

Lassie James Mystery Series Stories & Songs

Books by John Bare

Albums by Don Dixon & John Bare



Fair-Skinned Brunette With the Porcelain Shine
(Wisdom House Books, 2021)



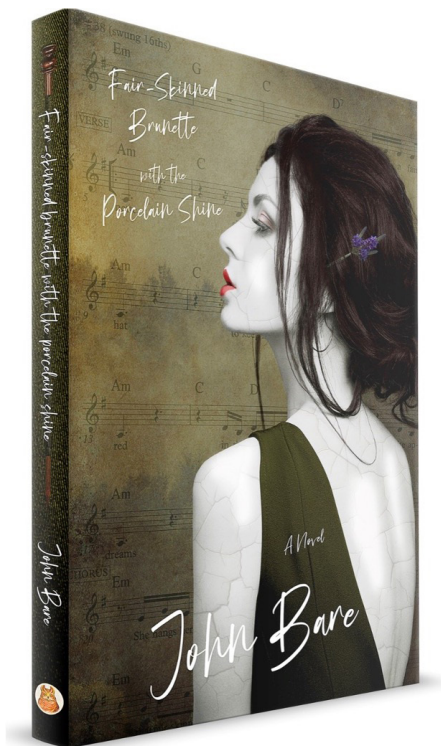
Lassie James Songbook Vol. 1 (2019)



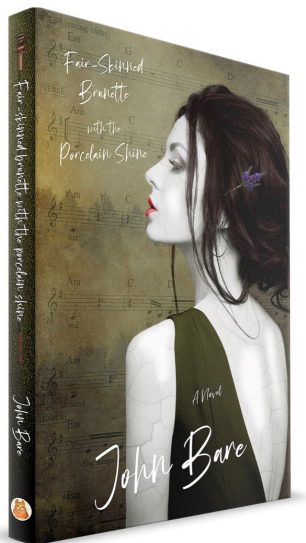
My Biscuit Baby: The Lost Springfest Tapes (2024)



My Biscuit Baby
(Wisdom House Books, 2024)



Fair-Skinned Brunette With the Porcelain Shine **(Wisdom House Books, 2021)**



“A romance, a murder, corporate malfeasance and a very wicked twist, all the while song lyrics are percolating in the background. Hard to put this novel down when it feels so much like the most intense parts of your life.”

- Griffanzo

“I love this book. I'm ready for the sequel. When is it coming out?”

- Gwenyfar Rohler, Old Books on Front Street, Wilmington, NC

“John Bare's *Fair-Skinned Brunette With the Porcelain Shine* is an intriguing tale of friendship, love and deception. It's also a delicious taste of a Southern tradition called 'comfort food' – the cure-all for a bad day, a hangover or a murder mystery. Sunrise Biscuit Kitchen is proud to honor this tradition and anxiously awaits his next novel.”

- Sunrise Biscuit Kitchen

“Intriguing characters make for a consistently absorbing story. ... (Lassie's) expressive song lyrics open each chapter.”

- Kirkus Reviews

PB ISBN: 978-1-7349884-0-6

LCN: 2020921017

FICTION / Mystery & Detective / General

Size: 6 × 9 • Page Count: 296 •

Price: \$15.99 U.S.

Fair-Skinned Brunette With the Porcelain Shine **(Wisdom House Books, 2021)**

On a Monday night in October, Lassie James sits in Pig Farm Tavern in Chapel Hill when Dr. Holly Pike appears. She electrifies the room, but all Lassie can think about is how she ran out on him when they were going to get married. Just ghosted him all those years ago. Before Lassie can process his old feelings for her, Dr. Pike's reappearance in his life takes a surprise turn . . .

Dr. Pike explains that her billion-dollar company, Gimghoul Research Labs, has been the target of anonymous emails alleging fraud. Signs point to a disgruntled researcher. Suddenly propositioned by Dr. Pike with an inside job that Lassie can't turn down-an inside job that will pay him five million dollars to track down the source of the anonymous emails-Lassie soon uncovers a murderous web of corruption.

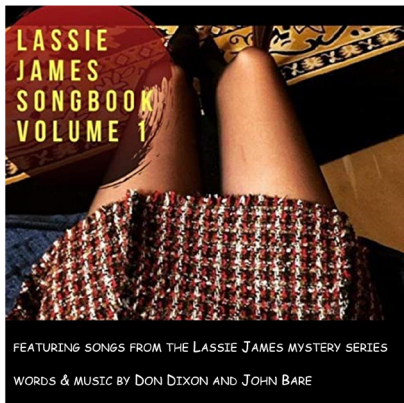
When an important figure at UNC turns up murdered, and Lassie unexpectedly becomes a suspect, he must quickly work to connect the dots between the inside job, the murder, and Dr. Pike's company.

