

Alyssa Noemi Skerret

The Traveling Clothes Of Alyssa

Prologue

Fashion is something that I've craved for and adore. Shopping for clothes always brings excitement in my blood. I love planning my outfits mentally, because it gives me a scenario of what I'm looking for. I also tend to plan my outfits visually, because it helps me form my own style. Fashion has helped in discovering who I am, and how to express myself through pieces of fabrics. It's fascinating to see how someone like me can understand how colors and fabrics work together. I must admit that fashion plays a significant role in my life. I just love the feeling when memories race through my mind, when I take a look at a garment I once wore throughout my life. I appreciate the fact that I can still replay the memories I cherish in my head.

Forward

Alyssa is a young lady with the eyes of a child. As a child, she always loved to wear dresses and dance in the living room. Alyssa also loved being creative as well. Using her imagination she would play make believe with her two cats. When Alyssa was younger she would always express her love for modeling and imagine herself on the catwalk. As a teenager she would look up clothing lines for different kinds of styles. Alyssa always knows what she is looking for when it comes to dressing up. Looking back she knew that fashion is her passion. Overall, it has been a blessing having Alyssa as my daughter.

- Marisol Quinones

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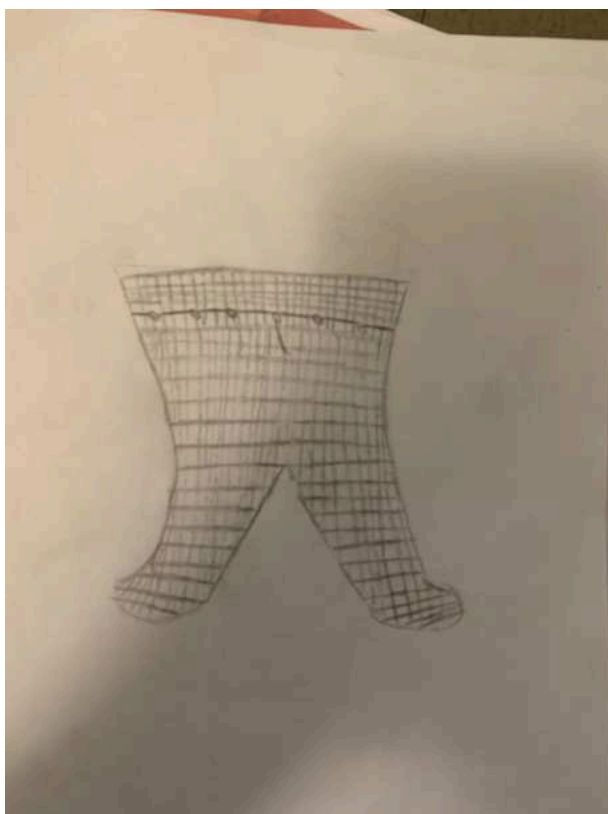
The Early 2000's

My name is Alyssa and I happened to be born on April 17, 2001. I was born a month early but luckily my mom (Marisol) was already prepared for my arrival. On the day I got to leave the hospital and finally came home, my mother dressed me in the same exact outfit that my older sister (Samantha) had worn when she was born on April 21, 1989. For 12 years my mother kept this outfit in a storage bin to protect the outfit from changing color and deteriorating until I was born. My mother always told me that I was a really tiny baby and every piece of clothing she or anyone would buy me, it would always be loose fitting on me.

To protect my belly button and keep it in place, she attached a belly button binder that was wrapped around my belly. After bathing me my mom would apply baby oil on my hair and on my skin. This would protect my soft curls and my skin from getting dry. She would put baby lotion on my skin to maintain my baby scent.

The outfit that I had worn when my mom finally got to bring me home from the hospital consisted of a crocheted jacket and crocheted pants in the color white, it has hems that cover the entire feet (almost like a onesie). The hems of the pants also have drawstrings on both sides, so you can tie the strings into a bowtie. This outfit is meant to have a snug fit, it has little loops on the waistband, where a string is attached so you can tie the strings together.

Although, I don't remember the day I left the hospital nor do I remember anything near that particular age. I do happen to remember a few things from when I was younger by looking at an object or a picture.



