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**BB\*ISLAND**

## ELLA RONEN

Land: Schweiz

Titel: The Girl With No Skin

Format: Album

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Label: Irascible Records / BB\*Island

They exist, these albums that leave no questions unanswered. The music begins, and everything that needs to be said is said right up to the last note. One such album is «The Girl With No Skin», which musician, poet and activist Ella Ronen recorded together with musician and producer Sam Cohen. Ella spans an arc over ten songs and tells us her story. A story that moves us, touches us, that concerns us: we fight and demonstrate, we cry and dream with her. And just like Ella, we are sometimes fragile, sometimes doubting, sometimes denouncing. But in the end, we are strong.

The magic unfolds right at the beginning: *I'm writing you this letter now, since truth is on its way*, sings Ella Ronen, and we are already standing with the then 16-year-old Ella in the bar - a bar that is known for allowing underage drinking. A well-known poet and journalist starts chatting with her. He invites her into his apartment and assaults her, she narrowly escapes.

Two years ago, Ronen, now a grown woman, artist, and activist, participated in the publication of a major exposé that exposed the poet as a predator. The song «Truth» was written in the tense days leading up to the publication of this text, and with the song begins the album and the story of the girl without skin.

«Undercover», a declaration of love to Leonard Cohen, is about an undercover spy and ends with the punch line: *Field commander Ronen got so good at blending in, at some point we no longer told the wall paint from her skin, so it took us quite a while to discover she was gone, we don't know where she is now. But I heard she's writing songs.*

The rebellious «Fuck Cute» rebels against typical female attributions such as sweet, pretty, perfect. The title track «The Girl With No Skin» is a marvel of songwriting, the story of a girl who is born without skin: *One day she scratched her cover off and walked into the square, naked in the sun. Everyone stared. They half-expected her to melt, but she just laughed and said: I have no skin, who can tell where I end and where I begin.*

The duet «I Just Want To See You», which Ronen sings together with her producer Sam Cohen, is a tender, loving song about seemingly insurmountable boundaries in everyday life: *The space between two people might as well be galaxies, and oh, I know this to be true. But I'll shine a light, a sign of life, and try to get to you, because in all this space and nothingness - what else is there left to do?*

### IRASCIBLE MUSIC

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The album ends with «Rearview», a song about Ronen's grandmothers, who as Jewish women had to endure violence and oppression. Both survived and fled illegally - one from Europe, the other from Iran - to continue fighting racism and misogyny far away from home.

The musical finesse and Ronen's stunning lyrics make «The Girl With No Skin» an album that will accompany music lovers on a long journey. The musician herself becomes the listener's accomplice, a courageous friend, and reminds us that life is made up of duality: right next to fear lies hope, right next to surrender lies struggle. Right next to loneliness lies togetherness, next to fragility lies strength.

Ella Ronen's «The Girl With No Skin» will be released on March 8, 2024 on Irascible Records and BB\*Island. She will present the album as a duo, trio or with a four-piece band on various European stages.

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