

WITHOUT GETTING KILLED & CAUGHT

Susanna Clark
March 11, 1939-June 27, 2012

Susanna Talley Clark's talents transcended songwriting. She was a hit songwriter, an accomplished painter, and an extraordinary muse to many celebrated artists. During the 1970s, 80s, and 90s, Susanna hosted an artist salon in Nashville, where important characters of the growing Americana music movement gathered to share ideas and swap songs. In addition to her husband Guy Clark, Susanna inspired music luminaries Townes Van Zandt, Rodney Crowell, Steve Earle, Emmylou Harris, Lyle Lovett, Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, Vince Gill, Carlene Carter, Jerry Jeff Walker and countless other writers and artists.

Born in Atlanta, Texas in 1939, Susanna met songwriters Guy Clark and Townes Van Zandt in the late 1960s. She moved to Houston with Guy in 1970. Later that year, Susanna and Guy moved to Los Angeles together and then to Nashville when Guy got his first publishing deal in 1971. Van Zandt came to Nashville to be the best man when Guy and Susanna married in 1972. He lived with them for the first eight months of their marriage. Guy and Susanna were married. Guy and Townes were best friends. Susanna and Townes were soulmates.

Although Guy got most of the credit, it was Susanna who dreamed up and began writing the timeless songs "Black Haired Boy," (about Townes), "Old Friends," and "The Cape." She brought lyrics and simple chords to Guy and he helped her finish them. Susanna and Townes co-wrote "Heavenly Houseboat Blues" and Townes recorded it on *The Late Great Townes Van Zandt*. Susanna became the hit songwriter in Clark family when she wrote "I'll Be Your San Antone Rose" and Texas artist Dotsy took the song to the *Billboard* Top 10 in 1975. Emmylou Harris and Jerry Jeff Walker each later recorded the song.

Emmylou recorded Susanna's "Easy From Now On," (co-written with Carlene Carter) on her *Quarter Moon in a Ten Cent Town* album. Don Williams and Kathy Mattea each recorded Susanna's "Come From The Heart" and Kathy took it to No. 1 on the *Billboard* chart in 1989. Susanna's songs have been immortalized by many notable artists including Jessi Colter, Lynn Anderson, Jerry Jeff Walker, Sissy Spacek, Crystal Gayle, Patty Loveless, Rosanne Cash, Miranda Lambert, and Steve Earle.

Susanna was often the subject of Guy's songs, including "Coat From the Cold," "Anyhow, I Love You," "Baby Took a Limo to Memphis," "Stuff That Works," and the masterful "My Favorite Picture of You," written shortly before Susanna's death in 2012.

Susanna's paintings have graced the album covers of Guy Clark's *Old No. 1*, Emmylou Harris's *Quarter Moon in a Ten Cent Town*, Willie Nelson's *Stardust*, Nanci Griffith's *The Dust Bowl Symphony*, and Keith Sykes *All I Know*.

Media Contacts

Music: Maria Ivey/maria@ivpr.com Film: Staci Griesbach/staci@lunaworldwide.com