

A M B E R A L I C E A



CONFIDENCE FROM WITHIN:
THROUGH DRESS

Confidence from within: Through dress

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PROLOGUE

In this book I express my emotions through dress and what these particular garments and moments mean to me. This book gives insight on my past memories, outfit choices and my identity as a Latina American. As a known glo girl I can say these were some of my best memories up to date. Resilience and confidence have had a huge impact on my identity. Confidence is extremely important as a young female in today's world. This book is dedicated to all the wise women who helped raise me to be the woman I am today. Most of all my mother, my aunts, my grandma who are always there for me when I need them the most.

I was born and raised in New York yet grew up in Dominican Republic. I came back to the city at the age of twelve, I endured a drastic lifestyle change. Ever since I moved back I have been finding ways to express myself through my dress and all of its aspects. Through the act of body modifications, clothing, and emotions my book was written with love to share with you all.

Now that I am much older, I would love to move back to the Dominican Republic. Yet it will never change the way I grew up which have shaped me to be the woman I Am today

FORWARD

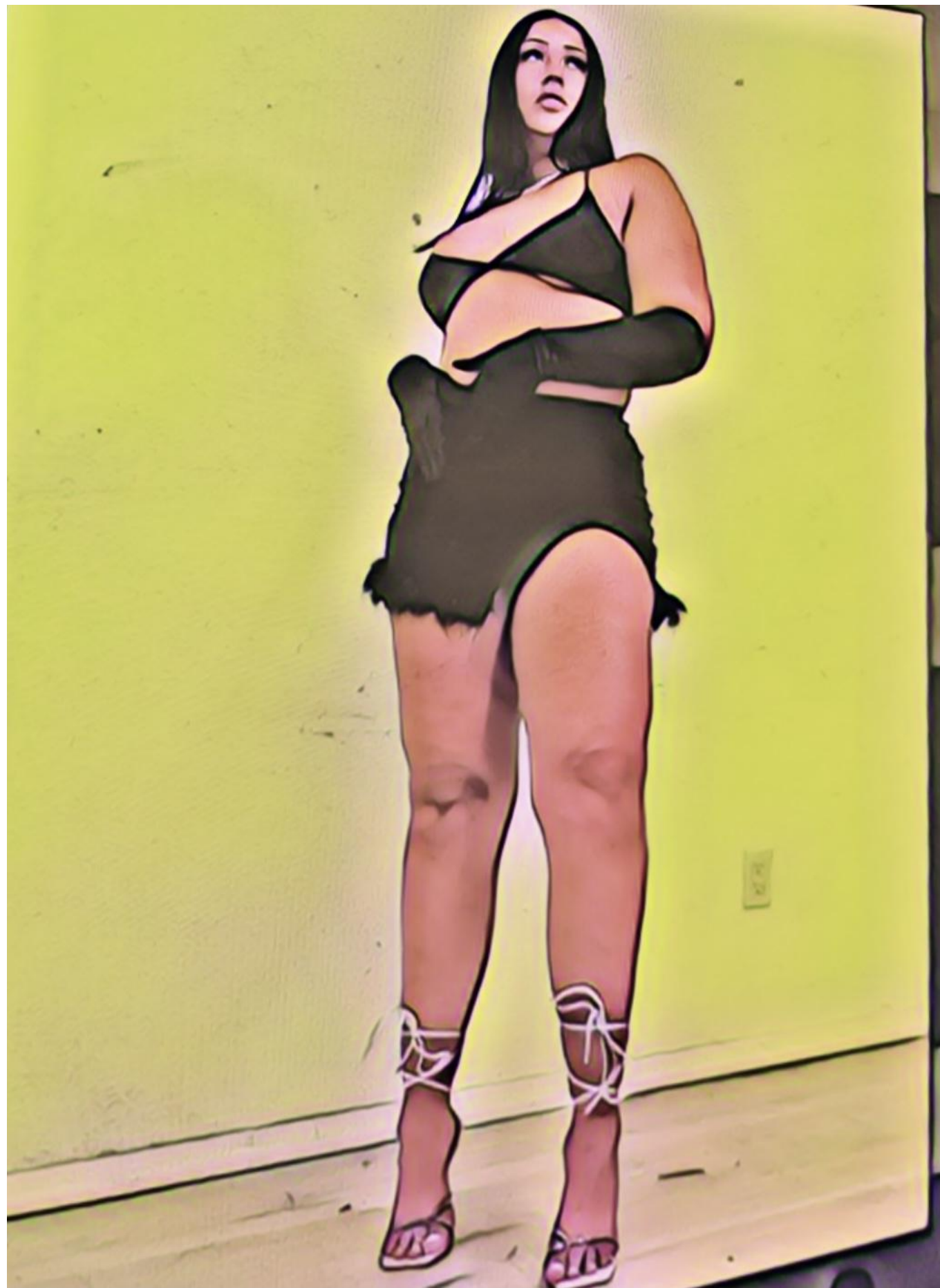
Amber Gabriella Alicea

Aka Glo Girl is certainly not a princess but a Warrior Goddess whether you are far or near you would want to be around Miss Amber.

