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For Immediate Release

*Loyal to the Sky*  
**Notes from an Activist**  
**By Marisa Handler**  
**Foreword by Rebecca Solnit**

*"You can change the world; you can accept the challenge injustice issues. It won't make your life easier, but it might make it worth living or let you live with yourself."*  
— Rebecca Solnit, from the foreword to *Loyal to the Sky*

As a 12-yr-old in apartheid South Africa, Marisa Handler wasn't planning on becoming an activist. But her course was set on a day in a South African school yard when she defended her parents vote for the Progressive Federal Party—the only legal party in the apartheid state that advocated equality for all. Despite the condemnation of her schoolmates, young Marisa stood her ground, declaring that, "a black person could be president," of South Africa.

This schoolyard debate was the first step in a journey that would take Handler all over the world. In *Loyal to the Sky*, a vivid mix of personal memoir and political reportage, she combines the story of her own coming-of age with a fascinating inside look at the global justice movement.

Handler soon emigrated with her family to Southern California to escape the apartheid system. At first, the teen-aged Marisa thought that the egalitarian myth of America was also its reality. But over time she came to the gradual realization that racial and social injustice existed even in this more open, democratic society. In high school she experienced racism and sexism firsthand. But these formative years also led to a spiritual awakening in which Marisa embraced a progressive form of Judaism, and later, Buddhism.

Handler vividly describes her work as an organizer and journalist in Israel, India, Nepal, Ecuador, Peru and all across the United States, both covering and leading protests. She sketches memorable portraits of the people she encountered and the sometimes harrowing events that changed and shaped her. Along the way she offers an insider's perspective on what drives the global justice movement and describes how large-scale protests are planned and executed. She demystifies direct action—the confrontational tactic the movement is known for—and describes how she came to advocate a spiritually based, nonviolent activism.

Part biography, part manifesto, *Loyal to the Sky* traces the arc of one woman's life and her travels across the globe—drawing us in and showing us how we all can contribute to create a better world for all.

***More...***



*"For readers interested in liberal political activism in this new century---this is a must-read. Most entertaining are the lively descriptions of such groups as the "Knitters for Peace" and the "Dot Commies," and descriptions of behind-the-scenes encounters. A deeply intelligent, absorbing call to action."*

— *Booklist*

*"From assisting Amazon Basin communities threatened by oil companies, to protesting at the 2004 Republican National Convention, Handler has put her values into action with tenacious creativity. She ably conveys the histories of places many people couldn't find on a map in a lively, moving and funny voice."*

— *Publishers Weekly*

*"Handler's wisdom transcends her youthfulness; she writes with grace and insight, and she never stumbles over her own self-importance."*

— *San Francisco Chronicle*

*"Marisa Handler is a young activist who captures in this book the most hopeful energies of her generation and will excite anyone who hopes for a post-Bush world of peace and justice. Insightful and charming, spiritually rich and emotionally honest, Handler's writing shows that tikkun olam, the healing of the world, is not some outdated fantasy but an ever-present possibility."*

— Rabbi Michael Lerner, Editor, *Tikkun*, and author of ***The Left Hand of God: Taking Back our Country from the Religious Right***

*"From apartheid South Africa to US militarism to Ecuadorian indigenous rights, Marisa Handler weaves together her fascinating search for a more caring, compassionate world. But no Kumbaya triteness here--the author takes a brutally honest look at herself, the activist community and the world. She writes with wit and beauty, preaches with passion and love. **Loyal to the Sky** is an affirmation that mortal humans, with all our foibles, can be powerful agents for change."*

— Medea Benjamin, Cofounder, Global Exchange and CODEPINK

*"Handler brings a unique wit, intelligence, honesty, and outsider's skepticism to an insider's view of the global justice movement. Hers is a welcome contribution to a history in the making—providing an eloquent glimpse into who we are and what we may yet become."*

— Antonia Juhasz, Activist, Policy-Analyst, and author of ***The Bush Agenda: Invading the World, One Economy at a Time***

***More...***

**Marisa Handler** has written for Salon.com, the San Francisco Chronicle, AlterNet, and Tikkun, Orion, and Bitch magazines. She has worked as an activist with numerous organizations, including Direct Action to Stop the War, United for Peace and Justice, and the Tikkun Community, where she was National Organizer. Her Orion story was nominated for the Society of Environmental Journalists' Best Environmental Writing award.

BK Currents titles advance social and economic justice by exploring the critical intersections between business and society. Offering a unique combination of thoughtful analysis and progressive alternatives, BK Currents titles promote positive change at the national and global levels.

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*Loyal to the Sky: Notes from an Activist*

**By Marisa Handler**

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