

UNCUT

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STEVE EARLE So You Wanna Be An Outlaw

WARNER

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*Hardcore troubadour revisits
his outlaw roots*



So you wanna be an outlaw? According to Steve Earle's latest album, you're in for a hard life of rootlessness and despair. On one hand, you can get Willie Nelson and Miranda Lambert to sing on your best collection in more than a decade. On the other, these songs present an entirely unromanticised, often harrowing portrait of the outlaw genre, veering from the violent industrial blues of "Fixin' To Die" to the gentle Texas two-step of "You Broke My Heart". When you die, hopefully you'll have someone to write a eulogy as tearful as "Goodbye Michelangelo", Earle's ode to his mentor, Guy Clark.

STEPHEN DEUSNER