She ignites everyone by her disposition; she speaks with her dark brown eyes. Her fashion sense is excellent and she is ready to debate on any topics. Her energy vibrates the entire universe. She is very secured and builds self confidence in others in which people in this society need more Amber's.

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Chapter 1 | CatFish Fit

In February of 2021 I had the opportunity to work on a creative photoshoot for myself. I was contacted by one of my friends named Dynasty and she was hosting a power shoot at a studio where all photoshoot equipment is available, and different backdrops alongside two amateur photographers. The photographers Greg and Russ were working on building their portfolio and were looking to work with fresh faces. I was allowed to bring two outfits and this two piece outfit was something I had ordered online. This set was nothing like what I expected and initially did not feel confident.

As the world of online shopping has taken over, it has only made my life more difficult. Appearances can truly be deceiving, especially when it comes to ordering online. I expected something completely different in regards to sizing and fabric quality, yet I was catfished. The outfit consisted of a black double layered black mesh fabric skirt and triangle tie bikini style top. Additionally the fur along the bottom rim of the skirt was strange. This outfit was something I could never wear outdoors or around others yet I still found a way to make the best out of the outfit. I paired the look with white silver strap embellished heels that were also ordered online and were extremely uncomfortable. The day of the photoshoot I decided to purchase elbow length gloves to enhance the outfit.

At the time I had just returned from a trip to California the night before and my hair was not looking its best. My hair was oily and was not looking to my standards yet it was decent. I decided to go with a minimal makeup look and added concealer, bronzer and highlighter. I am naturally beautiful and I do not need tons of foundation to feel beautiful. I adorned my neck with a silver studded tennis chain and letter "A" pendant. My toes were painted in all white being my usual go to option.

I truly felt confident and sexy during this photoshoot, which truly was shown through the pictures taken. Greg and Russ were extremely professional and took tons of beautiful pictures. I can truly say this catfit outfit that was meant to never be worn or donated was put to great use. I was able to feel confident in a garment that was meant to be worn on vacation into something to express myself and exercise self love. I had worn my twenty first birthday heels as well which I have great memories in. These were both items that made me feel uncomfortable yet I grew to feel confident and have a special attachment to these items. They have been stepping stones for my confidence as a curvy girl and I'm grateful for this small online mishap.



