorus x2*

The longing never dies

## 13. Will You Miss Me When I'm Gone

Meet me by the moonlight  
When the evening sun goes down  
Near the old dirt road  
On the outskirts of town  
I got something to tell you  
And I think you'd want to hear  
Let me look upon you  
Let me hold you near

### *chorus*

Will you miss me when I'm gone  
When the days are growin long  
These lips will never press upon your  
brow

We may never meet again  
I'll be with you at the end  
Will you love me then  
as you do now?

A drifter stole my money and I had to  
let him down  
Somehow I escaped without makin a  
sound

You know they'll be lookin  
They'll be chasin on my tail  
They'll wanna track me down  
and lock me up in jail

### *chorus*

The night is gettin shorter  
And its time for movin on  
Gotta catch an eastbound train  
Before the break of dawn  
When they come around  
I trust you'll keep my story safe  
Hold me one last time, my love  
And send me on my way

### *chorus*

I'll miss you when you're gone  
When the days are growin long  
Your lips will never press upon  
my brow  
We may never meet again  
You'll be with me at the end and  
I will love you then as I do now

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