

Closet Confessions

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Prologue

Change is a part of being human as it signifies growth. Looking back at my memories, I see how I have not only evolved in style but also as a person. Fashion has always been my passion because it lets us express who we are through clothes. It is like telling our story without words. Going through my old outfits is like unwrapping a gift; I get to reminisce and discover the styles I used to have. It is a journey of self-discovery as I explore my closet confessions.

Foreword

Anna has always been the stylish and creative person that I have always known her to be. Seeing her pursue what she loves is inspiring, and her being so happy with what she does reminds me that dreams can easily be turned into reality with dedication. When reading over this book, I was able to learn even more about her, understanding why she is the way she is, I learned that these outfits are far more than just clothes for her but a way for her to express herself. She is the sole reason why I even look put together, I see myself dressing better with her as my personal stylist. I could confidently say that Anna and fashion go hand in hand just like peanut butter and jelly, it would not be the same without them together.

- Elijah Merencillo

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elijah Merencillo', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

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Chapter 1: Family Day

It was 2009, a perfect summer day to frolic in Fifth Avenue. It felt like it was the first time I stepped foot in the city. In New York City *fashion*, the streets are filled with yellow taxi cabs, the aroma of food from street vendors, the warmth of air from the subway stations, and it feels like a typical day in the city. On this day, we were celebrating my parents' eighth year anniversary and as we're walking in the streets of New York, I can't help but notice everyone's outfits and how different their styles are. It reminds me of how my mother would dress me up, acting as if I was her doll, she would typically style me in name brands that I have no knowledge about at the time. I had my mom as an inspiration and throughout the years, I learned to express my own sense of style.

At a young age, I was drawn to the infamous Burberry plaid pattern. A popular *fashion* trend in the early to late 2000s. I wore a navy blue cotton tank top matched with the signature check patterned shorts in beige. A typical summer day outfit with a matching check pattern twill bucket hat. It was paired with metallic gold flats to create a *color* scheme with the pattern's beige *color*.

Leading up to what I call, a "family day", I took a shower and my mother gave me a blowout to add volume to my fine *hair*. She later on used a curling iron to change the *texture* of my *hair* for an elevated look. As I was only seven years old, *cosmetics* was not an option but I was allowed to apply *lip* gloss for a shiny slick finish. Getting ready to celebrate a formal occasion once a year is something I always look forward to. As I was growing up, I have always paid importance to always look put together.

On that day, the outfit reminds me of where my passion for *fashion* comes from, it was rooted from being dressed up as a kid and to eventually finding my own style. As a kid, I had my mother *dress* me as a reflection of her own style, which included designer pieces. Her style is sophisticated, feminine, and *aesthetically pleasing*. My style also progressed throughout the years. I like to take inspiration from everywhere, from what other stylish people wear that I see on the streets to films and TV shows that I have watched, to what the celebrities I follow wear. My *sense* of style has changed throughout the years as I've incorporated what I learned into my own personal style and it is a great depiction of my *identity*.



Chapter 2: Interest in Fashion

As time went by, transitioning from grade school to middle school taught me how to build self-esteem and confidence. I have noticed a shift of my style as I was entering my pre-teen years, something influenced by preppy attire. I began to discover this website called “Tumblr”, it allowed me to create moodboards and combine different *aesthetics*.

I started to really like the creative ideas I found on Tumblr, and I began researching and exploring my interest in *fashion* trends, figuring out what's in and out of style. This inspired me to pick outfits for school based on what I discovered on Tumblr.

As I was getting ready for school, I prepared my outfit for the first day of school. At first, I started with a classic white *shirt* to build on an easy look and paired it with espresso brown pleated skirt. My *woolen socks* over the black knee high boots fit cozy considering it was made for it. Although I felt like something was missing and found it too plain for my liking, I threw on a *loose fitting* forest green varsity jacket to make it versatile considering varsity jackets are worn mainly in sports.

To prepare for the day, I started with a refreshing shower and followed my daily routine of *oral hygiene* and combed my fine *hair*. I decided on a clean, straight *hairstyle* to achieve a simple and tidy appearance. To elevate my style, I wore a tortoise headband that matched my preppy look. I also added non-prescription *eyeglasses* as an extra *accessory*. It helped me feel confident and ready to take on the day.

During my pre-teen years, I was against my mother's top choices of *clothing* for me. She sees me as her “doll” but I was slowly becoming my own person. I discovered my likes and dislikes, this was the moment I knew I was growing up. I loved the feeling of making choices on my own, it gave me a sense of independence. As this was the first look that I put together, I was able to express my creativity as I was getting through my *adolescent* years.