Grandma & Grandpa Meeting Me For The First Time

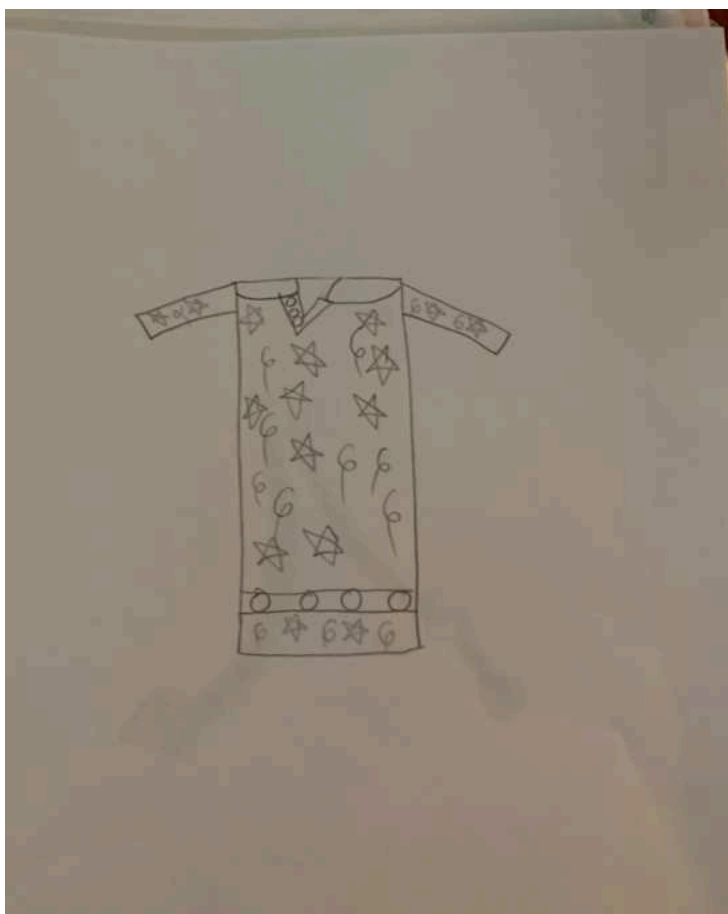
My grandparents bought me a onesie when they came to visit me from Phoenix, Arizona. This was special to them because I am their youngest grandchild due to the fact that my older sister and my older cousin (Antonette) were born before me. Growing up I wish my grandparents lived in the Bronx, New York near me and till this day I still wish they lived near me. It bothers me that I only get to see them in the summer. Every summer I would always count the days I have left to see my grandparents when my mother would buy plane tickets. Although, I don't remember meeting my grandparents for the first time, but I can just imagine how excited they were to finally hold me in their arms, and how sad they were to go back home knowing we will be miles apart again.

Since I'm an American descended from Puerto Ricans, it's an old folks tradition that it is good luck for a newborn baby to wear white. Before my grandparents met me, my mother pampered me. My mom bathed me to cleanse my skin. She then lathered my skin with lotion, making my skin feel soft. Since my hair was damp from taking a bath, my mom brushed my hair to the side and waited for my hair to dry naturally. My mom put a beanie on me that wrapped around my head to keep me warm.

The garment my grandparents had given me was creamy white and had long sleeves. It has tiny stars and little strings that remind me of confettis printed on the front and back. In the middle of the ribbed baby gown, there is a short button placket that consists of three sewn on buttons. The hems also have a button placket across with four sewn on buttons.

I don't remember this moment but from looking at the photo I can tell by looking at the smiles on my grandparents faces, they were thrilled for my arrival. If I had the mentality that I

have now during that time, I would say the emotions wearing this garment would make me feel at peace. The reason for this emotion is because I'm in the arms of my grandparents who I know would protect me and love me unconditionally.



Supporting My Dad's Favorite Baseball Team

Since my mom knew my father was a fan of the yankees she bought me a yankees onesie. My mother told me she got the smallest size since I was a tiny baby. Unfortunately, the onesie was still big on me. My father was a die hard yankees fan and would always have to tune in whenever they had a game. I remember my father having a lot of yankees souvenirs. For example, my father had a shirt of his favorite baseball player Derek Jeter. He also had a medal baseball bat with the yankees logo sign, a poster of the yankees which he never hung up on the wall. I'm assuming he saved the poster as a collectible. However, he did have a collectible baseball that had signatures of every yankees baseball player. I also remember him having a yankees baseball glove that he had hung up on the wall.

From looking at the picture of myself wearing the onesie my mother bought me, I have much thicker curly hair and it seems like my hair has grown much more since I'm a few months older here. I'm assuming my mother hasn't cut my hair yet. My ear lobes weren't pierced yet until I was a few months older. I had booties that were attached to my feet to keep me warm.

On the onesie that I had on it was a cotton material and it had tiny bears printed all over from the front and back. The multiple printed bear is wearing a yankees shirt and is seen holding a baseball bat along with a baseball. The yankees logo is also printed all over the onesie from the front and back as well. You can spot the color navy blue on the collar, arm hole, and the lining of the button placket.

Sadly, I don't remember this moment as well. But, from looking at this garment it surprises me that I was once that small. It is an honor that I get to hold a piece of garment from when I was just a baby. It shocks me that the garment is still in good condition after 20 years.



My First Christmas Photoshoot

My mom took me to get my pictures taken for the holidays and bought me a Christmas dress. Till this day she has the photo from the photoshoot hung up on the wall next to my older sister's baby picture. As years went by my sister had two children, a boy (Logan) and a girl (Juliet). When my nephew turned two years old, my mother took him to get his photo taken. His photoshoot theme was Mickey mouse. Now that my niece is two years old my mom is planning on getting her photo taken for Easter 2022.