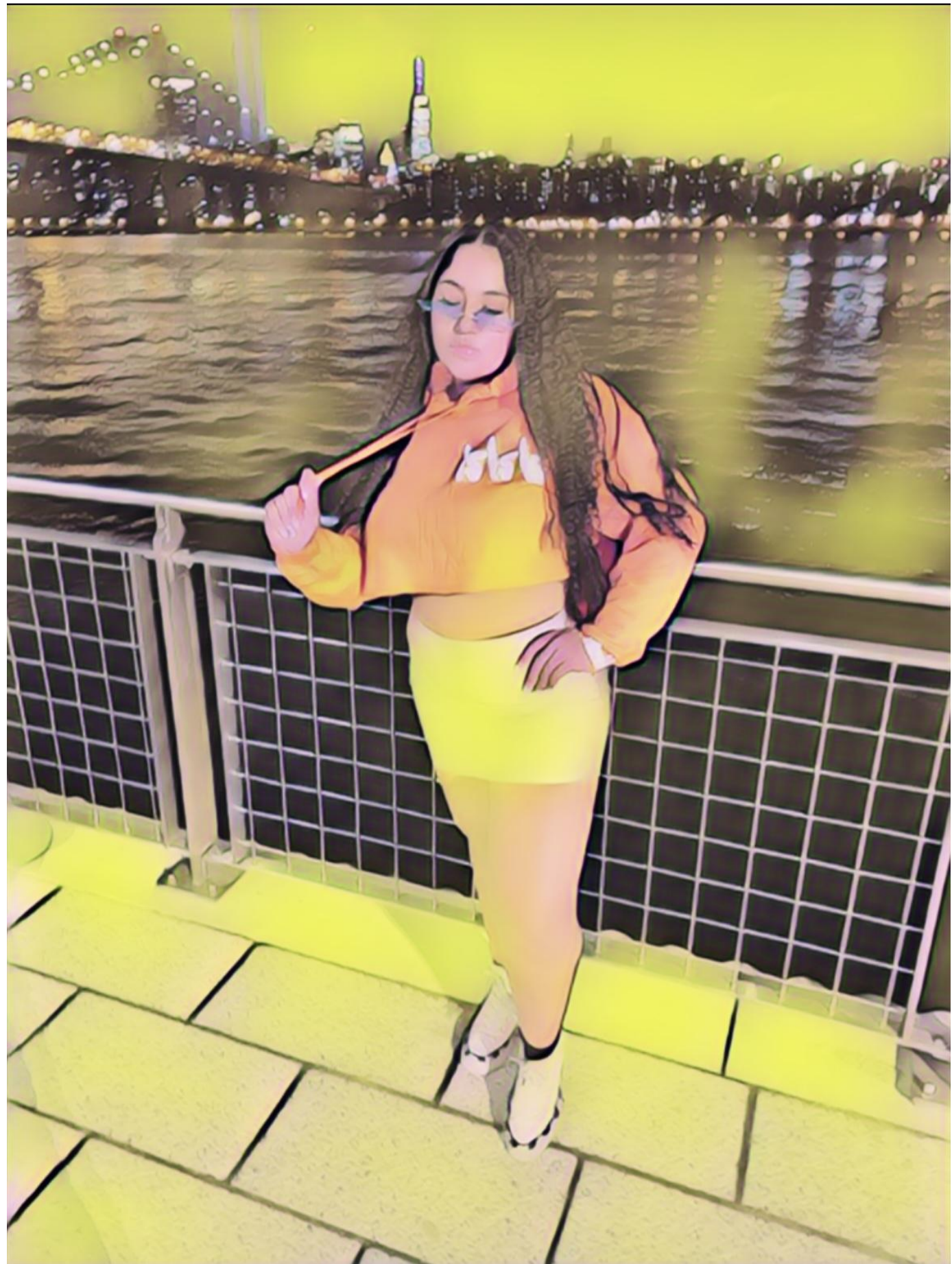
Chapter 2 | Loving Yourself

As a micro influencer on instagram I have always expressed how important it is to be confident and truly love yourself. Through my instagram account I have had brand collaborations reach out to me as well as photographers and small businesses willing to collaborate. They offer discounted services or free products in exchange for sharing and posting content. A few weeks before my twenty second birthday a photographer reached out to me and wanted to shoot content of my choice for free. I accepted the offer and we met at a studio in Brooklyn which was an awesome experience which helped me with my modeling skills.

I was able to bring two looks yet this particular dress being worn in the image was too short to wear in public. I was obsessed with this mini sky blue silk textured dress and it has a zig zag design that ties on the back which secures the bust area well. I wore a white mesh robe with faux fur trimmings on the edges which I ordered with intentions to do a photoshoot. This was a photoshoot for my birthday yet the main look was pink and I did not receive the picture back in time for my birthday.

I prepped for this photoshoot about four days in advance and had that ponytail installed. The ponytail for this particular shoot was the most uncomfortable yet which even left me with a bald spot. Beauty truly hurts, but I had this braid installed using synthetic hair to have an *elongated appearance*. My baby hairs were perfectly gelled and settled by the hairdresser yet made the pony tail too tight. I *adorned* my ears with silver studded hoops that I wore on past birthdays.

The dress in fact was a gift from my brother's girlfriend at the time named Clarissa. She was a sweet and evil soul to be around in her own way which is another reason I only used this dress for personal pictures. I felt I looked amazing in the dress and thought it was a thoughtful gift. She had given it to me brand new because it didn't quite fit her well but having her around quickly turned into a nightmare. I am glad I was given the chance to live some experiences at a young age that others do not experience till later in life. I have learned to be resilient in any situation no matter how rough things shaping me into the person i'm becoming.



Chapter 3 | Body Positivity Hoodie

September 11th was one of the most memorable days of my summer during 2020. On this day I went on a little date in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. I visited domino park and took pictures under the Williamsburg Bridge overlooking the freedom tower and the lights. Since I was a little girl my mom always made sure to boost my confidence which has shaped me to be the woman I am today.

I was dressed in a silver polyester shiny skirt, and an orange cotton cropped hoodie. However, this was not just any cropped hoodie, it was my friend's latest clothing brand "La Reina Label". Her brand was created to make all women of all shapes and sizes feel beautiful. On the front of the hoodie there are three different body shapes to emphasize that every size is beautiful. Young girls in today's world are quick to feel insecure when we are all beautiful. I paired the look with "Off white" converse by Virgil Abloh, which is extremely hard to get but I managed to snag a pair. My sunglasses frames were shaped into flames which were a showstopper to complete the look. I had the chance to buy them from a friend I went to highschool with at a pop up shop during New York fashion week.

