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SON OF A GUN, CARLY SIMON DOES IT AGAIN

Son of a gun, Carly Simon's latest venture has her teaming up with Janet—Miss Jackson, if you're nasty—on Jackson's just released *All For You*. The album features the two pop divas in a duet singing "Son Of A Gun (I Betcha Think This Song Is About You)" The track isn't really considered a cover of the legendary "You're So Vain", but rather a radical rework of one of Carly's most notorious songs.

Carly Simon introduced the world to the original inspirational melody with the rock accompaniment of Richard Perry on her third album *No Secrets*. The lyrics were variously supposed to be about Warren Beatty or Mick Jagger who sings backup vocals in the song. Who the song actually targets remains a mystery that the coy singer refuses to solve.

"You know, I could never solve it," says Simon, "because if I solved it, then no one would have anything to talk to me about."

The song was a million-seller in 1972, reached the #1 position on the Billboard charts and nearly two decades later was reissued in Britain after it had been used in a television commercial.

Considered quite progressive when first released, the original version of "You're So Vain" captured listeners with its poignant and bittersweet declarations of a strong and clearly scorned woman who doesn't take rejection lying down. The spirited arrangement became a new anthem among an emerging era of self-empowering and newly single women. Carly's raw emotion and vivid imagery revealed in pointed lyrics like "Well, you're where you should be all the time/ And when you're not, you're with/ Some underworld spy or the wife of a close friend" reverberates with powerful notes of indignation and humility.

Janet Jackson found herself in a congruent position faced with similar emotions after the end of her marriage to Rene Elizondo Jr. last year. *All Of You* exposes Jackson's evolution from innocence to experience, running the gamut of being hurt to being angry to moving on. Interestingly enough, the album is not as spiteful as one might think after being sued by her estranged and for more than \$10 million. She does, however, get her chance to throw a few stones with "Son of a Gun (I Betcha Think This Song Is About You)" which takes aim at a love casualty with some aggressive, wrathful ammunition.

Proving that "You're So Vain" carries a timeless proclamation; Janet Jackson's featured re-work unveils an edgier, rougher force behind the music. The track finds Janet lashing out with "Thought you'd get the money too/ Greedy motherf*cker/ Try to have your

cake/ And eat it too” in the chorus while Carly accents the song with words of wisdom. They are wise words worth repeating.

In the early stages of the album’s conception, Janet revealed that she hadn’t planned on the two singing together. “I wasn’t going to do any duets on this album and once Carly heard it after we recorded it she wanted to re-sing all her parts and just throw away all the old stuff and write a few lines. And Carly went away and wrote a whole song. But it was great, because it really works. We decided to marry the two. I love it, because it’s kind of abstract, and she’s just awesome, awesome.”

Carly agrees that the experience was not only rewarding, but whimsical. She tells how the process occurred,” So, Jimmy Jam sent me their tracks and I went into a local studio here on the Vineyard and recorded about ten new tracks worth of material. The rap was spontaneous and I didn’t think they would end up using it but they did, and I couldn’t be happier about it. It was the kind of fun you don’t necessarily count on having.

Arguably, Carly’s presence on the album gives a marked notion of triumph, of overcoming tribulations, of survival—all of which Jackson is seeking for herself. Her celebrated mix of intelligence, warmth, strength and beauty render her a powerful icon and if ever there was a phoenix that could rise from the ashes, well.....

Nobody does it better.