

= Janet ( album ) =

Janet ( stylized as janet . ) is the fifth studio album by American recording artist Janet Jackson , released on May 18 , 1993 , by Virgin Records America . Prior to its release , Jackson was at the center of a high @-@ profile bidding war over her recording contract . In 1991 , her original label A & M sought to renew her contract , while others , such as Atlantic , Capitol , and Virgin all vied to sign her . After meeting with Virgin owner Richard Branson , she signed with the label for a \$ 40 million contract , making her the world 's then @-@ highest paid musical act .

Criticism that her success in the music industry was attributed to being a member of the Jackson family and a producer @-@ dependent artist led her to write all lyrics for the album , in addition to co @-@ producing every song and co @-@ writing each of their arrangements with the songwriting / production duo Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis . Its title , read " Janet , period . " , is meant to disassociate her public image from her family , dropping her surname . While pop and R & B had been standard components in her music , she broadened her compositions by incorporating hip hop , opera , house and jazz , eliminating the rigid , industrial sound of her previous records . Although she earned a reputation as an advocate for sexual abstinence with her 1986 single " Let 's Wait Awhile " , the theme of Janet is sexual intimacy ? an abrupt departure from her conservative image . Much of the acclaim for the album focused on her lyrics that emphasized the female perspective on sexuality and the demand for practicing safe sex . Academics have argued the erotic imagery in her music videos released to promote the album 's singles have contributed to a higher degree of sexual freedom among women .

The album topped the record charts in the United States , Australia , New Zealand and the UK . In the US , it became the singer 's third consecutive album to top the Billboard 200 and her first to debut at number one . Selling 350 @,@ 000 copies in its first week , it set a record for the highest first week sales for a female artist at that time . Certified sixfold platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) , it has sold over seven million copies in the US according to Nielsen SoundScan and an estimated 20 million copies worldwide . It cemented her as an international icon and sex symbol , and is listed by the National Association of Recording Merchandisers and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as one of the 200 Definitive Albums of All Time .

Producing six top ten hits on the US Billboard Hot 100 singles chart , Janet remains one of only seven albums in the chart 's history to achieve that feat , and being the third consecutive album to produce five or more singles on top 10 , making her the only artist in history to have three albums with 5 or more singles in the top 10 . " That 's the Way Love Goes " became Jackson 's most successful single in the US , staying atop the Hot 100 for eight weeks , as well as topping the singles charts in Australia , Canada , and New Zealand . It received two Grammy Award nominations in 1994 , winning Best R & B Song . Her ballad " Again " ? written for the 1993 feature film Poetic Justice ? also topped the Hot 100 and garnered nominations for the Golden Globe and Academy Award for Best Original Song . The MTV @-@ sponsored Janet World Tour supporting the album received critical acclaim for Jackson 's elaborate stage performances , reinforcing her reputation as one of the preeminent artists of the MTV generation .

= = Background = =

Rumors of a multimillion @-@ dollar bidding war over Jackson 's recording contract began to circulate in spring 1991 . Jet magazine reported : " A recording company has offered in excess of \$ 50 million to sign superstar Janet Jackson to a recording contract , making the 24 @-@ year @-@ old singer / songwriter / dancer / actress the key player in one of the hottest bidding wars among today 's major record companies . " Reports indicated that Capitol , Virgin and Atlantic were all bidding for Jackson 's contract , as her ties to A & M would soon expire ; by March , she had signed with Virgin . The New York Times declared " Janet Jackson has signed what is believed to be the most lucrative contract in the history of recording . The 24 @-@ year @-@ old singer , songwriter and actress signed an exclusive contract with Virgin Records it was announced yesterday . " Her

new contract guaranteed a twenty @-@ two percent royalty payment , in addition to her then @-@ historic signing bonus . Chuck Philips of the Los Angeles Times reported that it had been the largest bidding war in recent memory and that " [ o ] ne reason the bidding was so heavy , various industry observers have noted , was that Jackson @-@ at just 24 @-@ is still a relatively fresh face on the pop scene and that her dance @-@ pop style is ideal for today 's pop / video climate . " In addition , her potential as an international superstar proved to be the primary motivation for the label 's investment . Jeff Ayeroff , co @-@ managing director of Virgin in the US stated : " Janet is a world @-@ class artist and we expect her growth to be enormous . " Chairman Richard Branson spoke with Jackson privately to seal the deal . He commented : " A Rembrandt rarely becomes available ... When it does , there are many people who are determined to get it . I was determined . "

