Crucial Texas Blues (2004)

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01. She Walks Right In - Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown <u>play</u> 02. Lion's Den - Johnny Copeland 03. Both Ends of the Road - Long John Hunter 04. Midnight Hour Blues - W.C. Clark 05. Those Lonely, Lonely Nights - Katie Webster 06. Street Walkin' Woman - Phillip Walker 07. Tin Pan Alley - Johnny Winter 08. 450 Pound Woman - Floyd Dixon <u>play</u>

09. Richest Man - C.J. Chenier 10. Standing on Shaky Ground - Delbert McClinton 11. I'm Coming Down With the Blues - Marcia Ball 12. Too Many Dirty Dishes - Albert Collins

Opening with the ageless Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown's "She Walks Right In" and continuing through the ferocious duel guitars of Johnny Copeland and Albert Collins on "Lion's Den," the Fats Domino-like stroll of Katie Webster and Lonnie Brooks on "Those Lonely, Lonely Nights," and the funky "Standing on Shaky Ground" by Delbert McClinton, this sampler of Texas players on the Alligator Records roster shows a surprising diversity of approaches to contemporary blues. An obvious highlight here is "Richest Man" by East Texan C.J. Chenier, a slow, simmering ballad that hints at zydeco with its well-placed horns and accordions, but ends up being pure blues when all is said and done. All in all, this is a decent sampler of Alligator's wares, with enough sameness to feel like the tracks belong together, and enough difference to keep things fresh. --- Steve Leggett, AMG

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