The way my hair was styled was very new to me and it received so much love on my instagram social media account. At the time my hair was done in goddess braids which are box braids with a mixture of added synthetic hair and curls for volume and length. I had a simple acrylic nails set which complimented the look as well.

This look meant alot to me because I am definitely an advocate of body positivity. I felt proud to be wearing a statement piece as well as supporting two women owned businesses. Despite all the tragedies and twisted people in the world we should still love ourselves. This is a garment I will cherish forever because not many women out there love themselves enough. Furthermore, despite many brands adapting to our ever changing lifestyles, only some companies have shifted into promoting inclusivity and self love.

NYFW

THE SHOWS

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS



In September of 2019, a few months after getting back from Miami I had the opportunity to attend New York Fashion Week. Unexpectedly I was able to attend three shows, this one in particular being the Anna Sui runway show. One of aunts thankfully works as a seamstress at the warehouse and was able to get me a ticket. As I posted my experience on instagram my friend reached out to me with more fashion show invites. My friend luckily isn't into fashion nearly as much as I am so she offered me the ticket her sister had for her. This fashion show was one of a kind and I was able to make valuable connections.

I was dressed in boot cut , low rise black leather pants that i had thrifted a few months back. I decided to wear my rebel Jordan 1s, to be comfortable and used a bag strap chain as a belt. I wore a leopard print leotard and a black blazer to keep it trendy and classy. I had my shades on to add a dramatic sass to my look and a red triangle Balenciaga dupe bage.

My *body modifications* were not extreme because I received late notice from my aunt about ticket availability. I had gotten ready and luckily my hair was braided in cornrows to the back. I had no makeup, only facial moisturizer and some lipgloss.

This fashion show was truly iconic because it has been a way for me to get my foot in the door. My aunt is extremely supportive and always finds a way to find me a ticket. It can be very hard to get into various fashion shows during the week of viewing yet not impossible. Through the grace of networking I was also able to attend multiple fashion shows, including Affairs and some other. I was able to discuss how passionate I am about fashion, its direction and current impact. Although COVID truly ruined the essence of such events, I plan to attend many this year. My radiant confidence has helped me navigate different settings in order to flourish. I was able to spend time with my aunt that I rarely spend time with which was a moment to remember. Unfortunately, now fashion shows are happening virtually and rarely in person due to our state and country COVID mandate regulations.



Chapter 5 | Brotherly love!

On the morning of Christmas of 2020, I was given this beautiful abstract art design puffer coat from Scotch & Soda by my younger brother. The first time I wore the coat was on an unexpected tip to California during the first week of January. I had just started dating a young business owner and he casually offered to fly me and my friend to California for the weekend. This was a shock to me, I had never gone away with all expenses covered and a detailed itinerary to follow. At the time COVID was at an all time high but I couldn't reject the opportunity.

This three piece outfit was in fact purchased by my roommate but she didn't like the way it fit on her body so I bought it off of her. We purchased it together in fact at our local fashion nova dupe boutique called Glam 86. The outfit is discrete yet sexy, featuring a sweatpant, zip up hoodie and a bikini top. The seatsuits material is composed of a soft cream colored velvet and it's definitely one of my favorites. My sneakers are “off white” by designer Virgil Abloh which are always a showstopper due to exclusivity and limited availability when released. The puffer coat of course completes the look although, COVID was at peak and I kept my pink mask on at times while at the airport.

Being that this trip was completely unexpected and I was notified two days before flying out, I only had a chance for a few *dress modifications*. Thankfully, I had a chance to get a wash and set at my favorite Dominican salon in the Lower East Side. Although I didn't have a chance to get my nails done I still painted them yellow on my own. I enhanced my appearance by individual lash extensions size 18-19mm which were still holding up from New Years. I had my eyebrows waxed a few hours before being at the airport but I got it done!

As an older sister I always made sure to make my brother's birthdays and holidays special. I would always take him out, give him money and even surprise him with tickets to see his favorite artist. As my brother grew older he grew to appreciate and recognize everything I've done throughout the years. When he finally started a good paying job, working for the union he knew to spoil my mom and I. This puffer coat was one of the biggest, most meaningful purchases my brother had ever gifted me.



Chapter 6 | Favorite T- Shirt

On a nice day in March of 2019, I was on my way to go shopping in Soho with my friends. Grabbed some lunch at a cute cafe in Soho and snagged this photo while walking to the train. I love this look because not only was it comfortable and stylish, it was taken at a time before covid. Life was definitely less stressful and we didn't have to adjust to a new city wide mandate every month.