Stephen Holden of The New York Times criticized the contract amount , considering it a gamble for Virgin . He stated that Jackson " is a producer @-@ dependent artist ? i.e. , someone who relies on others to make her sound interesting and trendy . She also lacks a sharply defined personality , both as an artist and celebrity . Where singers like Ms. Houston and Mariah Carey have commanding vocal power , Ms. Jackson 's is a relatively indistinguishable studio voice . " Richard Branson rebutted this argument stating " Ms. Jackson has met with great success working with the production team of Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis , just as her brother Michael Jackson has experienced his greatest successes with the producer Quincy Jones . It is interesting that Mr. Holden doesn 't mention this similar ' liability ' when discussing Michael Jackson . To say that Ms. Jackson is ' dependent ' on her producer is a shortsighted observation . She is a formidable talent who stands on her own . " Michael Jackson would break his sister 's record only days later , when he signed a \$ 60 million contract with Sony Music Entertainment . Both sibling 's contracts garnered considerable criticism . Los Angeles Times reported that " A & M Records President Al Cafaro , whose company lost the fierce bidding battle over Janet Jackson to Virgin Records , said record companies may be vesting too much importance in individual performers " as the funds used as advances to the Jacksons could have launched recording careers for numerous unknown talents . Cliff Burnstein of Q @-@ Prime management commented that recording artists demands for advances upon signing would begin to escalate from that point forward .

Prior to her first release with Virgin , Jackson was asked by Jam and Lewis to record a song for the sound track to the feature film Mo ' Money , released in 1992 by their label Perspective Records . Jon Bream of the Star Tribune reported : " For most movie soundtracks , producers negotiate with record companies , managers and lawyers for the services of big @-@ name singers . Like the Hollywood outsiders that they are , Edina @-@ based Jam and Lewis went directly to such stars as Janet Jackson , Michael Jackson , Luther Vandross , Bell Biv DeVoe , Color Me Badd and Johnny Gill . " Jackson , Jackson and Vandross recorded the duet or trio " The Best Things in Life Are Free " , which peaked at number 10 on the Billboard Hot 100 and topped the Hot R & B Singles chart . Shortly afterward , Jackson began filming for her first feature length role in John Singleton 's Poetic Justice . Although she was encouraged by a major studio executive to take on a film in which she could portray a singer , she insisted on finding a different role . She explained : " About that same time John Singleton asked me to read his new script . John and I became buddies ? I loved Boyz N the Hood ? so I thought he was just asking my advice . I was shocked and honored to learn the screenplay had been written with me in mind . ' Would you play Justice ? ' he wanted to know . Yes ! I 'd finally found a role ? a dramatic nonsinging role ? that was right . " Released in July 1993 , Poetic Justice debuted at number one at the box office , grossing \$ 11 @,@ 728 @,@ 455 ; it grossed a grand total of \$ 27 @,@ 515 @,@ 786 .

= = Conception = =

After writing songs with themes of independence for Control and social injustice for Rhythm Nation 1814 , Jackson desired to devote her new album to love and relationships , describing the theme of her new album as " intimacy " and that " [ s ] exual communication is the name of the game . " She stated in an interview with David Wild for Rolling Stone that " [ w ] hile I was doing Rhythm Nation , I was thinking about how things were so hard , so regimented and so black and white ... I thought I 'd

do something on the sexy side ? which is hard for me since I grew up as a tomboy and don 't really think of myself that way . But I think this album is more on the feminine tip . " She also commented on how her experience acting in Poetic Justice played a role in taking a new direction with her music . Speaking with biographer David Ritz , she stated that " Rhythm Nation was a heavy record , and Poetic Justice was a heavy movie . I wanted to do something lighter but also daring ... When I wrote the album , I was still in a poetic frame of mind , inspired by Maya 's beautiful language . You can hear that inspiration or the interludes and especially on the song ' New Agenda . ' This time I felt much freer expressing myself . "