Chapter 3: On the 31st night of October

October 31st and everyone is in their Halloween spirit. It was a chilly night full of trick or treaters and as I got ready to put on my costume, I played my favorite character from the movie, “The Craft”. I chose my *costume* from a movie that was published years before I was born, I was inspired by the character, Nancy Downs. I loved the horror genre, the startle, the shock, and the scare, I loved the adrenaline rush. As I was collecting candies, I found myself outside of an odd house, I dared to ring the doorbell and it only took myself a few times of convincing til I saw myself buzzing in, I started feeling goosebumps on my skin. A sweet lady handed me a couple of candies, asked who I was dressed up as. “Nancy Downs”, I said. The name rings a bell, I received a compliment and it made my night.

When I got home from school, the excitement started building up while I was getting ready for Halloween night. I started off with a classic oxford white shirt and paired it with a green plaid skirt. Channeling a “scary modern witch”, I added a black sheer tights that *gripped* my legs as an added touch to the grunge *aesthetic*. The way the tights glide on my black combat boots made everything look put together before *modifying* my *appearance*. Lastly, the leather jacket was the statement piece as the temperature begins to drop at night.

The purpose of my *costume* is to *change* and *modify* my *appearance* to get into a character. Using *accessories* to intensify my *appearance* by adding a black studded *necklace* and a nose ring for the signature look. I exfoliated and hydrated my lips before adding the character’s infamous dark cherry red lipstick using *facial paint*. I *inserted* my cross symbol *earrings* into my *earlobe* and as my looks have come together, I took a black nail polish to *paint* my nails and I was off to enjoy the holiday.

When I was growing up, I have always been fond of terror and frightful films. The act of overwhelming feeling is my type of excitement. A reflection of my *identity* is what I intended to integrate into my style. An *emotional connection* that I created with this outfit is to show my *love* for horror films and to *dress* as a character that I was *attached* to.



Chapter 4: Christmas Eve

Snowy, breezy, cold, night perfect for the holiday. I woke up to snow flurries outside my window and I knew it was going to be a wonderful Christmas eve. My *family's* yearly tradition is to build gingerbread houses in the evening. Followed with a catered four-course meal dinner. I always look forward to the most coziest evening of the year, the fireplace lit, the mellow music playing in the background, a christmas tree full of presents, and quality time with the *family*. As it hit close to midnight, Home Alone was playing on television, children were running around, we were playing board games, and a few relatives were drinking wine to enjoy the rest of the night.

For a touch of class and festive spirit, I chose to wear a *white* and *red* striped cashmere collared sweater, resembling a candy cane. This playful choice was paired with faux *black* leather pants as I keep myself warm in this winter weather. To complete the look, I added funky matching *socks*, adding a touch of humor to my outfit. I know that this stylish yet funny outfit will bring a smile to my family and make a memorable Christmas moment.

A touch needs to be added for my festive look so I decided to enhance my appearance with makeup. Following my usual routine, I added blush to bring a bright and perky look to my face. I also chose a vibrant *red* lipstick to match the holiday theme, adding a pop of color that complimented my outfit. As I admired the finished result in the mirror, I couldn't help but feel excited and ready to join my family in celebrating the joyous Christmas festivities together.

Christmas has forever held a special place in my heart. It's a time when I reunite with my loved ones, and the essence of Christmas lies in cherishing one another through the exchange of gifts and the joy of each other's company. On this memorable Christmas, my white and red striped sweater perfectly captures the festive spirit. This particular holiday stands out as one of my happiest Christmas memories, mostly because of that sweater and the quirky matching socks. Even my grandmother could not help but chuckle when she saw me, as I resembled a walking candy cane. This moment remains etched in my memory as a truly happy Christmas.



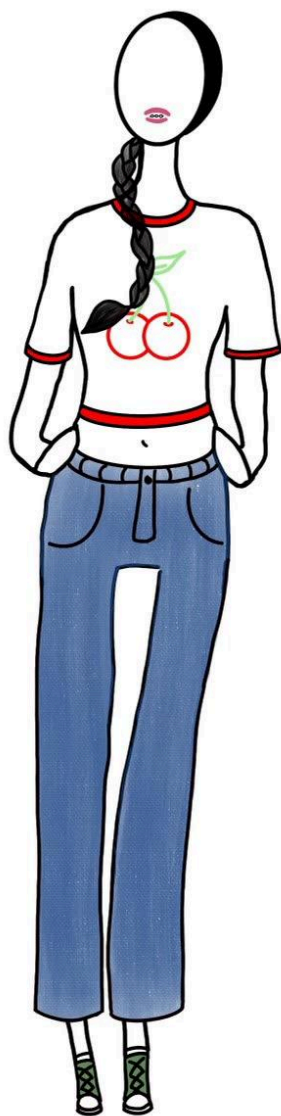
Chapter 5: School Field Trip

The awkward and best years of my life. Going on to my teenage year has been a rollercoaster, like literally. The senior graduates were taken to Six Flags to enjoy a day full of rides and fun. The smell of carnival food gives me so much nostalgia as I have enjoyed amusement parks since I was able to pass the height limit for roller coasters. The music, the fear, and the screams of excitement gave me an adrenaline rush as I walked with my group of friends. I knew *joggings* and *sweat shirt* was not gonna do it for me so I got *dressed* in a casual put-together teenager outfit as it was a warm day of fun.