*There is a fair-skinned brunette, she plants in the spring.
She wears a big hat, to keep her cheeks soft.*

*Her shoulders get red, in the Halifax sun.
She appears in my dreams, when angels carry me off.*

*She hangs jeans on her hips. And sheets on the line.
The fair-skinned brunette. With the porcelain shine*

Lassie James Songbook Vol. I (2019)



'The Displaced Man' even crosses into Elvis Costello (King Of America-era) territory. It's a real heart wrencher. 'How Do You Like Your Eggs' is a boogie barnburner, with Mitch tearing it up on the guitar. 'She's A Baptist And A Communist' ("she's the feminist I want to kiss") keeps a little of that Dixon soul smoke. It's a great song, as is 'No Songs About Mamas Or Trains,' a bit of a thinking man's take on Waylon Jennings with a killer melody. 'Fair Skinned Brunette With The Porcelain Shine' is a classic, classic country-style ballad. Simple and effective chords with nothing wasted. By the time they get to the end with the bouncy 'Whiskey Kisses,' I realize this is one of the strongest collections of songs I've heard in a long, long time.

- [Steve McGowan, Zub Records](#)

Lassie James Songbook Vol. I (2019)

1. She's a Baptist and a Communist (2:34)
2. No Songs About Mamas or Trains (3:52)
3. Fair-Skinned Brunette with the Porcelain Shine (5:12)
4. Brownsville Tonight (3:53)
5. Do You Like to Slow Dance (4:48)
6. Redhead from Detroit (4:13)
7. Monday (5:04)
8. I Fell in Love with Emmylou (3:53)
9. The Displaced Man (4:05)
10. How Do You Like Your Eggs? (2:29)
11. Bougainvillea Blues (3:56)
12. Whiskey Kisses (3:53)

Jeffery Dean Foster - vocals

Jim Brock - drums

Beth McKee - piano and accordion

Matt Smith - pedal steel and dobro

Robert Kirkland - acoustic guitar

Mitch Easter - electric guitar

Don Dixon - bass, backing vocals

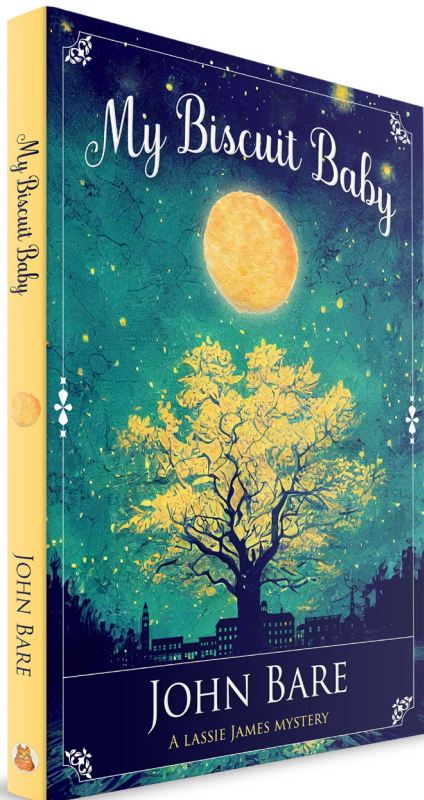
Marti Jones - backing vocal on "I Fell in Love with Emmylou"

recorded at Fidelitorium, Kernersville, NC (22 - 23 January 2019) by Mitch Easter and Tammy White

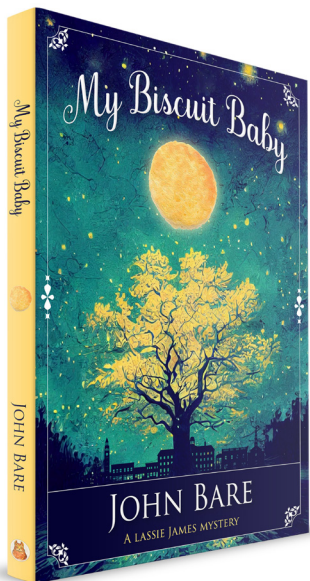
produced by Don Dixon

all songs by Don Dixon/John Bare, Lava Head Music, BMIadministered by BMG

Laura Pritchard-Compton - album cover art



My Biscuit Baby **(Wisdom House Books, 2024)**



“Better than homemade cheese biscuits!”

