

Queen – A Kind Of Magic (1986)

Written by bluesever

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1 *One Vision* 5:11 2 *A Kind Of Magic* 4:25 3 *One Year Of Love* 4:27 4 *Pain Is So Close To Pleasure* 4:22 5 *Friends Will Be Friends* 4:08 6 *Who Wants To Live Forever* 5:17 7 *Gimme The Prize (Kurgan's Theme)* 4:35 8 *Don't Lose Your Head* 4:38 9 *Princes Of The Universe* 3:33 *Extra Magical Ingredients* 10 *A Kind Of 'A Kind Of Magic'* 3:38 11 *Friends Will Be Friends Will Be Friends...* 5:58 12 *Forever* 3:21 Bass Guitar, Keyboards, Guitar [Occasional] – John Deacon Drums, Vocals [Occasional], Keyboards – Roger Taylor Guitar, Vocals [Occasional], Keyboards – Brian May Keyboards [Computer] – BBC B, UMI Keyboards [Extra] – Spike Edney Vocals, Keyboards – Freddie Mercury + Saxophone – Steve Gregory The National Philharmonic Orchestra Vocals [Incidental] – Joan Armatrading

By the release of 1986's *A Kind of Magic*, Queen's stature as a prominent rock band in the U.S. had slipped considerably, while in all other parts of the world (especially Europe), they remained superstar hitmakers. *A Kind of Magic* was their biggest album yet in England, where it reached number one, remained on the charts for 63 weeks, and spawned several hit singles -- the epic title track, the tuneful pop/rocker "Friends Will Be Friends," and one of their most haunting ballads, "Who Wants to Live Forever" (also included was the Live Aid-inspired hit anthem "One Vision," which was originally released as a single in 1985). Most of the songs were written for the movie *Highlander* -- "Gimme the Prize (Kurgan's Theme)," "Princes of the Universe," the aforementioned "Who Wants to Live Forever," etc. -- but instead of issuing just a movie soundtrack, the band added a few non-movie tracks and made an official Queen release out of it. It may not have been as cohesive as some of their other albums, but *A Kind of Magic* was their best work in some time. Queen would embark on a sold-out tour of outdoor stadiums in Europe upon the album's release, which would sadly turn out to be their final tour. ---Greg Prato, AllMusic Review

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