In the photo my ears are pierced and I have a gold stud that is attached to my ear lobe. I have a headband that is wrapped around my head. There's a gold bracelet that is wrapped around my small wrist. I have lace floral tights that cover my legs. Before my photoshoot, my mother washed my hair with shampoo and conditioner, and this made my hair be filled with curls when it became dry. After my mother bathed me, she applied baby lotion on me. This left my skin feeling smooth and soft, and left a beautiful floral scent on me.

My christmas dress consisted of two colors, white and hunter green. The outfit comes with three pieces; a headband, bloomer shorts and an A-line dress. The top of the dress is in the color hunter green and the material is in suede. On the end of the top part of the dress it has three red blossom flowers across. At the bottom of the dress it has two layers. The first layer is in lace and the second layer is in silk. On the first layer of the dress it has mistletoes sewed on multiple times from the front and back of the dress. The button placket is found at the back of the dress with two buttons. The bloomer shorts are in the color hunter green and the material is suede just like the top part of the A-line dress. Lastly, the headband is hunter green and is also in the

material suede. On the middle of the headband there is a bowtie, and in the center of the bowtie there is a red blossom flower.

Although I don't recall this moment, I do happen to feel special because this dress represents my first Christmas with my family. I can picture my parents and my sister being together, and cherishing this moment with their new bundle of joy for the holidays.



Summer Day's At The Beach

When I was just a toddler I remember my parents would take me and my older sister to the beach. I remember going to Rockaway Beach, Queens most of the time. I would always bring my beach toys with me to make sand castles. My parents would always pack up sandwiches, hot dogs, chips and juices before leaving. Sometimes when my dad didn't feel like driving too far he would take us to Orchard beach, since we lived in Soundview, The Bronx. The drive from Soundview to Orchard beach is about 10 minutes. I never liked when he took us to Orchard beach. In my opinion, Orchard beach is filthy and disgusting. I don't recommend anyone going there. I remember one time I was about to get in the water until I saw a boot and a diaper floating (How disgusting is that?). For the rest of the day I just spent it making sand castles with my sister. My favorite part of going to the beach is hearing the seagulls and the sound of waves. It's just something about those sounds that cheer me up and make me feel relaxed.

Whenever we got to the beach and finished settling down, my mom would apply sunscreen lotion on my skin to protect me from the sun. I always had my swimming goggles with me that were attached to my ears and nose. While spending time under the sun my skin color would transition to a light tan color. My hair was brushed and the strands of my hair became wavy. The texture of my hair would change into tight curls whenever my hair would be exposed to water.

The swimsuit I used to wear when I was little is two piece. The material of the swimsuit is spandex and nylon. Both pieces of the swimsuit are bright yellow and have flowers printed all over from the front and back. The printed flowers are colored dark and light purple, orange, lime green, and pink. In the middle of the top of the swimsuit has a Dora The Explorer logo in the

middle. Near the shoulder part of the swimsuit it has two flowers sewed on. The colors of the flowers are orange and red. The bottom of the swimsuit is high waisted. It has the same detailing as the top, the only difference is, there are flowers that are sewed on each side of the waistband.

There was nothing more than a thrilling feeling knowing that me and my family were going to Rockaway Beach almost every Saturday morning. Just by remembering the times I went to the beach, I can hear little me screaming with excitement running into the water and taking a dip. My sister would always give me piggyback rides in the water and this always cheered me up because it felt like I was on a boat. Another exciting memory I remember is me and my mom walking down the shore collecting shells and rocks.



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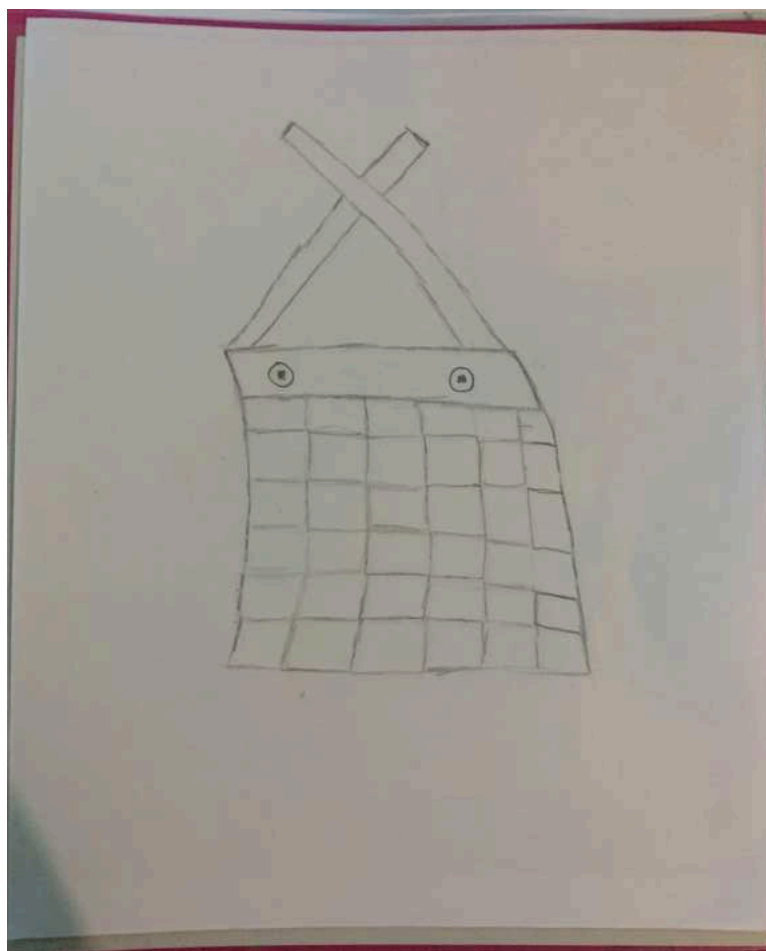
Picture Day