I decided to wear this Daytona Bike Week t- shirt which is my favorite t-shirt of all time. I truly feel through its vintage character, It's a captivating clothing item. I can dress this specific clothing item up or down which is the best part. On this particular day I *adorned* the look with a pair of light wash jeans and a cheaper balenciaga triangle bag dupe. The triangle bag and sunglasses were the finishing touch complimenting the final look. I wore my vintage Versace ankle length trench coat and my rebel Jordan 1s to complete the look.

On this day I woke up in a great mood, brushed my teeth, showered and got ready. I styled my hair in a sleek slick back bun *enhancing* my facial features. I had minimal makeup on at the time, featuring bronzer, concealer and a touch of highlight of my nose and cheeks. I also applied a new perfume I had purchased by kenzo which *modified* my usual scent.

This particular t-shirt, which is my favorite, was gifted to me by my stepdad. He would attend the Dayton Bike Week every year with his buddies yet had not attended in a while. The shirt was always interesting to me and it has an oversized fit which I love. My stepdad has always been there for me and I hope to keep this shirt forever. He is the true definition of an amazing step father and he truly took over the father role. This is one of the only items I can say that I own with so much sentimental value. This man truly cares for my mother and treats her like a queen. She has always taught me to never tolerate any bull from men and to seek someone who truly respects you.



Chapter 7 | Cowgirl

On Halloween weekend of 2019, I didn't have numerous costume ideas for the weekend or money to purchase numerous costumes. I was in my prime when I would attend three different halloween parties in a night and a handful by the end of the weekend. I was always with a large group of friends from high school which was always a great time. On this night we started off at a costume rooftop party in the Manhattan, Lower East Side and ended up in Harlem by the end of the night.

My mother had given me the amazing idea of dressing up as a cowgirl using clothing items that were already in my closet. I was able to customize my costume myself and she let me wear her very own cowboy boots. I wore a light denim skirt, a medium sized buckle leather brown belt, a black vintage leather bag and a fringe jacket and leotard. The jacket was made from real suede and was a red wine color with fringes along the back and down the arms. To enhance the costume my mother had left over toy guns from her cowboy themed 49th birthday which came in handy. The fringe jacket and props truly pull the entire look together making my costume choice apparent to others.

Although this was a costume, my *body modifications* were not extravagant. I brushed my teeth, showered, washed my hair and let it out naturally. I left my curly hair out which I did not like much but seemed practical at the time. I had moisturized my skin and perfumed my body in hopes to meet up with my guy best friend who I had a huge crush on at the time. I had even put on light makeup and colored in my eyebrows which was something I never really did.

This night is unforgettable because of multiple reasons and my confidence was through the roof. Being that hard on my favorite thrift store find till this day which is the fringe jacket. I ended up meeting up with my best friend Mikey who later became my boyfriend for about eight months. This jacket is sentimental to me because of the memories and I hope to own it for a lifetime. I remember at the time Mikey and I were just friends getting to the stage of dating, this night was where it all started. Us meeting up was not planned yet, I happened to be near his house and we met up. Although we were friends for years and would see each other between long spans of time, it was never apparent when we did see each other.



Chapter 8 | Rose Mansion

On August 2nd of 2019 I attended the “*Rose Mansion*” with my mother in New York City. Previously during the month of July I had undergone surgery to have my tonsils removed. It was a very long recovery due to my age which made the healing process longer. As the weeks went by, I tried my best to heal but it was difficult to talk, eat and even sleeping felt impossible. Thankfully I had an amazing support team, and my mother had given me tickets for us to attend the Rose Mansion as a get well gift. This exhibit was only around for a limited time and tickets were always sold out so I definitely looked forward to getting dressed up, having a drink and spending time with my mother.

Initially I wanted to wear pink to the Rose Mansion yet fell in love with this bright yellow bodycon style mini dress instead. The dress featured an open back with a zig zag design showing off my tattoo. It felt amazing to confidently wear a dress and hang out in the city. My sandals were very comfortable and made out of leather with three straps. Each strap had a different animal print to compliment the yellow dress. The finishing touch was the shades of course, they can never be missing on a summer outfit.

I was excited to finally have my hair washed and blown out to perfection. Due to being in bed for the past few weeks I had *enhanced* the *appearance* of my hair by applying a deep conditioning treatment and requesting one curl to my silky smooth finished blowout. I had my eyebrows and upper lip threaded the same day and it truly felt liberating after not being able to do hair removal for a while. Thankfully, during my recovery I had been taking care of my skin which was truly glowing at the time. I used a glitter sheen serum all over my body modifying my skin's *appearance*, when viewed at different angles the sheen was visible.

This was a memory of a lifetime for my mother and I, not only was I healed and healthy, most of all we were happy. My mom and I have a strong unbreakable bond, she is truly my rock. She has helped me navigate many situations in life and shaped me to be the confident woman I am today. We purchased the dress I wore together and which was a moment we had not shared in a while. I will cherish memories like this one for a lifetime.



