

Last Straw - Alone On A Stone (2001)

Written by bluesever

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01. *Terence* (1973) - 10:47 02. *Life Without Rules* (1973) - 5:23 03. *Alone On A Stone* (1973) - 7:11 04. *Fools* (1975) - 4:38 05. *When August Breaks* (1975) - 5:01 06. *Fly* (1976) - 3:44 07. *Mirage* (1976) - 5:42 08. *Kings Retun* (Live, 1976) - 7:45 09. *Theme From Chance* (Live, 1976) - 3:50 Personnel: - Geoff Taylor - guitar, keyboards, lead vocals - Peyte Burnan - guitar, vocals - Steve Griffin - guitar, vocals - Phil Truckel - bass - Jack Toole - drums

Last Straw hailed from that very un-rock'n'roll outpost, the Isle of Wight, off the south coast of England, renowned for being about twenty years behind the mainland at any given time. Kissing Spell have seen fit to exhume nearly an hour of the band's demos from the early '70s and give them a release as *Alone on a Stone*, although, unsurprisingly, the sound quality is rather inconsistent. Sadly, the quality of the music is also somewhat variable; there are some excellent moments, but all too often the band jammed songs out to eight or nine minutes for no especially good reason. Best tracks? Probably the first two or three, before the full-on sub-Wishbone Ash guitar work kicks in.

Keyboards on some tracks; these were recorded at several different sessions over a course of three or four years, and I doubt if the band's lineup remained consistent. I think the strings on *Life Without Rules* and the title track are a string synth of some description, but it's definitely 'Tron on *Terence*, played by musician unknown. You get a couple of string chords and a couple of choir chords, and that's it for the album, so don't go spending loads of money on this for the Mellotron. ---planetmellotron.com

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