I always looked forward to picture day because it was an excuse to get dressed up and get your hair done. The only thing I didn't like about picture day was waiting for the photos and wondering if I would like the way the pictures came out. I always remember teachers telling the students to not open our pictures until we get home. When I was in kindergarten I attended a charter school "Hyde Leadership Charter School" located in The Bronx. I left after the ending of my kindergarten year. My mom felt like the charter school was putting too much pressure on me and didn't like the school system. I remember one time I was placed in the wrong school bus and I was taken to the wrong address. The bus driver had to drive around until she found my mom and my sister. Of course I was scared because I thought I was lost and I wouldn't be able to find my mother.

The night before my hair was washed and my mother had done finger curls on me by wrapping her finger with my hair and clipping it with a bobby pin. By the morning my hair was curly. My mother divided the front portion of my hair and kept it pushed back with a white bow hair clip. The rest of my hair was flowing down my shoulders. I was wearing gold tiny hoops that were attached to my earlobes.

I wore a checkerboard A-line jumper skirt in the color black and gray. The material is fully cotton. In the front of the jumper skirt there are two buttons on each side of the waist band. Underneath the waistband there are pockets on each side. The hem of the skirt overlaps the knee. The straps of the jumper can go straight down or can go crisscross from the back. On the back of the jumper skirt there is a zipper placket.

My excitement for picture day was incredible because my mom treated me like I was at the spa. She had done my hair and bought me a new outfit for this special day at school. My mother made me feel unique and beautiful.



My Favorite Christmas Dress

Thanksgiving and Christmas are both very special to me, especially as a child. My grandparents who lived in Phoenix, Arizona always sent packages for the holidays. Inside the packages would be me, my sisters, and my mothers gifts that were already wrapped up. Even though I was not able to spend the holidays with my grandparents since we were miles apart, they always made it possible to be part of my Christmas memories. Not to mention, they always granted me that one special gift I always wanted. For example, my grandparents knew I loved wearing dresses. I always would wear my mother's heels and play dress up with her clothes. Sometimes when my sister was at school I would go through her makeup until one day she caught me red handed with her nail polish. My sister was upset because I dropped her nail polish and stained the floor. One Christmas morning I unwrapped my gift that was inside a white box. When I opened the box it was a long red velvet christmas dress. When I saw the dress I automatically gasped and put it against my body, just imagining myself wearing the dress already. Ever since that Christmas morning, I made it possible to wear that specific dress every christmas.

I brushed my hair and put it into a ponytail. I put a little bit of coconut oil to avoid the little strands of my hair from sticking up. The ends of my hair were curly. If I don't apply my eczema cream or any moisturizer that helps my eczema, then my skin will break out in rashes and become dry. To prevent that from happening, I put lotion on my face, arms and legs to soothe my skin. My sister painted my fingernails pink, which is my favorite color.

This christmas dress is red velvet and the dress ends at the ankles. The texture of the dress is velveteen. The collar of the dress is round, but overlapping it's a v shape lace. Between

the lace there's a red rose attached with a bow. At the waist of the dress there are two straps to tie into a bow at the back of the dress. At the bottom of the dress it is surrounded with white lace.

The sleeves are short and cuffed.

This dress meant so much to me. I must say, it symbolizes my happiness for this time of year. Everytime I wore this dress I would think about the holidays. All I thought about was spending time with family, listening to music, having Christmas break from school, and the most exciting part was getting new toys. Every Christmas I would wear the same red dress that my grandmother bought me because I loved it so much. I remember I would always play Christmas music using my mother's small blue stereo. My mother would sometimes join me when she would watch me dance.



Me & My Pretty Pink Dress

One time for my birthday party, my party theme was Hannah Montana. I remember going to party city in White plains Rd, The Bronx with my mom to buy party favors. My mom started buying the party favors a month early before my birthday. We would put all the party favors in a tote bag and keep it in the closet until the day of the party. My mom even bought me a Hannah Montana birthday cake from our local bakery in Soundview-Morrison, The Bronx. My grandmother gave me a pink and white dress which I saved to wear for my birthday (I don't remember how old I was). This dress was so eye-catching to me, I was so excited to wear it on my birthday. I remember me and my mother getting accessories to match with my dress. I also remember counting the days till my birthday party. I invited friends from school and friends from where I was living at the time.