Chapter 9 | The NYFW show stopper

On September 9th of 2019, a few months after getting back from Miami I had the opportunity to attend New York Fashion Week. Unexpectedly I was able to attend three shows, this one in particular being the AFFAIRS runway show. One of my best friends since middle school had a sister that was newly emerging into the fashion influencer world. As her audience grew and developed she was invited to numerous fashion shows which in some cases included a plus one. My friend luckily isn't into fashion nearly as much as I am so she offered me the ticket her sister had for her. This fashion show was amazing, photographers stopped to take pictures of me and made valuable connections.

My outfit was very reflective of current trends at the time featuring a polyester, ankle length green neon skirt. I wore a faux leather black, buckle strap crop top from forever 21 that went perfectly with my "OFF-WHITE" converse. Furthermore, I finished off the look with an Izod all white jean jacket my mother gifted me. I *accessorize* my outfit with a mini nylon black Prada bag I snagged on a poshmark and black mini framed sunglasses.

My hair was braided in the same protective style, yet was a little different featuring six solid cornrows to the back with additional synthetic hair. Although the invite was sudden and unexpected I already had my eyebrows freshly threaded. My nails were enhanced with a slight extension using acrylic filling and were painted nude.

This fashion show was truly iconic because it was an opportunity of a lifetime for me. It can be very hard to get into various fashion shows during the week of viewing yet not impossible. Through the grace of networking I was also able to attend multiple fashion shows, including Anna Sui. I was able to discuss how passionate I am about fashion, its direction and current impact. Although COVID truly ruined the essence of such events, I plan to attend many this year. My radiant confidence has helped me navigate different settings in order to flourish. This skirt was the item in my closet for a while that I never had the right occasion to wear it to. Fashion week is when photographers are looking for fresh new faces and awesome outfits to capture and I had to take advantage!



Chapter 10 | Látex vibes!

Before midnight on October 8th I awaited my 21st birthday at the Boro hotel in Long Island City with my closest friends. We spent a lot of the time laughing, drinking and taking pictures to cherish for a lifetime. I had in fact decorated my own champagne bottle to specifically pop at midnight! Also, I booked a decent king sized bedroom with a balcony view overlooking the city lights. My mother thankfully had a chance to pick up magnolia cupcakes and my friends provided liquor and decorations. My entire birthday week was truly filled with so much love and surprises!

On that night I wore a tight, bright pink latex spaghetti string mini dress. This dress truly showed off my amazing curves and legs. I *adorned* the look with light purple butterfly shaped glasses which I purchased from a street vendor in Flatbush, BK and loved. To *accessorize* the look I added a silver gem studded tennis chain and black simple strap sandal heel.

I had various *body modifications* to enhance the look I envisioned for myself on that special night. For my birthday I had installed layered extensions size 26- 28 inches. My hair was styled in a half up, half down look, with two braids in the center of my hair into the ponytail. I had *enhanced my appearance* by adding individual eyelash extensions in size 18-19mm. My eyebrows, upper lip, underarms and sideburns were waxed as well for a clean flawless finish. My toes and nails were simple, painted in all white gel color. My half butterfly and half flower tattoo was apparent which represents blooming from a flower to a beautiful butterfly spreading my wings.

This look will always be very special to me being that it was the first look of my 21th birthday memories. The dress was a gift from my aunt and she knew exactly what to give me. I'm definitely one of the easiest people to buy gifts for being that I am very feminine and always appreciative. The day after, I sent photos to my family and they were stunned at the final look of everything. They all loved the way I styled the dress and my hair was a shocker to many. This was the first time I ever had extensions installed which was new to me but thankfully my family loved the entire look.



Chapter 11 | Celebration of life & Health

On August 18th, 2021 I celebrated my ex best friend's birthday at Zoe's bar and lounge in the heights. We celebrated with various friends from our high school, her middle school and co-workers. We celebrated over a few orders of chicken tenders and fries for the table and bottle service. We took tons of pictures and had an entire section of the restaurant to ourselves. Shockingly exactly twelve days before the celebration, I had caught COVID. Luckily I was able to recover days before my quarantine was over and was able to safely celebrate and amongst others. This was a time when my confidence had skyrocketed which is seen in my choice of attire.

Before I caught COVID I had ordered tons of clothes from the famous online clothing store Shein. They sell trendy clothing at very low prices made and shipped from China. This black halter twist top mini dress was one of my favorite items, yet never had an opportunity to wear it. It was made out of polyester and fit my body like a glove and perfect for the event. The skirt of the dress had a string which made a scrunch on my left thigh. I paired the dress with a cream colored bag and low heel lace up sandals. The bag was actually a jewelry box that my mother had gifted me. It has a cream faux leather crocodile finish and a small loop to carry with various small compartments.