= = Titling = =

Despite the critical and commercial success of her two previous albums , Jackson continued to receive numerous comparisons to her brother Michael , often with doubts that she held staying power in the music industry . When Edna Gundersen of USA Today questioned her about the subject , she responded : " Certain people feel I 'm just riding on my last name ... That 's why I just put my first name on Janet . and why I never asked my brothers to write or produce music for me . " Virgin Records expressed the album title " punctuates the declaration of strength the singer , songwriter and producer boldly expresses on this moving collection of songs which explore love , sensuality , the power of sisterhood and her own evolving self @-@ identity . " Thomas Harrison , author of Music of the 1990s ( 2011 ) wrote that " [ t ] he conscious decision was made , by the company and / or Jackson , to put her into the same league as other one @-@ named artists , such as Madonna , Bono , and Prince , or at least to put her on the same standing as others in the industry who are often called by one name , such as Whitney , Mariah , Diana , Dolly , and Garth among others . Jackson could now , in a sense , stand on her own and not be seen as a product of the family entertainment machine . " Sal Cinquemani of Slant magazine recounted the title of the album ultimately " announced the singer as completely independent of her male @-@ dominated family [ and ] it positioned her as the person in charge of her sound . "

= = Production = =

The album was produced at Flyte Tyme studios in Edina , Minnesota . Songs on the album , with the exception of " What 'll I Do " , were written by Janet Jackson , Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis , and mixed by Steve Hodge and Dave Rideau ; " What 'll I Do " was written and produced by Jackson and Jellybean Johnson . Jackson took a larger role in songwriting and production than she did on her previous albums . She explained that " [ a ] ll my records are personal , and Janet , is the most personal of them all . That 's why this time around it was important for me to write all the lyrics and half of the melodies . " Jam described the record as being " a more mature album musically . " David Ritz noted that Jackson and her producers took risks by experimenting with musical influences that had not appeared in their previous work . He explained : " She asked Kathleen Battle and Public Enemy 's Chuck D to contribute ? an opera diva and a hardcore rapper , two artists one would not associate with Janet ? and somehow pulled it off . Beyond Jam and Lewis , there 's now a recognizable Janet Jackson production style that 's gutsy and , in some cases , even eccentric . "

" That 's The Way Love Goes " contains a sample loop of " Papa Don 't Take No Mess " written by James Brown , Fred Wesley , Charles Bobbit , and John Starks . The song " Again " , was originally just an experimental sound the production duo was considering . While Jackson found its melody compelling , the trio did not give the song serious contemplation until the film producers from Poetic Justice requested a ballad for the film 's soundtrack . Jackson subsequently wrote the lyrics for " Again " and shaped them around Jam 's melody . The song was arranged by Lee Blaskey and accompanied by members of the Minnesota Orchestra and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra .

= = Release and promotion = =

== Rolling Stone cover ==

In September 1993 , Jackson appeared topless on the cover of Rolling Stone magazine with the hands of her then @-@ husband René Elizondo , Jr. covering her breasts . The photograph is the original full @-@ length version of the cropped image used on the cover of the Janet album , shot by Patrick Demarchelier . In the cover story , " Sexual Healing " by David Ritz , Jackson explained , " sex has been an important part of me for several years . But it just hasn 't blossomed publicly until now . I 've had to go through some changes and shed some old attitudes before feeling completely comfortable with my body . Listening to my new record , people intuitively understand the change in me " . Ritz likened Jackson 's transformation to Marvin Gaye as he stated , " just as Gaye moved from What 's Going On to Let 's Get It On , from the austere to the ecstatic , Janet , every bit as serious @-@ minded as Marvin , moved from Rhythm Nation to Janet , her statement of sexual liberation " .

The image was cropped to show only Jackson 's face on the album cover , and midriff in the interior booklet . The full version appears as the cover of the limited edition double disc edition of the album , as well as the video compilation Janet released later that year . Sonia Murray of The Vancouver Sun later reported , " Jackson , 27 , remains clearly established as both role model and sex symbol ; the Rolling Stone photo of Jackson ... became one of the most recognizable , and most lampooned , magazine covers of the year " .