I put on my pink pearl earrings that were attached to my earlobes. I wore my Alyssa chain that was attached to my neck. My skin was smooth from my body lotion. I sprayed a little bit of my mother's perfume, it made me smell like vanilla. I was allowed to put lip gloss on which was pink with glitter, but on the lips it was just clear lip gloss. My mother had heat rollers and had used the heat rollers on my hair. Less than an hour my hair was curly and my mother added a headband to keep my hair pushed back. I put on my white small wedge heels that added on to my height.

My birthday dress was pink and white. The material of the dress is cotton. The shoulder part has thin straps. On the waistline there's a white self belt, where you can tie both sections into a tie located at the back of the dress. This dress has a surplice neckline. The hem of the first layer

of the dress has embroidery stitching of flowers and butterflies in white, and the second layer of the dress has a tulle in white sewn at the hem.

This dress made me feel like I was a princess for the day. I felt so pretty and had so much confidence in myself. I did not want to take this dress off whatsoever. Out of all the dresses I have owned, this specific dress was my favorite dress. The colors on the dress made me fall in love with it even more because pink was and still is my favorite color. All I can think of is positive feelings and memories when I look at this beautiful dress that I wore once.



Summer Vacation In Arizona With My Grandparents

Every summer my mother and I would visit my grandparents in Phoenix, Arizona. My sister was living with my grandparents at the time because she was attending Arizona State University for four years. When my sister left for college, it felt like a new era for me because I was devastated that I won't be with my sister everyday. It felt so odd when my sister wasn't home with me and my mom. My mother would always leave my sister's room door closed because she felt so down that she wasn't going to live with us for quite some time. I remember being jealous of my friends who were able to spend time with their siblings physically. When my sister wasn't busy with school, my mother and I would video chat with her on skype. At the time, skype was a popular video chatting platform in the late 2000s. Although I was happy to see my sister virtually, it didn't change the fact that we're still miles apart. My mother would always cheer me up to remind me that we would visit my sister and my grandparents in Arizona during the summer. I always looked forward to going to Phoenix, Arizona because I finally got to reunite with my grandparents and my sister. My grandmother always had dresses waiting for me in the closet to try on. She always had good choices in dresses.

When I unbraided my hair that was braided from the day before, my hair was wavy. Since Arizona is extremely hot and the sun is always out, my mother always applied sunscreen lotion on me to prevent myself from getting sunburned. I wore sunglasses that were attached to my ears and nose. However, my skin color is ivory white but from spending time under the sun my skin changed color into a light tan. My nose and cheeks were red from the sunburn, so my grandmother applied pond's lotion on my skin. This made the burning sensation go away from my face.

This is an A-line style summer dress in cotton material. The dress is in the color of a mustard yellow. It has red, orange and white small flowers printed from the front and back. The collar is round neck and the length of the dress is knee length. The straps of the dress are thick. There are pockets on each side on the waistline part of the dress.

When I wore this dress it made me feel like I was my grandma's princess and I was the center of attention. I felt like this because my grandparents and mother were complimenting me. They were telling me how cute and beautiful I looked with the dress on. When they complimented me I would smile and I knew my cheeks were turning red from blushing.



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Helping Grandma With Her Garden

In Phoenix, Arizona where my grandparents reside my grandparents owned a house. Remembering my grandmother's home she had a tree that grew oranges and limes. The house was surrounded by wandering jews that grew wild. At the back of the house she had an oasis tree. The best part of my grandmother's house were the cats that were always surrounded in her backyard and frontyard. They never seemed to leave my grandparents home so my grandmother used to take care of them like they were her own. The cats would have kittens and my sister who was staying with my grandparents at the time would give them names. I remember there was a gray cat who only had one eye and she named him "One Eye Jack." Early mornings I would ask my grandmother if I could feed the cats. I would pour cat cereal on a big bowl and pour milk into another bowl, and all the cats would gather together, and eat. It was so cute I just wanted to take all of them home but I couldn't because at the time I already had two cats, (Lily and Tuxedo). Whenever my grandmother would clean her garden I would volunteer to be her little helper. I would grab the hose and water her plants.

I took a shower and washed my hair. After taking a shower I dried my hair with a towel and detangled it with a comb. When I finished combing my hair my sister brushed my hair into two ponytails and then braided the tail parts. I put on a hat to prevent myself from getting sunburned. I also put on sunscreen lotion for extra protection. My arm was breaking out in a rash because of my eczema, so I also had to apply my eczema medication cream to calm the rash down.

My garment is a yellow cotton button down a-line dress. The neckline is v neck and is connected to the buttons that go down to the hem part of the dress. The buttons are yellow with a

smiley face. There are multiple blue flower prints from the front and back of the dress. The sleeves are short and cuffed. Around the sleeves and the neckline, it is trimmed with blue lace.

This dress made me feel like a country girl surrounded by acres and running freely in the grass barefooted. At the same time I was trying to see if I could catch butterflies. Sometimes I would run inside the house because I was afraid of the bees and dragonflies. There would be days I would sit in the front yard with my sister, and we would listen to music from our grandma's tiny radio watching the sunset.



