

As nasty as she wants to be

Janet Jackson turns up the heat with her new album just in time for summer



Janet Jackson 'All for You'

Virgin

★★★★☆

By Bryan Dixon
Oregon Daily Emerald

While some recording artists may consider their sexual fantasies taboo, Janet Jackson pulls up a chair for you to get a front row view.

Jackson recently released her eighth album and be glad she did — "All For You" is her hottest, steamiest and raunchiest to date.

Although in circulation for less than a month, this album already contains two No. 1 singles: the revamped version of "Doesn't Really Matter" and the current chart-topping title track "All For You."

Jackson's new album ranges in various degrees of moods and tempos, from the symphonic-rock dance track "Trust a Try" to the sensual groove of "Feels So Right." But throughout the bulk of the album one theme manages to permeate through: sex. If you were a fan of her seductive 1993 album "janet" then you have just found another to add to your collection.

Sexual exploits and desires are epitomized in the track "Would You Mind," in which she describes a laundry list of things she's going to do to some guy. Words of warning: This song is not for the faint hearted. I suggest some alone time with your first listening. "Would You Mind" makes the "janet" single "Throb" sound like a Disney musical.

The song concludes with Jackson faking an orgasm, but as she stated in Entertainment Weekly, "Who said I was acting?" During the recording process she's known to darken the studio, light candles, unzip, shed clothing and do whatever necessary get in the mood.

Whether in a sexual form or not, a rediscovered independence and freedom provides a secondary theme in the album. It seems fitting that this upbeat and feel-good album comes right after Jackson's divorce from René Elizondo, Jr. Elizondo helped to produce her

previous albums and directed her videos, but is also known by for providing the hands that helped serve as a makeshift bra for Jackson on the Sept. 16, 1993 cover of Rolling Stone. The two were divorced in May 2000 after a secret eight-year marriage.

But now she's moved on, and as she says in the dance track "Come On Get Up," "Now I see/ the single life's for me." That's right, she's single, she's hot, she's horny and she's going to letting the world know it.

However, exercising the pleasure principle isn't the only topic on this album. "Son of a Gun" shows a more relentless, revenge-driven Jackson with claws fully bared, and she's brought a friend. Carly Simon helps revitalize a down-n-dirtier, give-'em-the-finger version of her hit "You're So Vain". While Janet may look innocent, don't be fooled, she's out for blood on this track. "I'll never be your lover/ I'm gonna make you suffer/ You stupid muther****er." Jackson claims that this song wasn't written about one person in particular but rather everyone who's pissed her off over the years. But either way this song goes to show that after 15 years of making No. 1 songs, Jackson is still in control.

Note to the guys out there: It wouldn't be too hard to imagine Jackson strapping you to a chair and performing a lap dance solely for you, but this was a reality for a handful of guys across the country. During her "Velvet Rope" tour,

time is running out, and Victor has to get the answer out of his mother before it's too late.

"Choke" reads like a hurricane. I literally could not put it down. It has one of those great plots in which the reader absolutely cannot predict what is going to happen next. The chapters in "Choke" are in constant rotation between Victor's past and present, and the result is effectively jarring.

The plot is basically ludicrous, but Palahniuk manages to keep the reader believing in every aspect of Victor's deranged world.

Throughout the course of the novel, Victor manages to have a lot of sex. Each sexual encounter is very graphically described, and some parts were a bit squirm-inducing. Like he did with "Fight Club," Palahniuk seems to want to pack as much shock value as possible into each page.



Bryan Dixon Emerald

Jackson selected an audience member in each city to come on stage and fall prey to her seduction. Well gents, she's coming to the Rose Garden in Portland July 7. And with a new album that oozes eroticism and tantalizing lyrics it's bound to be no-holds-barred on what she may do this time around.

It's going to be a hot summer, and Jackson has just made it hotter. Driven by up-tempo, booty-shaking tracks, sexually-overtoned, slow-burn lovers' grooves, and plenty of moans and panting, "All For You" will raise eyebrows as well as heart rates. So put this CD in, open the windows, crank up the A/C, do whatever it takes to cool down because after listening to this album ... you're going to need it.

If there is any criticism to be leveled at "Choke," it is the fact that "Fight Club" casts a long shadow. Palahniuk has a very distinct narration style, and it's carried over the course of his novels. Victor Mancini and the hero of "Fight Club" have some weird duality going on with their inner monologues. Plus, the main characters of both novels have a penchant for attending 12-step meetings with less-than-noble intentions.

Similarities to "Fight Club" aside, "Choke" is a very fresh and enjoyable novel. There is nary a lull in excitement contained within its 293 pages, and like all of Palahniuk's novels, biting social commentary snakes its way throughout.

Besides, any book that keeps you wondering whether or not the main character is in fact the second coming of Christ has to be OK.

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Choke

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sexaholic meetings to get action. On top of all of this, he was raised by a mother with an anarchist streak who has spent most of her adult life in jail. Now his mother's Alzheimer's disease has progressed to the point where it's clear that the end is near. To pay her hospital bills, Victor has worked out an elaborate scheme: Every night, he goes to a different restaurant, pretends to choke on his food, and gets rescued by a stranger. Every person that rescues Victor feels responsible for his well-being from then on, and there is a constant flood of checks in the mail from thousands of well-meaning heroes.

One thing is bugging Victor, however. He has never known anything about his mysterious father, and his mother isn't telling. But

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