Buddy Guy – Living Proof (2010)



- 01. 74 Years Young
- 02. Thank Me Someday
- 03. On The Road
- 04. Stay Around A Little Longer (feat. B.B.King)
- 05. Key Don't Fit
- 06. Living Proof <u>play</u>
- 07. Where The Blues Begins (feat. Carlos Santana
- 08. Too Soon play
- 09. Everybody's Got To Go
- 10. Let The Door Knob Hit Ya
- 11. Guess What
- 12. Skandy

Personnel:

- Buddy Guy Guitars, Vocals
- · David Grissom Guitar
- Tommy Macdonald Bass
- · Michael Rhodes Bass
- Tom Hambridge Drums, Percussion, Tambourine, Vocals (Background)
- Marty Sammon Piano
- B.B. King Guitar, Vocals on Track 4 "Stay Around a While"
- Carlos Santana Conga, Guitar on Track 7 "Where the Blues Begins"
- Reese Wynans Clavinet, Fender Rhodes, Hammond B3, Piano, Wurlitzer
- · Jack Hale Trombone
- Wayne Jackson Trumpet
- Tom McGinley Tenor Saxophone
- The Memphis Horns Horns
- Bekka Bramlett Background Vocals
- · Wendy Moten Background Vocals

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Buddy Guy had been Grammy nominated for best contemporary blues album had me revisiting the scalding blisses of Living Proof. That's typical of Guy's examination of his storied past here: leather-tough, unsentimental and bearing a strong resemblance to the gauntlet-tossing braggadocio Muddy Waters, Guy's former boss. But this pioneer—still underappreciated, despite the Grammy nod and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction—takes it a step further with his signature melding of blues and heavy-rock guitar.

"You know, a doctor came to my home, said you're gonna die all alone," Guy sings on the delicious, Texas-rocking title track. "Well, I'm still here—and that doctor's dead and gone!"

Living Proof—again produced and co-written with Tom Hambridge, who previously worked with Guy on 2008's only so-so Skin Deep—is easily the Lettsworth, La., native's most consistent recording in years, and one that most resembles the liquid-fire aggression of his live performances. Buddy Guy is not disappearing quietly into any good night. In fact, if ever goes down, it'll be swinging.

Take "Thank Me Someday," this brash retelling of his hardscrabble beginnings. As a young musician with dreams of escape—and a very noisy, homemade two-string guitar—he remembers being asked to quiet down. Guy replies: "Shut up! Y'all are going to thank me one day," then descends into an incendiary instrumental passage—exclaiming, "I'm going to make sure you hear me!" "On the Road," which gets an able assist from the Memphis Horns, finds Guy similarly undiminished by time—squeezing out repetitive, ozone-producing riffs that recall guitar-god successor Stevie Ray Vaughan. "Key Don't Fit" is a muscular update of "Somebody Done Changed the Lock on My Door," popularized by Louis Jordan. Elsewhere, Guy tells off a complaining partner with "Let The Door Knob Hit Ya," and boldly uncovers the lies of a cheating lover in "Guess What." "Skanky," the closing instrumental, is perfectly titled. -- Nick DeRiso, allmusic.com

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