My Favorite Hair Piece Accessory

Ever so often my mother would surprise me when I came home from school when I was attending P.S. 47 located at 1794 E 172nd St, Bronx, NY 10472, with a gift that she bought me. I was always and still am grateful for the littlest things my mother would do for me. My mother always told me “the best thing comes in small packages” and she’s absolutely right. When my mom picked me up from school, she told me she had a surprise for me. I was so excited to see what this surprise was. When my mother gave me a small black plastic bag I thought she got me a snack from the bodega but I thought wrong. Inside the bag there was a small Claires bag and I was so excited to see what was inside. When I opened the bag it was a hair clip with beads with a heart. The best part of this hair clip was that my name was on the heart. This brought a smile to my face. I gave my mother a kiss on the cheek and thanked her. My mother never seems to fail at cheering me up. I already planned on wearing my hair clip at my cousin's birthday party.

I took a shower and washed my hair. My mother dried my hair with a towel and applied heat rollers on my hair. After 30 minutes my mother removed the heat rollers out of my hair. The rollers created bouncy waves on my hair and also gave my hair volume. My mother used hair spray on my hair to maintain the curls. She attached my hair clip on the side of my hair. Since my eczema was developing a rash near the side of my eyes, my mother applied my eczema cream medication.

My favorite hair piece that I always wore when I was younger consists of a comb clip. Attached to the comb clip there are rows of beads. The rows of the beads are about five inches long. Between the beads have hearts in different sizes and colors. Each side has the same color beads in the same pattern but have different detailings on each side. The first side has the beads

connected with a small clear heart. There is a bigger heart attached at the end of the last bead in the color pink filled in with glitter, and has the name Alyssa printed on it. The second side has a small clear heart and at the last bead there is a small purple butterfly attached, along with the same color beads repeating the same pattern as the first side.

Wearing this hair piece made me feel loved and reminded me of how much my mother loves me. Knowing the fact that my mom had bought me a gift with my name on it brings warmth to my heart because she loves the name Alyssa and she was the one who named me. I remember coming home from my cousin's birthday party and putting my hair clip inside my jewelry box so that I would never misplace it.



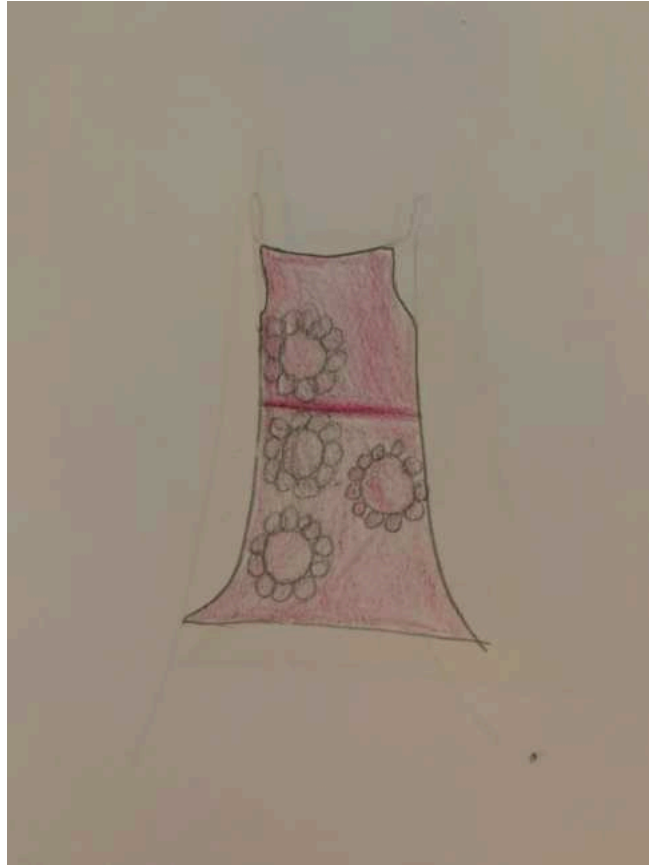
8th Grade Graduation

On the day of my 8th grade graduation at Junior High School 123 located at 1025 Morrison Ave, Bronx, NY 10472. I was so excited because I was finally leaving middle school and getting ready to start high school in a couple of months. This day was so important for me because I finally got to leave middle school. Middle school was not a good experience for me because I was getting bullied and it came to a point that I just wanted to change schools, but I decided to stay because I'm a strong person. I remember seeing students crying on graduation day and I felt like I was the only one excited to finally leave, and get away from everyone who was mean to me. I was not only excited about graduating but I was also excited because my grandmother who was living in Puerto Rico at the time came to visit for two weeks. This was the first time that my grandmother has come to any of my graduations. This meant the world to me because it's not everyday I see my grandmother. I wish my grandfather had come as well but he stood behind in Puerto Rico.

