

Maverick – Country Music Magazine
By Alan Cackett

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David Glenn Dyer
Crossroads Grocery
Spot Tail Records 80746

Newcomer brandishes his own style of roots-rock described by one music critic as 'Hank Sr. meets the Beatles'

North Carolina-based David Glenn Dyer is a storyteller who delivers a wholesome blend of country infused roots-rock on *CROSSROADS GROCERY*, his first solo album. Over the years he has played with a variety bluegrass, country and rock bands and currently performs both as a solo artist and with his Raleigh-based group, David Dyer and the Crooked Smile Band. They are a talented outfit: Jim Crew (keyboards, vocals) has composed, produced and recorded original music for films and TV including *Pulp Fiction* and *When Harry Met Sally*; Allyn Love (pedal steel) has played behind Jo Dee Messina and Steve Wariner; Ken Weigan (bass) and Fran Dyer (drums) have spent years in various local bands. Shana Morrison (daughter of Van) sings background and duets on *They Don't Know*, and then there's producer Scott Matthews, who has worked with Bonnie Raitt, the Beach Boys and the late Johnny Cash. It all adds up to a highly polished, original sounding album that crisscrosses musical genres, but loosely fits into Americana and country.

Mined from Dyer's personal experiences in mid-life Americana, the songs cover everything from life's joys and big decisions to relationships both hard and beautiful.

Matthews adds mellotron and viola to moody, expansive pieces such as *Crossroads*, which fuse his Appalachian heritage with the spirit of earthy rock 'n' roll. Vocally, at times there are strains of the late Johnny Burnette, then you'll notice David Ball-infections, but in the final analysis, Dyer has perfected a style very much his own. The opening, *Save Me*, is a powerful rock song, followed by the pedal-steel driven *Beautiful Girl*, with exquisite harmonies and *Big Jes* a mid-tempo country song that has some great hooks and banjo, steel and fiddle wafting away in the background. Quality doesn't end there. Matthews' sizzling lead guitar turns up on an electrifying *You Don't Shake Me (The Yeah Yeah Yeah song)*, with a definite Beatles' vibe and mournful *Old Grey Stone*, a pure mountain ballad with strong Celtic overtones. An eclectic collection that's well worth seeking out. **AC**

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