== Singles ==

" That 's the Way Love Goes " , the album 's lead single entered the Billboard Hot 100 at number fourteen and peaked at number one . The single was certified gold by the RIAA on November 12 , 1993 . Virgin records intended for " If " to be the lead single for the album , but Jackson , Jam and Lewis disagreed . " That 's the Way Love Goes " remained at number one for eight weeks ? the most successful chart performance of any member of the Jackson family . The single earned a Grammy Award for Best R & B Song . " If " was released as the album 's second single and peaked at number four on the Hot 100 , receiving gold certification on September 28 , 1993 . " Again " , peaked at number one on the Hot 100 on December 11 , 1993 and topped the chart for two weeks . The single was certified gold and then doubled to platinum by the RIAA on December 17 , 1993 . The single earned a nomination for the Academy Award for Best Original Song . " Because of Love " reached number ten , but was not certified by the RIAA . " Any Time , Any Place " peaked at number two on the Hot 100 and was certified gold on July 11 , 1994 . " You Want This " , the album 's final commercial single for the United States , peaked at number eight on the Hot 100 and was awarded gold certification on December 6 , 1994 . The album has a hidden track , " Whoops Now " , which was released as a single in selected territories in 1995 .

== Videography ==

Jackson 's music video for " If " was staged as a futuristic Asian nightclub , with spy cameras monitoring the intimate interactions of patrons within their private boudoirs . The video is an elaborate metaphor for the single 's message of sexual fantasy , desire and voyeurism . The video was directed by Dominic Sena , who previously worked with Jackson on music videos for Rhythm Nation 1814 . René Elizondo , Jr. directed the videos for " That 's The Way Love Goes " , and " Again " . Videos for " Any Time , Any Place " and " You Want This " were directed by Keir McFarlane .

== Janet World Tour ==

Jackson embarked on her second world tour in support of her debut album with the Virgin Records label . Costumes and wardrobe for the tour were designed by stylist Tanya Gill , with outfits " rang [ ing ] from pipebone vests with high @-@ heeled moccasin boots to zoot suits top @-@ hats to

circus @-@ ringmaster bustiers . " With a show encompassing over 100 costumes , a team of over 50 costume makers was led by wardrobe supervisor , Helen Hiatt . The tour 's debut concert was held on November 24 , 1993 in Cincinnati , Ohio . Jackson held a four show engagement at Madison Square Garden which began on December 17 , 1993 , with the final performance held on New Year 's Eve . Michael Snyder of the San Francisco Chronicle described Jackson 's stage performance at the San Jose Arena in February 1994 , as what erased the line between " stadium @-@ size pop music concerts and full @-@ scale theatrical extravaganzas " .

The one @-@ hour @-@ and @-@ 45 @-@ minute performance was so tightly choreographed ? down to two built @-@ in pauses for " tears " at overwhelming waves of crowd adoration and a contrived bit of seductive repartee with a handsome , buffed hunk plucked from the front row for the ode to lust , " Any Time , Any Place " ? that it breezed by like a glitzy Vegas revue or a television variety show .

Her performances also garnered criticism . Renee Graham of The Boston Globe commented that her stage show at Great Woods Center for the Performing Arts on June 20 , 1994 , proved her limited vocal range as " [ t ] he numerous costume changes , pyrotechnics and the dancing all but overshadowed her razor @-@ sharp seven @-@ piece band and three back @-@ up singers " , asserting Jackson was a better performer and entertainer than she was a vocalist . However , the St. Louis Post @-@ Dispatch 's Steve Pick observed Jackson 's stage show at the Riverport Amphitheatre on July 12 , 1994 , made the Janet album 's numerous hit singles more effective with her " larger @-@ than @-@ life stage persona " .

= = = Formats = = =

A limited 2 disc edition of the album was released shortly after the album 's release , the limited edition is in the form of a hard @-@ covered book . The book 's cover is an unedited version of the album 's cover art , the book contains pictures of Jackson and lyrics of the songs from the album . The end of the book contains 2 CD 's , the second CD is a compilation of rare remixes of songs from the album

= = Commercial reception = =

Janet debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 and on the Top R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Albums charts , it was the first time in history a female artist debuted at number one of the SoundScan era ; with the largest first week sales in history for a female artist at the time with 350 @,@ 000 units sold in its first week . The album also gained much success worldwide , debuting at number one in the United Kingdom , New Zealand , and Australia . It also debuted in the top 10 in Sweden , The Netherlands , Canada ( with 65 @,@ 000 copies sold at the first week ) and Switzerland .

