

# EAR CANDY

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## **Guy Clark**

*Somedays the Song Writes You*

As a whole, country music artists have longevity unmatched by those in any other music category. Rappers have a career span in the single digits—how quickly would Dana Dane get laughed offstage today? And I doubt we are in danger of anyone covering W.A.S.P. songs in the foreseeable future.

But Texas-born Guy Clark is another story. For those new to the troubadour, singer/songwriter genre, it's definitely an acquired taste. As with John Prine, Townes Van Zandt, and even Johnny Cash, their vocals are/were not their strong suit. Mr. Clark is no exception.

But lyrically, you find yourself waiting on the next word. It's not too far off from listening to an audio book. On *Somedays...*, a perfect example is "The Guitar," an eerie story of a guy finding a guitar that empowers him to play like hell. The last line is the haunting clincher, told in the same vein as David Allan Coe's "The Ride" (sorry, no spoilers here).

He also reveals his knack for turning a phrase, as with "Everyone's got some baggage/But she knows how to travel light" and "When she don't say nothin'/Man I hang on every word." Granted, not every song is a masterpiece—some would be better sung by someone else—but as an artist, Guy can still crank out a good album after all these years. He probably won't win over a truckload of new fans with this one, but given the following that Texas singer/songwriters have, he'll have plenty of takers.

**(Phil Pyle)**