

But wait!

Makeovers are all well and good, but sometimes you're fine just the way you are, says Queen Latifah.

DON'T

MAKE

HER

OVER

THE 32-YEAR-OLD SINGER (her new album is out this month), actress (see her as Mama Morton in *Chicago*) and former talk-show host fills *Glamour* in on the things she'd rather leave as is:

■ **my body** At one point when I was on [Fox sitcom] *Living Single*, some people started to say, "Why can't these girls lose weight?" My reaction to that?

You can kiss my ass—we were what girls look like. We looked good. And you *know* there was some girl at home feeling better because of us.

■ **my music** I've had pressure to make records that were more risqué, had more four-letter words, that talked typical street hip-hop stuff—sex, cars, money, jewelry. My feeling was, You've got plenty of people who do that. That's not me, nor is it what people want from me. I want to take chances, push my music forward. If I can't do what I do with my music, what's the point?

■ **my mistakes** I don't like to think of my mistakes as mistakes so much as steps I had to take to learn. I tried having sex for money once, when I was 16. Not in a prostitution sort of way, but with an older man I was seeing. After, I felt disgusted. I had hatred toward myself; I felt nasty and ugly. From that I learned, OK, you know this is not you and you knew this was wrong from the beginning. It hurts to admit that you've screwed up, but you need to do that in order to forgive yourself and move on.

■ **my belief in myself** I have a mantra: I'm stronger than I think. When I feel like I can't finish the last five minutes on the treadmill, I recite that. When I'm going through a bad breakup and think I'm about to lose my mind, I tell myself that. When I lost my grandmother, I told myself that. You've gotta convince yourself.

■ **my girly side** Working on *Chicago* was such a great experience, but I didn't like the way I looked. I was the matron and not glamorous. I wore gray every day and no lip color. When we got done, I felt the way I had after finishing *Set It Off*—couldn't wait to be a girl again! I was like, I'm getting my nails painted and wearing lipstick and a dress for a week straight!

BLOUSE AND JEANS, LANE BRYANT; SANDALS, RENÉ CAOVIOLA. OPPOSITE PAGE: BLOUSE, LAFAYETTE 148. SEE GO SHOPPING FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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