Janet was first certified gold by the RIAA on August 8 , 1993 denoting 500 @,@ 000 units shipped within the United States . The same day , the album 's certification was raised to 3 × platinum , denoting 3 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 units shipped . On November 17 , 1993 , Janet received 4 × platinum certification and was later awarded 5 × platinum on December 17 , 1993 . The following year on April 12 , 1994 , the album was certified 6 × platinum . Other certifications include a Double Gold certification in Finland , a 2 × Platinum certification in the UK And Australia , a Platinum in New Zealand and a Gold certification in Norway .

According to Nielsen SoundScan , the album has sold 7 @,@ 035 @,@ 000 million copies in the United States since its release , and has achieved worldwide sales of 20 million copies .

= = Critical reception = =

Rolling Stone magazine declared " [ a ] s princess of America 's black royal family , everything Janet Jackson does is important . Whether proclaiming herself in charge of her life , as she did on Control ( 1986 ) , or commander in chief of a rhythm army dancing to fight society 's problems ( Rhythm Nation 1814 , from 1989 ) , she 's influential . And when she announces her sexual maturity

, as she does on her new album , Janet . , it 's a cultural moment . " Claiming the album should bring her critical praise , the magazine concludes its review with the statement " [ t ] he princess of America 's black royal family has announced herself sexually mature and surrendered none of her crown 's luster in the process . Black women and their friends , lovers and children have a victory in Janet . " Robert Christgau originally gave the album an " honorable mention " in consumer guide for The Village Voice , wherein he complimented its erotic songs and cited " Funky Big Band " , " Throb " , and " Be a Good Boy " as highlights . Billboard magazine gave a positive review , stating " [ d ] estined to be an instant smash , Ms. Jackson 's latest is a glamorous assortment of styles ? pop , dance , R & B , rock , jazz , rap ? each delivered with consummate skill and passion . Janet is described as " a career @-@ defining record earning Janet the right to operate on a first @-@ name basis . "

Michael Snyder of the San Francisco Chronicle lauded the album 's content , stating " [ t ] his 75 @-@ minute opus , her first effort under a megabuck contract with the Virgin label , could be the make @-@ out album of the ' 90s ... a silken soul odyssey , charting one woman 's journey to emotional and sexual fulfillment through 10 songs and a series of spoken @-@ word and ambient snippets . " Caroline Sullivan of The Guardian declared the album 's " luxuriant collection of house , soul and pop is her best yet . Cod @-@ Madonna throwaways like Throb aside , there are surprises all over the place . Public Enemy 's Chuck D counterweights Jackson 's sugared vocal to stunning effect on a black @-@ pride anthem , New Agenda ; soprano Kathleen Battle turns the heavyweight funk of This Time into something eerie and beautiful . "

Robert Johnson of San Antonio Express @-@ News praised Jackson and her producers for taking a chance on a new sound . He wrote : " Under the enormous pressure of her \$ 40 million deal with Virgin Records , Jackson had to deliver something big enough to put her on a first @-@ name basis with the world ... ' janet . ' isn 't perfect , but it should be enough to make her the Queen of Pop . " " Dammit , Janet ! , " marveled Melody Maker . " The last Jackson hero ( ine ) has carried peacock feathers to the dance . Holier than Mahalia . " " janet. will please most people , " remarked The Daily Telegraph , " because it is crammed with the sort of tender , joyous pop music that lingers long after smarter records have been forgotten . "

Steve Pick of St. Louis Post @-@ Dispatch stated that although Jackson may not be the greatest singer or songwriter , but she has nonetheless " created and projected a persona that is irresistible . Part of it is a sexual allure , but more of it is the way she demands and receives attention . " John Mackie with The Vancouver Sun reported the album gives Jackson an " incredible style " , proclaiming Janet as " the best commercial album so far this year , an album that could well vault her past the stumbling Madonna as Queen of the charts . Heck , she might even outsell Michael with this one . " " While her brother loops the loop on Planet Pepsi , it 's hard to imagine the spotlight ever shifting to his sassy sis , " remarked NME , " but this modern hunk of an album should redress some of the balance . "

