



## CHAPTER 3

### *And Then There Were Two*

We were just friends at first. We met in the Jazz Café in Camden, where I used to go every Sunday afternoon. It was £1 to get in and you could watch some amazing Jazz musicians jam. It wasn't always good, but when it was, it was amazing. The day we met she also followed me to my post Jazz Café ritual, which was the pub Bartoks (also in Camden) which generally played Classical music and was brilliant place for chilling out and meeting interesting people.

Tomoko' dream at the time was to work in theatre as a lighting designer in London and she'd come over from Japan to study, but she could also play various instruments. She moved into my flat in Leytonstone, which I was in the process of selling for a handsome profit, in December of that year and it wasn't long before we made a few tunes together.

First tune we did was "Empires Bush", which was the first track recorded for "The Truth About Nuts". The title comes from Tomoko mistakenly referring to Shephards Bush Empire as *Empires Bush*. Most of that album was still just recorded by me, but Tomoko did some vocals and played a few bits on it. I decided I wanted it to be a Clinker styley "Abbey Road" (classic Beatles album), with a 2<sup>nd</sup> side of short tunes that flow seamlessly into one another and that's pretty much what it ended up as.

We soon became romantically involved and moved to Islington in January or February 2002, where most of that album was recorded. I don't know why Tomoko put up with me around that time. My head was a complete mess, damaged by drugs, relationships and selling the house. I was a nightmare.



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The album was still in “supermono” (as I called it), but we’d managed to work out how to rip samples off CDs properly so there was some improvement in sound overall. I think there’s some great songs on that album that I’m really happy with still and I think it flows quite well overall. The title of the album comes from a health leaflet I saw and thought would be a great album title and well suited to Clinker.



1. Ba Ba Ba
2. (I Hear) What Yr Thinking
3. Together Forever
4. Do It
5. Today
6. Empires Bush
7. Someday It Will Rain (Again)
8. All 2 U
9. Everything



10. Tyred
11. Let It Go By
12. 2 U I Do
13. Someday (reprise)
14. Sega (revamped)
15. In the Can

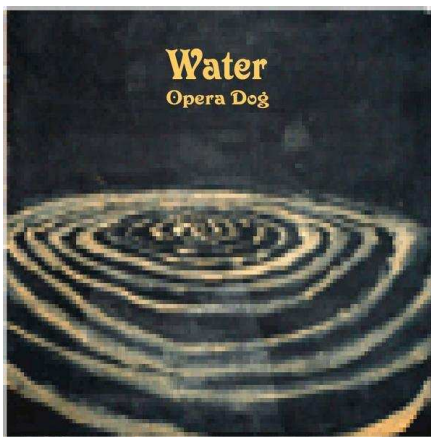
Around this time I first started to get a band together to play live (the promise of a gig at The Scala long forgotten about, I think). Joe, my friend from work mentioned previously, came in to play bass and brought along a guitarist to practice, but for some reason I didn't feel it would work and aborted the idea.

Tomoko started getting more into making music and started writing and recording her own songs with a little help from me. I named her semi-fictional group "The Nips" (forgetting Shane Magowan had a band of the same name 20 odd years ago). Obviously, I guess, it was a play on her being Niponese with a hint of sauciness too. Soon Tomoko drifted away from my garage punk blueprint and started developing her own style. She completed her own album of songs in 2003 (with a couple of cover versions) and called it "Cheeky". Sometimes I stick it on and get quite amazed at the quality of some of those songs too. Kings of Leon even released a song (Mollys Chamber) with the same riff as her tune "Mr Johnson" off that album a few years later. I did an Opera Dog remix of that tune and it was on the end of the album as a kind of bonus track.



1. The World Goes By
2. Mr Johnson
3. Dreaming
4. Touhi Mu
5. I Wish
6. Heart of Glass
7. I Wanna Be Loved By You
8. Don't Pick Your Nose
9. Sunshine
10. Drifting (La-di-da-da)
11. Sunday Morning
12. Ashita

Somewhere in between I went back to Opera Dog and did a batch of tunes and oddities called "Water". I planned for it to be an ambient album, but soon strayed away from that a bit. It's a bit of a weird collection that one...and one that I sometimes forget about. I finished it , or stopped recording for it at least, in 2002.



1. Row Row Row ya Bastard
2. Water 1
3. Distant Ships Ahoy
4. Regatta
5. Water 2
6. Seagull



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7. Some Rainy Day
8. Water 3
9. Lovely Tea
10. Going Down, Watching Someone Drown
11. The Eddy pt 1
12. The Eddy pt 2

Tomoko was keen that we should move away from the supermono sound and managed to find some software which meant at last we could make stereo music. Wahoo! What a revelation!!!

Tomoko and I got married on October 24<sup>th</sup> 2003 in England and did the same in Japan on December 21<sup>st</sup>.