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Buried Alive: The Biography Of Janis Joplin



Synopsis

Electrifying, highly acclaimed, and intensely personal, this new and updated version of Myra Friedman's classic biography of Janis Joplin teems with dramatic insights into Joplin's genius and into the chaotic times that catapulted her to fame as the legendary queen of rock. It is a stunning panorama of the turbulent decade when Joplin's was the rallying voice of a generation that lost itself in her music and found itself in her words. From her small hometown of Port Arthur, Texas, to San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury, from the intimate coffeehouses to the supercharged concert halls, from the glitter of worldwide fame to her tragic end in a Hollywood hotel, here is all the fire and anguish of an immortal, immensely talented, and troubled performer who devoured everything the rock scene had to offer in a fatal attempt to make peace with herself and her era. Yet, in an eloquent introduction recently written by the author, Joplin emerges from her "ugly duckling" childhood as a woman truly ahead of her time, an outrageous rebel, a defiant outcast and artist of incomparable authenticity who, almost in spite of herself, became to so many a symbol of triumph over adversity. This edition also contains an afterword detailing the whereabouts of a large and colorful cast of characters who were part of Joplin's life, as well as "We Remember Janis," a new chapter of poignant and affectionate anecdotes told by friends.

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Customer Reviews

"One of the best books about a rock figure thus far...Buried Alive is unquestionably an accomplishment and it may well be the best portrait we'll have of Janis -- and past even that, it

seems a study of the motivations of stardom as true as one is likely to achieve....I'd take Buried Alive over Norman Mailer's metaphysical Marilyn any day!" -- Rolling Stone "Brilliant, marvelous, emotionally devastating...I don't think there's anything about Janis the book leaves untouched....I can almost hear her speak and, more relevantly, hear her laugh." -- New York Daily News "Written with a sympathetic intelligence, at times fiercely lyrical, Buried Alive is an honest book about Joplin the idol....This is the best book yet about rock...."

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I'm a Janis fan. Not a fanatic, not a rock music guru, but a fan. basically I bought this as research after I saw the very fine documentary, "Little Girl Blue." I'm still a hundred pages short of the end and I can't believe it's not over yet. This feels like perhaps the longest book I've ever tried to complete. and I'm a very fast reader. The author undoubtedly knew Janis pretty well, and it's interesting to read about their relationship, the intimate context of the life and times of Janis and her band(s)-and the author's feelings about Janis. But sadly It seems like no one edited this book. It's unbearably clunky and indulgently written-the author cannot seem to stop impressing herself with the most cloying constant descriptions, metaphors, similies. There are so many details and so many s***ty writing fireworks distracting from any through line that I really just wanted a literal timeline graphic insert so I could stay on topic about what happened when. I'm guessing everyone was still

so sad about Janis' death that no one really cared about how good the writing was. Reading this book in 2016 is like unearthing a time capsule. I'm hoping to God there's a better Joplin book than this one

I loved Janis Joplin's music but could not find that sweet spot that would pull me into this book. I gave it three stars for subject matter but would not read or recommend it.

This is a highly personalised biography of the wild and wonderful Janis Joplin. If you're reading for musical appreciation then I'd recommend another book, because Friedman doesn't really try to chart Joplin's musical development. It's primarily her experiences as a friend and colleague (Friedman worked for Joplin's manager, the formidable Albert Grossman). It does capture a lot about Joplin's fragile psyche, which she masked with whiskey, drugs and sexual bravado (the side of her psyche she called Pearl). The progress from early blues/folk days to Big Brother & the Holding Company through to her Full-Tilt Boogie Band is not really captured in great detail, but Janis's mental and physical deterioration certainly is. It's all a bit too negative at times - surely Janis enjoyed some of her success - but this is Friedman's very personal journey with a woman who was a force of nature.

Some reviewers have criticized the author for "putting Janis down", and presenting her in an unflattering light. I didn't feel that way. I came away with the feeling that she truly revered Janis both as an artist and a person. To include the "warts" in a portrait isn't denigrating; it's just describing what you see. I thought this was the best bio of Janis I've read so far.

She was one of the greats

A terrific first-hand account from Janis's agent. I left off one star because if you are doing research, and you need a definitive source for comments or events, just know that Friedman does not always make them clear. Having said that, this book is a "good read," especially for fans.

Can't put my finger on it but something was missing in this re-release of the original written in the early 70s.

An excellent trip down memory lane.

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