

JORETTA, AKEESHA
No.

IDARA
Yes. Let's hear it!

MAX
Well, I'm going to do it anyway. Okay, now. Give me a beat, someone.

AKEESHA
What kind of beat?

MAX
Just a simple four count. Like this. Like a heartbeat.

Babump, babump, babump, babump ...

JORETTA
Babump, babump, babump, babump ...

MAX
Joretta! Not like that. You know what I mean. Clap your hands, or beat on something.
Stomp your foot. Babump, babump, babump, babump ...

*(AKEESHA picks up the beat. Then
IDARA joins in. Finally JORETTA.)*

I am infamous.
A woman. A queen. A fighter.

I am infamous.
A loner. A lover. A victim.

I'm a sister, a mother, a daughter, a hustler.
A thug. An asshole.
A procrastinator.
A bipolar mother.
A self-abuser.
I'm a student, an employee
and I'm a grandmother.

I am neither
here nor there.

I have been lost
and I have been found.

I am sensitive ...
and I'm a brick wall.

I have made mistakes.
Lied, cheated, stole.
I have fought.
Been rebellious.
Bullheaded.
Alcoholic.
Addicted to weed.
I've been high and been low.
Homeless and faithful and faithless, and so
I tried suicide.
I may have been crazy.

I've loved and I've hated.
I am me. Janet.

JORETTA

Babump, babump, babump, babump

MAX

I've loved and I've hated.
I am me. Janet.
I've lost my way multiple times.
Some people hate me, want me to fail.
There's others who want to see me dead
and others ... who will never care.

Then there's me again.
Hey, hi, and hello!
I am me. Janet.
I'm infamous. Got it?

Not afraid to admit
I am not perfect.
I messed up the past.
I'll mess up the future.

MAX

Hold it! Okay. Now I'm going to need your help.

*(She passes out a page to each of the
other women.)*

Now - just read your part, where your name is, and try to keep to the beat.