Being that I had recently been let off quarantine, I had been taking care of my skin which was truly glowing that night. I got ready, shaved my legs, exfoliated my skin and moisturized my entire body. I proceed by applying a teal blue and gold finish glitter to *enhance* the appearance of my skin. I *adorned* my wrist with my evil eye bracelet which was red and broke off a few months after. I had a small amount of makeup with minimal concealer, bronzer and highlighter on my cheeks. I had my mother blow dry my hair to limit my exposure to others being that was going around.

This was a very special moment for various reasons and it was a celebration to remember. Despite many lives lost due to COVID I was able to celebrate in healthy spirits which is what mattered the most at the time. I had worn the jewelry box gift my mother gave me and my evil eye bracelet to protect me. I had been celebrating my friend Olivia's birthday at large every year and god knew I could not miss it. COVID was still around and my mother was against me attending yet we only have one life to live. I decided to express my confidence and happiness through my dress yet my skin is my most radiant accessory.



Chapter 12 | Under the sea

On Halloween weekend of 2021, I decided to dress up as a mermaid because I didn't have the time to purchase a costume in time. I had to work at a pop up shop during the day on the Sunday before Halloween. Thankfully, I still had the opportunity to get dressed up and go to a party. The party was in Flatbush, Brooklyn and I sadly only lasted about an hour in my costume. The bra latch had snapped out of nowhere as I stood up from my seat but no one caught a glimpse of anything. Being that I'm always planning ahead I had a backup outfit just in case I got cold or uncomfortable. Despite my wardrobe malfunction I had a great time.

The outfit I wore was from amazon, featuring a purple shell bra and teal blue mermaid silhouette skirt. I *embellished* the bra by adding silver gems through the outline of the seashell bra cups which I had left over from my twenty-first birthday. The mermaid skirt had a metallic teal blue finish which hugged my curves beautifully. I also wore some metallic pink and orange heels which I thrifted and didn't last long wearing.

My look was made up of various unusual *enhancements* to complete my mermaid costume. I wore a true mermaid wig made out of synthetic hair, which was long with streaks of blonde, purple and green hair. I had very little makeup, however I *enhanced* my eyes with long purple and silver lashes. I lathered my skin with a ton of fuchsia pink and moonlight blue body glitter from the dollar store and made it all come to life.

I loved the costume because it was very eye-catching and familiar yet different. The costume was initially purchased back in august by my mother for her bachelorette party that was canceled due to COVID. The costume was to be worn by one of my friends to pour champagne into cups and greet the guests for the first hour of the event. At the time, the deadly virus was still going around and the event was not worth risking the chance of possibly infecting a mass of attendees. Yet, it didn't stop me from still making the costume useful and memorable on Halloween of 2021.



Chapter 13 | Neon fiasco!

On the weekend of Rolling Loud 2019, I traveled to Miami in hopes to attend the festival with VIP tickets. Luckily a guy I was dating had bought me a VIP ticket for all three days but I ended up blocking him about three weeks before the concert. Being the young independent woman I was raised to be, I still went to Miami all alone. At the age of only nineteen years old this was a huge leap, many girls my age thought of the idea as drastic but I am confident. That weekend was one of the most memorable ones in my entire lifetime. The weekend seemed like it was out of a movie. I wore this yellow neon dress which was truly eye-catching to club LIV on a Friday night which Cardi B was performing.

Fortunately, it turned out me and Cardi B were both matching wearing neon yellow. I had gone shopping with my cousin's girlfriend on the exact day I bought the dress and I just had to wear it. I found it at Love Couture, which isn't a store found in New York. The mini neon dress was shiny, silky smooth, and open back. I paired the dress with silver studded hoop earrings from forever 21 and basic clear heels.

My hair was braided for the first time at an African braiding salon which was sure to make my hair last. I had five large braided cornrows to the back and four small ones in between with additional synthetic hair past my butt. My cousin's girlfriend had done my makeup which was flawless and not heavily saturated, just how I love it. She used a light foam foundation by Maybelline from the drug store and enhanced my look with a dramatic smokey eye. My one and only *permanent body modification* of a butterfly tattoo also complemented the look beautifully.

This was one of the best nights and weekends I ever lived, mainly because of this particular Friday night. Despite being nineteen at the time, it was difficult to get into the club but I still found a way. Cardi B was performing that night and I was not giving up despite the cover charge being two hundred dollars. I started talking to a suited gentleman who happened to be a disguised security guard for club LIV. I offered him a generous amount of cash and after a phone call he had me walking in through the celebrity entrance. As I walked in I bumped into a group of three women and a male who were heading to a VIP section and asked me to join them. This dress truly made me stand out and brought so much attention to me. This entire trip left me at a loss of words due to many unexpected surprises and was extremely memorable due to its outcome. Thankfully, I have always been very mature, radiating confidence and positive energy.