- Gwennyfar Rohler, Old Books on Front Street, Wilmington, NC

“Reading John Bare’s *My Biscuit Baby* is the next best thing to wandering amongst the old stone walls of Chapel Hill. This is a story of politics, BBQ wars, international intrigue, and love. It is also a jukebox of memory—of chicken and cheese biscuits, blue cups at He’s Not Here, jamming at Cat’s Cradle, listening to Liquid Pleasure, walking in Battle Park, and watching the sunrise from the stone bench at Gimghoul Castle. Literary great Thomas Wolfe once wrote, ‘You can’t go home again’. Well, it turns out that you can and John Bare’s jaunty, funny, and authentically Southern story takes us all home—to college, to friendship, to songs past, and to a time and place where so many of us found enlightenment.”

- Steven J. Tepper, UNC '89 & executive director emeritus of UNC-Chapel Hill's 200th Anniversary

“*My Biscuit Baby* is a 90-proof tale flavored with Troll’s, Upper Deck and Springfest memories, as Lassie James and friends bury a Tar Heel classmate and defend against new threats to a Chapel Hill treasure. The story is a love letter to Battle Park.”

- Steve Ferguson, UNC '88 & Morrison Dorm Resident Emeritus

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My Biscuit Baby **(Wisdom House Books, 2024)**

Politics, pork, environmental activism, and a request from a deceased college friend all converge when the University moves to sell Battle Park to developers.

Lassie's wife, Pearl, puts her freedom on the line to protect the beloved forest. Pearl's strong-arm defense of the 93-acre treasure leads to her arrest and pulls Lassie into trading favors with Gov. Emelyn Wheeler just as the governor is campaigning for reelection and fighting off threats from competitors of her chain of Miss Emmy's Barbecue Shacks.

With Battle Park imperiled, Lassie receives news that an old friend from Connor Dorm, H.F. Turley, has passed away. H.F. had been the lead singer in Snow Camp, their Connor Dorm band. In his will, HF asked Lassie to produce a memorial service in Battle Park's Forest Theatre featuring songs Snow Camp played at Springfest '82.

The events leave Lassie and Pearl navigating multiple hazards while trying to protect Battle Park's future and chasing after the long-lost Springfest '82 tapes. As bulldozers rumble at Battle Park, new unexpected global threats emerge. Siler, owner of Pig Farm Tavern, opens his bar to Lassie and Pearl to plot their course and lends his charm to boost Miss Emmy's campaign.



1. My Biscuit Baby
2. Don't Let Me Die in My Grits
3. \$2 and a Bad Haircut
4. Old Plank Road
5. My Dream House
6. Maggie Blue
7. One Leg Down the Hill
8. Mama Was Right About You
9. All My Underwear's Dirty

Don Dixon - vocals

Marti Jones – vocals on “\$2 and a Bad Haircut,” “My Dream House is Not a Mansion Anymore,” “Mama Was Right About You”

Brigid Kaelin – saw on “Mama Was Right About You”

Drum contributions from Jim Brock or Rob Ladd appear on some of the songs but Don Dixon played everything else

recorded at S.P.A., 2023, by Don Dixon

produced by Don Dixon

all songs by Don Dixon/John Bare, Lava Head Music, BMI administered by BMG

album cover photo by Robin Wilson Nelson

John Bare



John Bare's 2021 murder mystery, *Fair-Skinned Brunette With the Porcelain Shine*, introduced Lassie James, a journalist and part-time songwriter back on campus finishing a UNC graduate degree. *My Biscuit Baby* is the second installment in the mystery series.

From lyrics in *Brunette*, John and Don Dixon co-wrote songs for the album *Lassie James Songbook Vol. I*, which Dixon produced at Mitch Easter's Fidelitourum. Drawing on lyrics from *My Biscuit Baby*, John collaborated with Dixon on nine original songs for the album *The Lost Springfest Tapes*.

A writer and photographer, John was born in Winston-Salem and attended public schools in Garner, NC, where his parents were educators. He studied radio, television and motion pictures at the University of North Carolina, where he developed an appreciation for biscuits, whiskey, and live music. He later earned a Ph.D. in journalism and mass communication at UNC. He previously worked planting a peach orchard and as a *Chapel Hill Herald* columnist and staff member at private foundations. For the Jan/Feb 2024 issue of *Carolina Alumni Review*, John wrote a feature on the 50th anniversary of the 1974, UNC-Duke basketball game, where UNC overcame an 8-point deficit with 17 seconds left to win. John shares his NC house with rescue dogs Winston and Isadora.

