



*Thank you one and all for the honor of choosing Janis Joplin Rise Up Singing as a YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction Award winner. I am so proud to be in the company of such powerful finalists and I think we all recognize that without your love of books and your passion for bringing strong nonfiction to young adults, the message and stories of others who go before us might remain forever untold.*

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The first time I heard Janis                    amazing voice ring out the lyrics to  
my Heart her power absolutely blew me away. Listening to her was like dancing inside  
the greatest love, or s



I wrote *Janis Joplin Rise Up Singing* to allow another generation a glimpse into the world of this outsider who called teens like me to follow our art and dreams, and to stand up as individuals even if our choices did



became our tragic

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after my work was finished. Myra, who I *adored*, died in October. She so loved the idea

. I sincerely hope she and Janis are out there somewhere celebrating. This book is theirs too, and I thank all for their roles.

I also have to thank Janis for the music and attitude that fueled this journey and kept her alive in me. Toward the end of my time working on her story, Janis came to me in dreams. That first time, she showed up in my kitchen, she sat herself down at my table and laughed that trademark laugh. She drawled, I hear you gave me a do-over. She asked if it ended the same way.

I was sorry,