Jay Cocks of TIME magazine offered a mixed review , stating " [ f ] or all its sass , there is something a little too careful about this album : the rhythms are too studied and studiobound , the sexiness slightly forced . It 's as if Jackson , aware that this was her premier effort under a new , \$ 40 million record deal , felt weighed down by the burden of proving herself . When , however , she kicks loose on What 'll I Do , a nifty , ' 60s @-@ style soul stirrer , it 's clear that Jackson 's got nothing to prove to anyone , including herself . " Jon Pareles of The New York Times compares Jackson to her brother Michael and Madonna , stating " Jackson 's real strength , abetted by Jam and Lewis , is the way she tops dance @-@ club rhythms with pop melodies . Less up @-@ to @-@ the @-@ second than Madonna but still effective , the Jackson team has obviously been listening to the competition . Madonna 's ' Justify My Love ' echoes in ' That 's the Way Love Goes , ' and ' If ' resembles Michael Jackson 's ' Why You Wanna Trip on Me , ' starting with screaming guitar and a chanted verse , rising to a sweet melody . " He also comments that despite its shortcomings , " [ t ] he album 's not about being real ; it 's about seamlessness and ingenuity , about giving the public something it can use . For a superstar , Jackson is downright selfless , but she gets the job done . "

Chris Willman of the Los Angeles Times gave an unfavorable review . Although sex in popular

music is considered a standard concept , Willman states the only reason the album would cause a reaction is because of Jackson 's well @-@ known conservative nature . He comments : " So be it . Jackson 's first album in four years is destined for a long ride at No. 1 , not because it 's any great piece of work , but largely for its aphrodisiacal aspirations . " David Browne of Entertainment Weekly stated that " [ i ] f musical variety and daring lyrics were all that mattered , janet. would make the grade . But the album has a lot to prove . It is the first delivery under her \$ 40 million contract with Virgin , and its title ? which translates as ' Janet , period ' ? is meant as a declaration of independence from her oddball siblings ... She still sounds like a young woman from a male @-@ dominated family who is searching for her identity and voice . Mostly , though , janet. sounds like a mess ? period . " David Sinclair of The Times wrote : " In the steamy , post @-@ Madonna climate of the 1990s , Jackson is not about to let thoughts of love get in the way of the mechanics of lust , and like many of her superstar contemporaries she tends to confuse sex with soul . "

= = = Accolades = = =

Jackson received five nominations for the 1994 American Music Awards : Favorite Pop / Rock Female Artist , Favorite Soul / R & B Female Artist , Favorite Pop / Rock Album and Favorite Soul / R & B Album for Janet , and Favorite Soul / R & B Single for " That 's the Way Love Goes " . The same year she received two Grammy Award nominations ? Best R & B Vocal Performance , Female and Best R & B Song for " That 's The Way Love Goes " ? winning Best R & B Song . Several critics asserted she was unjustly overlooked in the Grammy 's three major categories : Record of the Year , Song of the Year and Album of the Year . Greg Kot of the Chicago Tribune stated , " Jackson again was denied a nomination for album of the year , even though ' janet ' ( Virgin ) has remained in the Top 10 since its release last summer and has been critically acclaimed . " He adds that " the oversight is doubly vexing , because [ Jackson ] ? in a songwriting and production partnership with Jimmy Jam ( aka James Harris III ) and Terry Lewis ? is not just a multiplatinum pop act but an artist who has reshaped the sound and image of rhythm and blues over the last decade . " Kot laid blame to the oversight on the fact that many believed her to be a producer @-@ dependent artist ? an opinion he found to be in error . Similarly , producer Jimmy Jam stated : " It 's easy to say that the two albums she did before she met us weren 't successful and when she got with us she became successful ... ' Control ' was the first album she actually had input . I think that 's just as significant as the fact we ( Jam and Lewis ) did the record . "