John first saw Don Dixon perform at an Arrogance show 40-plus years ago at The Pier, a club in what was then the Cameron Village underground. John photographed the 2017 and 2018 Arrogance reunion shows at Kings in Raleigh. From May 2017–May 2018, John produced a photo documentary, *Troubadours*, that recorded live music experiences over a 365-day period. The photographs feature Lyle Lovett, Kris Kristofferson, Katharine Whalen, Secret Sisters, Pokey LaFarge and others.

<http://www.johnbarebooks.com/>

<http://www.johnbarepapers.com/>

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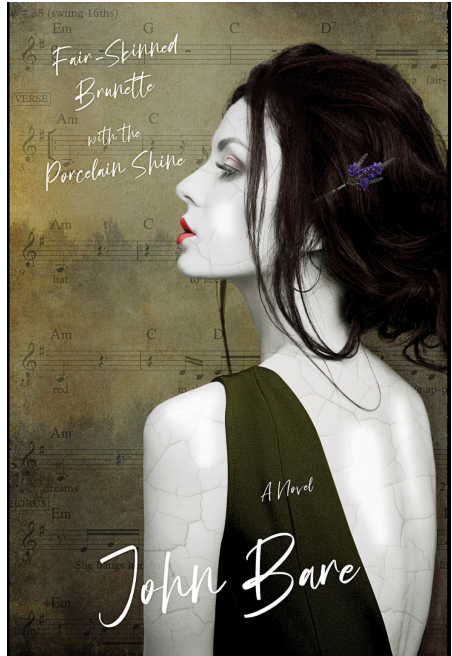
Don Dixon



Dixon has devoted his entire life to the popular song. Working as a singer, songwriter, musician and producer, he has always tried to capture the essence of his life in the moment. He began playing and recording in his mid-teens. At the age of fifteen, he made his first recording, playing upright bass with jazz musician Louis McGloughn in Charlotte.

As a freshman at the University of North Carolina, Don co-founded Arrogance, a band that helped forge the North Carolina music scene brought the world Let's Active and The dBs, along with dozens of other bands. Dixon went solo in 1983. In 1987, Dixon recorded *Romeo at Juilliard*, described as Big Star-style power pop. *Chi-Town Budget Show* (1988) was a recording of a Park West nightclub broadcast. In 1989, his album EEE featured Uptown Horns. In 1992 Restless Records released a Dixon "Best Of" album titled *(If) I'm A Ham, Well You're A Sausage*. In 1995, Dixon released *Romantic Depressive*, a somewhat darker-themed album. In 1996, he produced the original cast recording of King Mackerel & The Blues Are Running (Songs And Stories of the Carolina Coast) which featured Bland Simpson (Red Clay Ramblers) and author/composer Jim Wann. In 2000, he released *The Invisible Man*, an album about mortality. *Note Pad #38* in 2001 was a collection of unreleased material from his solo career. In 2006, he released *The Entire Combustible World in One Small Room*, a concept album revolving around rooms in a house. In 2014, Dixon released *High & Filthy & Borderline*, based on the lives of a male and a female assassin. In 2023, he released *Gunny Sack*, an album of "songs I recorded during the long, dark pandemic years...mostly songs by friends of mine."

Dixon's writing, production and session credits include astroPuppees, Baby Shaker, Richard Barone, Jim Brock, Mark Bryan, Kim Carnes, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Caitlin Cary, Joe Cocker, the Connells, Counting Crows, Marshall Crenshaw, Pat DiNizio, the Edison Project, Fetchin' Bones, GB Leighton, The Golden Palominos, Guadalcanal Diary, Hootie and the Blowfish, In Tua Nua, Marti Jones, Tommy Keene, Let's Active, James McMurtry, Moxy Fruvous, R.E.M., the Red Clay Ramblers, the Smithereens, Snagglepuss, Ronnie Spector, the Spongetones, Chris Stamey, Matthew Sweet, the X-Teens and dozens more.



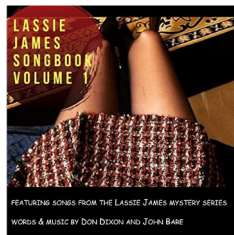
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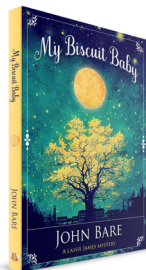
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