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SOCIETY'S CHILD: MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY (Tarcher/Penguin)

The long-awaited book!

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THE BEST OF JANIS IAN: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY SONGS (Rude Girl Records)

A 2-CD, 31-song musical journey through the life of Society's Child

are both

SET FOR RELEASE JULY 24TH 2008

“Hugely readable”! *O Magazine*

“Society’s Child” is the controversial song that catapulted fifteen-year-old singer-songwriter Janis Ian into the diverse and dynamic 1960’s music scene, standing alongside legendary artists like Bob Dylan and Joan Baez. Inspired by the sight of an interracial couple on a New Jersey bus she was taking to school, “Society’s Child” tells the story of a white girl whose bigoted parents forbid her to continue seeing her black boyfriend. It was a challenging introduction to celebrity. Ian was booed offstage by racists and received frightening hate mail; the song was banned from radio stations across the country. This courageous debut would earn her the moniker, the “musical spokesman for the ‘now’ generation” (*The New York Times*) and would launch a successful career of more than forty years in the music business.

Ian’s riveting journey is chronicled in the 2-CD set *Best Of Janis Ian: The Autobiography Songs* and her accompanying autobiography ***SOCIETY’S CHILD***, published by Tarcher/Penguin. **Both are set for release on July 24, 2008.** Called “One of life’s greatest pleasures...transports you from start to finish as it elevates, enlightens, enlarges, and entertains,” by biographer Kitty Kelly, as well as, “Deftly written, the life experiences described by Janis Ian in this engaging memoir give us a peek into the anatomy of a brilliant songwriter,” by Joan Baez, *Society’s Child* delves into the most personal aspects of this roller coaster ride of a life.

With her family under surveillance by the FBI during the Cold War era, Ian grew up looking over her shoulder. By the age of sixteen, she was a regular performer at the Gaslight (the center of the Greenwich Village folk scene), had played to a sold-out audience at Carnegie Hall, and was nominated for a Grammy—all while living with her parents and younger brother in their Upper West Side apartment. Ian hung with and was watched over by fellow outsiders Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix. A versatile and talented performer, known for her “substance, depth, and musicality” (*New York Times*), Janis Ian refused to be pigeonholed as a “protest singer.” Her 1975 hit *At Seventeen*, an anthem of teenaged angst, would garner her **five Grammy nominations** and **two Grammy awards**. She performed it on the **first-ever episode of *Saturday Night Live*** that October.

But ***SOCIETY’S CHILD*** is about much more than Ian’s musical career. She speaks candidly about her life and the many challenges she has faced: the shock of her parents’ divorce; unsuccessful, abusive relationships with both men and women; health crises; financial problems; her nine-year hiatus from the music business to study theatre with Stella Adler; and her Grammy-nominated 1992 musical comeback, “Breaking Silence.” And she does it all with absolute candor, wit, wisdom and heart.

O Magazine said it all in this review:

At 15 she was already breaking all the rules. In an era-the mid-1960s-when people of her parents' generation didn't speak about "ugly things" like interracial romance, prostitution, and war, Janis Ian was opening her big mouth and getting hounded offstage for singing her taboo-busting lyrics. Society's Child (Tarcher/Penguin) is the hugely readable autobiography of an artist who has lived through success and crushing hardship but knows that "you can't sing and cry at the same time." Sing on! -C.M.

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