= = = Retrospective reviews = = =

Later reviews were generally positive . In a retrospective review , Christgau gave Janet an " A ? " and said that although the costly production by Jam & Lewis makes the music sound " more pornographic than obscene " , " this achievement is Janet 's , period ... Better nose than Michael , better navel than Madonna , better sex than either . " Laura Sinagra wrote in The Rolling Stone Album Guide ( 2004 ) that with janet , Jackson " took more risks " lyrically than on her previous albums . Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine notes that the album " was at the forefront of the increasingly popular sampling trend in the ' 90s , with one song even employing three different samples as its foundation . Some make perfect sense on a thematic as well as sonic level , like Kool & the Gang 's " Kool It ( Here Comes the Fuzz ) " and Stevie Wonder 's " Superwoman , Where Were You When I Needed You " on " New Agenda , " or the orchestral flourish from Diana Ross & the Supremes ' " Someday We 'll Be Together " on " If , " which seems to exist for the sole purpose of providing the impetus behind one of the greatest dance @-@ break routines in music video history . " Commenting on the album 's broad range , he states : " The mother of eclectic , genre @-@ hopping records by Christina Aguilera , Gwen Stefani , and Fergie , janet. incorporates new jack swing , house , pop , rock , hip @-@ hop , jazz , and even opera , but the album 's range of styles isn 't jarring in the least ... Janet has never been one thing and janet. is a feminist statement , to be sure . " Alex Henderson of Allmusic offered a positive review , saying " [ a ] nyone who expected Jackson to top Rhythm Nation ? her crowning achievement and an incredibly tough act to

follow ? was being unrealistic . But with Janet , she delivered a respectable offering that , although not as strong as either Control or Nation , has many strong points . "

= = Legacy = =

Although Jackson has reached superstar status in the United States , she has yet to achieve the same level of response internationally . According to Nancy Berry , vice chairman of Virgin Records , Janet marked the first time the label " had centrally coordinated and strategized a campaign on a worldwide basis " which ultimately brought her to a plateau of global recognition . Her historic multimillion @-@ dollar contract made her the highest @-@ paid artist in history , until brother Michael renegotiated his contract with Sony Music Entertainment only days later . Sonia Murry noted that she remained " the highest @-@ paid female in pop ... a whirlwind of fashion , personality and slick musical packaging rivaled only by Madonna and Whitney Houston in today 's pop pantheon . " James Robert Parish , author of Today 's Black Hollywood ( 1995 ) wrote : " She confirmed her status as today 's Queen of Pop when , not long ago , she signed a \$ 35- \$ 40 million recording contract with Virgin Records . " Music critic Nelson George noted that while surpassing Michael would be next to impossible , Janet had assuredly reached iconic status . He explained : " What worked for Michael 10 years ago is working for her now ... Michael was clearly the voice of the ' 80s , those that grew up with him since Motown . And with the themes ( independence , social consciousness and up @-@ front yet responsible sexuality ) that she 's addressing in her albums and the popularity she 's enjoying , she could very well be the voice of the ' 90s . "

Rolling Stone 's The ' 90s : The Inside Stories from the Decade That Rocked ( 2010 ) documented that she had achieved some level of growth with each of her records , and that with Janet , " [ u ] sing soul , rock and dance elements , as well as opera diva Kathleen Battle , [ she ] unleashed her most musically ambitious record , guided as always , by producers Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis . " Richard J. Ripani author of The New Blue Music : Changes in Rhythm & Blues , 1950 @-@ 1999 ( 2006 ) noted that she had led the incorporation of rap into mainstream R & B with a select group of artists , in that " rap music no longer sounded so musically distant to many R & B listeners because many of its traits were commonly heard in songs by mainstream artists such as Janet Jackson , Mary J. Blige , Keith Sweat , and others . " Vibe magazine observed that " R & B was omnipresent in 1993 . It was a year in which Janet Jackson , at 27 , topped the Billboard pop album charts for six straight summer weeks , with her critically lauded , six @-@ times @-@ platinum Janet . " It became one of only five albums in the history of the Billboard 200 ? along with Whitney Houston 's Whitney ( 1987 ) , Norah Jones 's Feels Like Home ( 2004 ) , Taylor Swift 's Fearless ( 2008 ) , and Susan Boyle 's I Dreamed a Dream ( 2009 ) ? to debut at number one and remain at the top of the chart for a minimum of six consecutive weeks . It is also only one of seven albums ? including Michael Jackson 's Thriller ( 1982 ) and Bad ( 1987 ) , Bruce Springsteen , Born in the U.S.A. ( 1984 ) , George Michael 's , Faith ( 1987 ) , Janet Jackson 's Rhythm Nation 1814 ( 1989 ) and Katy Perry 's , Teenage Dream ( 2010 ) to yield a minimum of six top ten hit singles on the Hot 100 .