Chapter 14 | Unexpected Date Night

On Valentine's day of 2020, I was pleasantly surprised with dinner reservations to the Fogo De Chao brazilian steakhouse in midtown. I had work all day in the city and I had no hopes of going to dinner after. I was definitely not dressed up for a five star restaurant yet I managed. My mother always taught me there's never a problem, there's always a solution. Once I received the invitation I was startled and didn't know how I would make the reservation in time. It seemed impossible to have time to leave work, go back home to get ready and head back into the city for dinner. Instead I created an outfit from the top and coat I was already wearing. I went to the local goodwill near my job and purchased a leather skirt and knee high boots from H&M in the upper east side.

This was a great example of feeling confident even when you didn't think you had it in you. I wore a tight fitted pink and black leopard print turtleneck and leather mini skirt. I enhanced the simple look with knee high boots, a black and silver shoulder bag and small pendant "A" necklace. My favorite item of the entire look is definitely my real mink fur and wool blend long pea coat. This coat is truly a show stopper which is very elegant *enhancing* any simple look. Furthermore, the outfit was complete with sunglasses and earrings to match the necklace.

I was feeling like a queen, although I had short notice I made everything come together. I had my hair freshly blown out that week and my eyebrows were threaded. My nails were painted in a bright pink color with rhinestone *embellishments* for the Valentines holiday.

This Valentine's Day was very special for me because I don't usually celebrate Valentine's day. I had an amazing time, and stuffed my face at dinner. There were countless different meat and food options, the servings of food were endless. The top I wore was purchased about two years ago on a black friday shopping day with my family. My mom had found the top and I loved it so much, I purchased all colors available. The pea coat I was wearing was given to me by my ex's grandma which she had for years but never used. I am lucky to have never met her yet created an amazing bond in which she gifted me this coat. This coat holds extremely sentimental value to me because till this day that was my only true relationship. I have stayed single for four year since the break up and not really looking for anyone. Other men will come and go in my life but the small things, adventures, gifts and memories will never be forgotten. I know after ex girls usually burn everything but my gifts were the best, i'm never getting rid of them. Regardless of the situation I was always taught to not react out of impulse, sometimes it is better to take a step back and evaluate your actions before.



Chapter 15 | The Prom Dress

In June of 2017 I attended my high school prom at Chelsea Piers. It was a bitter sweet unforgettable celebration of our accomplishments as students of the 2017 graduating class. I was part of Student life and was class president my Junior year of highschool. I was able to raise funds for our senior year. Thankfully, I had in mind what I wanted to wear to prom yet it was not so easy to find.

On prom night I was extremely nervous and overjoyed for many reasons. I was able to wear a dream-like champagne colored V- neck, long sleeved gown. The gown was entirely beaded and handmade in India. The design was truly one of a kind and spoke for itself. I decided to wear a simple nude single strapped heel and a simple nude bag.

Being that prom was a special occasion I had my makeup professionally done which I was not too satisfied with. I thought the makeup artist I booked would *enhance* my face and confidence yet it did the complete opposite. Despite this slight inconvenience my dress was beautiful and felt like a celebrity attending a gala. The prom theme was “Night in Paris” which went perfect with my dress. I had my hair pin straight to keep it classy.

Before prom I had gone shopping with my mother to various dress stores and never seemed to find the right dress. I was recommended by my aunt to visit a dress shop on Austin street in Queens. My mother Evelyn, aunt Aida and I all went together which was a blessing to have their support. This was the specific dress shop where my aunt Aida, who passed away from breast cancer, was a frequent customer. This particular visit to this dress shop was successful and I knew I would find my dream dress. I had tried on about three dresses before completely falling in love with this one. When I made my decision and the price was way above our budget. My aunt luckily knew the shop owner very well, and she offered us the dress at a discounted price. Unfortunately, my aunt passed away and this is one of the main garments that brings me memories of joy. My memories of spending time with her aren't as many as I would like to have but this moment was special to me.



Author Biography

Amber Gabriella Alicea was born in Brooklyn, New York and raised in the Dominican Republic most of her early childhood. She has always had a passion for fashion and business. Amber is currently a senior at the New York City College of Technology majoring in Business and Technology of fashion. Her birthday is October 9th, 1999 which is a Libra. She loves peace and balance around her at all times. Amber enjoys making jewelry, shopping, taking pictures and of course styling outfits.