The day before graduation I went to the hair salon and got my hair blown out. To maintain my hair straightened and silky, the hairdresser wrapped my hair around with bobby pins. The next morning I took a shower and wore a shower cap to prevent my hair from getting wet. I also applied shaving cream on my legs and underarms to shave unwanted hair. When I got out of the shower I lathered my skin with lotion and applied deodorant. When I got dressed, I took the bobby pins out of my hair and my hair came down smoothly. I didn't apply makeup because I wasn't allowed to wear makeup at the time. However, my mom did allow me to put on lip gloss. I sprayed my one direction perfume on myself. My fingernails and toenails were painted white.

My garment is an eyelet coral a-line dress and the length of the dress is knee high. This dress is sleeveless. To close the dress there is a back zip with a button for closure. The neckline of the dress is highneck. The first layer of the dress is an eyelet and the second layer is silk. I paired my dress with a slip-on shoe. On the top of the shoe it has a bow tie.

During that time of my life I wasn't really confident in myself but somehow this dress boosted my confidence. It was such a big deal to graduate from middle school because I thought this day was never going to come. During my time in middle school I had to go to summer school two times during the sixth and seventh grade because I failed my math state test. Luckily, I was given a second chance to take the test at summer school and I passed. Towards the end of my 8th grade year I was told I might have to go to summer school, this discouraged me so much. I was so fed up because I did not want to go to summer school again. But, my math teacher (Mrs. Morin) pulled me to the side because she saw me not participating in our graduation rehearsal. She told me she was able to pass me due to all the hard work I have done and how amazing my grades were during the school year. I thanked her so much because I knew I earned it.



My 18th Birthday

On April 17, 2019 it was my 18th birthday. This was so special to me because I was considered a young adult and I was excited that I was finishing my senior year in high school in a couple of months. On the day of my birthday I left school early. The weather was hot and sunny with a little breeze. I remember my best friend Ninibeth telling me the day before my birthday that she wanted me to come to school. She claimed she didn't want to be alone at school (which was a lie) because our other best friend Mariah wasn't coming to school. However, my plans were to stay home since the next day was Spring Break. I just wanted to go to a fancy restaurant during the night. After receiving non stop text messages from my best friend I just decided to go to school after all. When I got to school I didn't see Ninibeth. The first thought in my head was, "Did she trick me?" I texted her asking where she was but she didn't reply to me. I started to ask my other friends if they had seen Ninibeth but they told me no. Finally, she texted me that she was running late to school because of the train traffic and that she was on her way to the school building. I went to the library in the school because that's where we usually stay during lunch time. When I got to the library I was startled by Ninibeth who was holding a birthday cake and singing happy birthday to me. I was so in shock because I didn't expect her to do something like this for me.

Before going to school on the day of my birthday I took a shower and applied deodorant and lotion on myself. I then filled in my eyebrow using my Anastasia brow definer brow pencil and applied lip gloss to make my lips glossy. I dried my hair using a blow dryer since my hair was still damp from washing it in the shower. After blow drying my hair I used a flat iron to straighten my hair. When I finished straightening my hair I added a little bit of coconut oil to my

hair to make my hair shiny and silky, and to prevent my hair from getting frizzy. The jewelry I wore was my butterfly necklace and my stud earring. I also put on my tiny silver hoop earring on the cartilage part of my ear.

My shirt is ribbed knit and is cropped. There are four different colors for each four stripes. Each stripe is horizontal and each of them have four different colors such as pink, white, yellow and baby blue. The neckline of the shirt is crewline. The sleeves part of the dress is elbow length. I paired my shirt with ripped denim boyfriend jeans. These jeans are designed loosely fit and comfortable to wear, from the hip to the ankle. The waistline is highwaisted and the closure part of the jeans is a zipper fly. The length of the jeans is long. However, these jeans are not stretchable. I wore my black huarache Nike sneakers to finish my look.

I felt very blessed for another year living on earth and having good health. Not many people make it to their 18th birthday. Even though I didn't want to spend my birthday at school, I felt very grateful for what my best friend Ninibeth did for me. My outfit made me feel good-looking even though I didn't dress up fancy since I was just going to school.



High School Prom

From the moment I started high school, prom would always cross my mind often. I would imagine myself in different types of dresses and hairstyles. June 5th, 2019 was the day of my prom and it was the night to celebrate all the hard work I've done with my friends. My senior prom was held in Maestro's located at 1703 Bronxdale Ave, Bronx, New York. In the morning me and my two best friends (Mariah and Ninibeth) had to go to our school to pick up our prom tickets. The school didn't give us our prom tickets the day before prom because we had to pick up our tickets on the day of prom at school, so we wouldn't be marked as absent on a school day. Since Mariah lived close to the school she met up with Ninibeth and I once we arrived at Whitlock Ave, because the both of us lived far away from the school. On our way to school the three of us couldn't stop talking about how our day was planned out and how excited we were for the night to come. I remember waking up in the morning and thinking to myself, "This is going to be a long busy day" and it was. As soon as I got home from picking up my tickets I just wanted to go back to sleep but I couldn't. Unfortunately, it was cloudy on the day of my prom. This made me worried because I did not want my hair or makeup to get ruined nor did I want my dress to get wet.