The release of Janet signaled the singer 's transformation from conservative teen role model to adult sex symbol . In You 've Come A Long Way , Baby : Women , Politics , and Popular Culture ( 1996 ) , Lilly J. Goren observed that " [ Her ] 1993 album Janet moved away from politically driven lyrics to songs about love and sex @-@ lyrics that could capitalize on her new sexy , more scantily clad image in MTV music videos . Jackson 's evolution from politically aware musician to sexy diva marked the direction that society and the music industry were encouraging the dance @-@ rock divas to pursue . " Reporter Edna Gunderson commented : " The woman whose hourglass torso and sensual gyrating have made her MTV 's reigning sex kitten is today a vision of wholesome beauty . " Professor and social critic Camille Paglia expressed : " Janet 's unique persona combines bold , brash power with quiet sensitivity and womanly mystery . Her latest music is lightning and moon glow . "

Her music videos contributed to a higher degree of sexual freedom among young women , as Jean M. Twenge , author of Generation Me : Why Today 's Young Americans are More Confident , Assertive , Entitled ? and More Miserable Than Ever Before ( 2007 ) wrote : " In Alfred Kinsey 's



studies in the 1950s , only 3 % of the young women had received oral sex from a man . By the mid @-@ 1990s , however , 75 % of women aged 18 @-@ 24 had experienced cunnilingus . Music videos by female artists have contributed to the trend , with both Mary J. Blige and Janet Jackson heavily implying male @-@ on @-@ female oral sex in music videos by pushing down on a man 's head until he 's in exactly the right position . " Similarly , Paula Kamen in *Her Way : Young Women Remake the Sexual Revolution* ( 2000 ) states that " [ i ] n the early to mid @-@ 1990s , oral sex even reached mainstream music as politically charged demand of truly liberated women , " citing TLC , Mary J. Blige and Janet Jackson as examples of female artists simulating cunnilingus in their videos . Rolling Stone wrote that " she celebrated becoming an erotic being ... [ showing ] young women a way to have their sexual freedom and their dignity , to have their cake and eat it too . " She was named Best Female Singer and Female Sex Symbol by Rolling Stone for the year 1993 in pop music . Goren adds that later pop stars such as Britney Spears , Christina Aguilera and Pink would rely on image , sex appeal and choreography as much as musical talent .

= = Accolades = =

= = Track listing = =

#### Notes

" That 's the Way Love Goes " contains samples from " Papa Don 't Take No Mess " , written by James Brown , Fred Wesley , Charles Bobbit and John Starks and performed by J. Brown .

" You Want This " contains samples from :

" Love Child " , written by R. Dean Taylor , Frank Wilson , Pam Sawyer , Deke Richards and performed by Diana Ross & the Supremes .

" Jungle Boogie " , written by Robert Bell , Ronald Bell , Claydes Smith , Robert Mickens , Donald Boyce , Richard Allen Westfield , Dennis Thomas and George Brown and performed by Kool & the Gang .

" If " contains samples from " Someday We 'll Be Together " , written by Johnny Bristol , Harvey Fuqua and Jackey Beavers and performed by Diana Ross & the Supremes .

" New Agenda " contains samples from :

" School Boy Crush " , written by Hamish Stuart , Onnie McIntyre , Alan Gorrie , Steve Ferrone , Molly Duncan and Roger Bell and performed by Average White Band .

" Kool It ( Here Comes the Fuzz ) " , written by Gene Redd , Woodrow Sparrow , Robert Bell , Ronald Bell , Westfield , Mickens , G. Brown , Thomas and Smith and performed by Kool & the Gang .

" Superwoman ( Where Were You When I Needed You ) " , written and performed by Stevie Wonder .

= = Personnel = =

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = = Year @-@ end charts = = =

= = = End of decade charts = = =

= = = Chart procession = = =

