

Joni Mitchell

Soft into the garden



coming one of the more consequential songwriter/singers in her third album, Ladies of the Canyon? That her ontogenetical development has led us from beautiful Cactus Trees through Both Sides Now to and through The Circle Game? That she is a sight for weary eyes and a sound for tired ears and a touch for frazzled spirits, a bolster for bummers, succor for our sadness? She is.

Ladies of the Canyon is a pretty water color on a white album whose name disappears like a disguise-me box of Kleenex when the plastic is peeled off. Pretty, when used to describe Joni Mitchell or her songs, seems to be an accurate word. My thesaurus fails to volunteer others, and perhaps only the old simile game could unearth other descriptives. (Soft as a snowflake with ballet shoes? Gentle as a butterfly leaning on a sunray?)

Ladies of the Canyon is more songs of the lady, Joni. Joni's songs are characteristic. They seem to have an unevenness that makes them characteristic. Lines have little words and phrases toppling off them; verses end in impossible rhymes; choruses end in transpositions; themes end in wonder at their simplicity of expression; sadness and a glimmer of Joni Mitchell tiptoe in through your open eardrum.

Big Yellow Taxi ("They paved Paradise and put in a parking lot"), For Free and Morning Morgantown are my favorites on the record. I've heard Joni perform these songs. The record sounds very real and live. You listen to Joni and expect her to jump around with her incredible range at a different point in the song at each listening. The Circle Game is on the record, too, as well as Woodstock.

Joni, very much to her embarrassment, I expect, has become a soft-spoken, out-spoken, often-spoken spokesman for the Woodstock Nation. Not the political or the economical facets of the nation, but the underlying peacefulness and love.

"We are stardust/ We are golden/ And we've got to get ourselves/ Back to the garden."

At last the long-awaited Geoff and Maria record is out. Suitably

enough, the record was recorded in Boston, the accent capitol of the East Coast. The Spunkettes are in the background, as we all hoped they'd be. And, of course, Hal Grossman does some of the whistling. The production, on Reprise, is better than what the underground had originally rumored. Just one question, though: who the hell are Geoff & Maria?

There truly is a new Reprise record, Geoff and Maria (Muldaur): Pottery Pie. What is it? Who are they? It's a dynamite soft country blues record. They're great. That doesn't answer the question, does it?

Maria, apparently Geoff's wife, is a singer that you might hear on KBBQ any day now. She solos on I'll Be Your Baby Tonight and Georgia On My Mind. She has an awfully sweet country voice that sounds like a mixture of Marianne Faithful and Buffy Sainte-Marie.

Geoff, apparently Maria's husband, has a voice that sounds a little young and high for the type of

blues that they sing, but fine for the country songs that they do. His voice does have some of that Dave van Ronk cracklish quality that makes it a good blues voice.

Together, Geoff and Maria create a country-folk-blues sound that is not uncommon, but uncommonly good. However, on straight solos, they seem too similar to other country groups.

The musicians backing up on this record are unknown to me. They feel a little timid, but that's my impression about the whole record. I believe that this is a first record for Geoff and Maria, and although all the songs are well put together they seem to lack the confidence of other recordings.

Geoff and Maria have chosen some good material. Trials, Troubles, Tribulation, a traditional cowboy song, is particularly well done. I like most of the arrangements, which attempt to defy categorization and classification.

Well, Geoff and Maria, hello— whoever you might be—and welcome to the public.

NO MONEY

Brothers and Sisters,

For a week following May 15th people all across the country will join in the first national week-long celebration of the end of money.

May 15th is the revolt of the slaves against the master. For one week beginning with May 15th we will not spend a penny toward this fascist system. Not one penny!! Don't spend it. Don't save it. Murder it!!!

Take one week's pay check and bury it; make a collage out of it; wallpaper your John with it; use it for toilet paper; have an accident with it—anything, but don't spend it, and don't buy anything that week. WITHDRAW FOOD FROM THE DRAGON!!

If you collect an allowance, panhandle, work, collect welfare, collect retirement pay, do not spend or circulate any of this money. Don't buy or sell anything. Barter. Don't spend anyone's money!

Money pays for the war in Vietnam, pollution of our cities, poisons in our food, cops in the schools and all the other diseases of this destructive system. Money hangs us up. Money buys all the things we don't need. Money is violence.

People can survive without money. Set up communal kitchens. Advertise free meals for a week. Set up a free store. And don't forget that fasting is good for your body.

The week of May 15th is celebration! Dances, Be-ins, Eat-ins. End money festivals. The week of May 15th is for everyone! Now is the time to spread the word. Notify the newspapers. Tell everyone. Set up a non-organization. Do it! Do it!

This is just the beginning. For one week thousands of us will twist the arm of this repressive system.

Watch the stock market DROP. Watch what Time magazine says. Watch what the bureau of the budget says. Watch what the attorney general says as he gets into his cadillac. The May 15th boycott is the only way we can vote. VOTE NOW!!!

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- 1) Spread the word through the underground press, radio stations, leaflets.
2) Start the protest going now wherever you are. Everyone is a leader of this protest. One person doing it is a success. Thousands doing it will blow minds.
3) Pose as H.L. Hunt and describe May 15th for radio.
4) Make a stock market graph as a light show and get stoned watching it drop.
5) Make buttons. Print leaflets. Chalk sidewalks. Paint walls. Tack up posters.
6) Shout it in the streets: NO MORE MONEY.

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BOB CHORUSH
Somewhere between Morning Morgantown and Sisotowbell Lane lives a beautiful girl with an unpredictable voice, a shining smile and golden hair. Sometimes you can hear her sing from between flowers or from Volkswagen radios or among the trees by the Greek Theatre. Sometimes you can hear Judy Collins or Crosby, Stills & Nash or Tom Rush spinning around her lyrics and tumbling on her music. And her music has made a Chelsea Morning something more than a dirty New York early day, and Woodstock a song, and living singing.
Shall I be literate for a moment and write that Joni Mitchell has fulfilled her earlier promise of be-

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