The night before prom I put on a face mask and teeth whitening strips. The next morning I woke up with my face feeling smooth and my skin was glowing. My teeth were white and had no stains. I took a shower and lathered my body with body wash so I can smell good and cleanse my body. I waxed my eyebrows to achieve a perfect shaped and sculpted brow look. I then went to the hair salon. When the hairstylist was finished washing my hair with shampoo and conditioner, my scalp felt fresh and my hair smelled like coconuts. Once every piece of my hair

was put in hair rollers, I was put under the hair dryer until my entire hair was dry. My ear was getting red from the heat of the dryer. When my hair was finally dry, the hairstylist took the rollers out of my hair. The hair rollers formed curls at the ends of my hair, giving my hair a bouncy effect. After taking the hair rollers out of my hair, my hair was getting blown out to make my hair straighten. To add more length to my hair, hair extensions were attached to my hair. Before the hair extensions were attached to my hair, my hair length was armpit length. However, the hair extensions added mid-back length. Once my hair extensions were applied, one part of my hair was up into a ponytail while the rest of my hair was let down. Finally, when my hair was done it was time to go get my makeup done. I applied foundation to my face lightly to cover up my flaws. My eyelashes were darkened and longer from applying mascara. The lipstick I applied added color and texture to my lips. To enhance my eye shape, I did a cat eye look using eyeliner. To prevent my makeup from fading and smudging, I sprayed setting spray on my face. The setting spray increases the lifespan of my makeup.

The silhouette of my garment is an A-line tulle dress in the color nude pink. On the hem part of the dress is floor length. Starting from the top of the dress, the neckline is v-neck. Inside the chest area of the dress has a built-in bra. The bodice part of the dress has multiple rhinestones, sequins, and bedazzles from the front and back in color silver and rose gold. Since the dress is sleeveless, there are two thin straps that have sequins as well. Wrapped around the waistline there's a nude pink satin ribbon.

My prom night experience was amazing, I didn't want the night to end. All night me and my two best friends were dancing, singing along to the music and taking pictures together. We didn't even get to eat any of the food because we were too busy enjoying the night. I felt so

beautiful and had so much confidence in myself that day, everyone kept calling me a princess that night.



My High School Graduation

September 2015 was the first day of high school at Fannie Lou Freedom High School. It is located in Jennings St, The Bronx. In the morning of my first day of high school, my stomach was hurting because of how nervous I was. I didn't want to eat anything. I just wanted to get the day over with. I remember the feeling of being afraid of meeting new peers at a new school because I was worried if they would judge me. The first day of high school, my best friend Ninibeth (who I didn't know at the time) was trying to become my friend but I kept avoiding her. It's not because I was trying to be mean, I was just scared of opening up. I was like this because of my past experience of getting bullied. I was just terrified that I was going to get bullied again in high school. Throughout my high school years I could honestly admit that it was the best four years of my life. My first year of high school, which was the 9th grade, was my favorite because I met my two best friends (Ninibeth) and (Mariah). The day me and my two best friends graduated high school was so unbelievable to me. In June 2019, it was hard to come to the realization that this was the end of a chapter and a new beginning for not just me, for the peers that I was graduating with that day.

Since I was graduating high school the next day I went to the hair salon to add highlights to my hair and have my hair blown out. My hair was straight and certain strands of my hair were lightened from the highlights. When I ran my fingers through my hair it felt so soft and silky. When I got home I put on a hairnet when I was ready to go to sleep to prevent my hair from getting messed up. The next day I took a shower and applied lotion on my arms, face, and legs. The lotion made my skin feel smooth. I also used my dove deodorant spray to keep my underarms smelling good. After I applied eyeshadow to make my eye color stand out, I put on

mascara to make my lashes look longer. I then put on nude pink lipstick and lipliner to make my lips a little fuller. Once I was done applying my makeup I sprayed perfume on myself that left a floral scent on me.

My garment is a spandex material a-line dress that has printed horizontal stripes in the color navy blue and ivory. The dress has pleats going down. It is a low back dress and has a rounded neckline. Since the dress is sleeveless it has wide shoulder straps. The dress falls above the knees.

When I wore this dress I felt so proud of myself. I was blessed that I was graduating high school and attending college in a couple of months. The moment I walked on stage to receive my diploma, for a second it didn't feel real to me. When I went to my seat I couldn't stop admiring my diploma. I felt so accomplished within myself.



About The Author



Alyssa Noemi Skerret is a 20 year old student, who is currently in her third year of attending New York City Of Technology. She is currently studying fashion and business. Alyssa plans on continuing her education in journalism once she graduates. She wants to study journalism based on the fashion world. Ever since Alyssa was a child her dream was to become a model. Her mother took her to audition at Barbizon for modeling at the age of seven. However, they did call her back but her father didn't want her to pursue it. But, this did not discourage Alyssa because her love for fashion never went away. She still dreams about becoming a model but wants to focus on one thing at a time. Alyssa has big dreams and has ambitious, and she is determined to succeed in her future career.