I went for a stylish yet comfy outfit in May. As the weather warmed up, I finally was able to wear lighter and more comfortable clothing. I was excited to wear my favorite blue denim *jeans*, which I paired with a cool *white* tee featuring a cherry print and it complimented with my dark green forest *Chuck Taylors* sneakers. I then added a *black* leather belt to put the outfit together. This casual, laid back outfit kept me both fashionable and at ease as the season transitioned.

As I got ready for this school field trip, I went to take a hot shower, followed by my usual skincare routine. I applied serums and moisturizer to keep my *skin* hydrated all day, combed my *hair* and switched up my look by putting my *hair* into a French braid. I knew we would be hitting the roller coasters and other rides at the theme park and keeping my *hair* in one place is a practical idea. It was a stylish and smart choice for a carefree day at the theme park. When I was in my teenage years, I also wore *braces* at the time and popcorn from the carnival would always get stuck in between my *teeth*!

This field trip was a high school memory I will cherish. My outfit was a mix of youthful fun: a cherry graphic tee, a comfy pair of blue denim *jeans*, and iconic sneakers. Back then, I cared about how I *dress*, but I also wanted to be practical. This outfit let me show my style while staying comfortable and ready for any adventure. It was a great balance of fashion and function for a day I'll always remember..



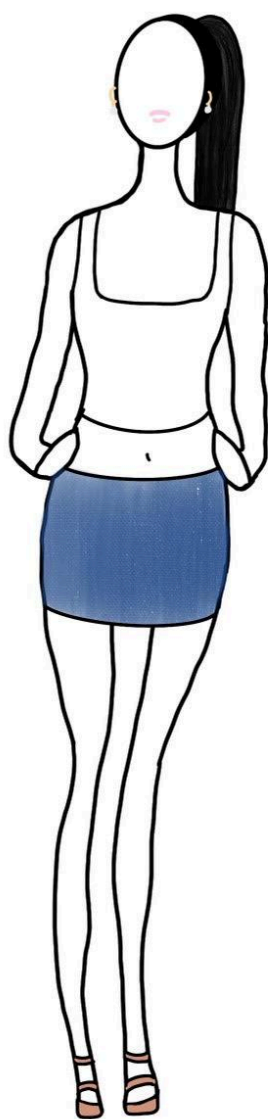
Chapter 6: Picnic Date

It was a nice sunny afternoon, breezy air and a green scenery. “I got asked out on a date!”, I said. My friends could not contain their excitement for me, neither could I. To begin with, I have never been on a date so this was my first time choosing a date spot. We decided to go to the Great Lawn in Central Park as it was a *good* idea to be in a calm relaxing open area. The fluttering feeling in my stomach as I can’t explain it but I was overwhelmed with feelings in a *good* way.

On this day, I chose to embrace the sunshine with a delightful, light-colored outfit. I opted for a crisp, plain white ribbed tank top, perfectly complemented by a simple, stylish blue denim mini skirt that perfectly balanced the somewhat cool yet warm weather. To complete the ensemble with a touch of casual sophistication, I slipped into a pair of chic cognac open-toe sandals. The result was a harmonious and effortlessly elegant look that perfectly suited the beautiful weather.

When I was getting ready, I put my hair in a slick back ponytail to keep it casual, *clipped* my pearl *earrings* on my *ears*, applied a generous amount of *lip* tint to add a pop of *color*, and I reached for the clasp of my *necklace* to finish getting ready. We got to the park and sat on the picnic blanket, enjoying our pesto sandwiches and fizzy drinks. After we finished our meal, I grabbed some mints to keep my breath smelling fresh. It was a lovely day with the sun shining and a gentle breeze. We chatted and soaked in the beautiful surroundings. It was a perfect picnic day at the park.

Thinking back just a couple of years, I remember how we were all stuck at home during the pandemic. It is amazing to see how things have changed, and now we can go out and enjoy each other's company. It is fun to see people flourishing and being themselves again. I felt a similar sense of freedom and self-expression with my outfit today. It's a reminder of how far we've come.



Chapter 7: Snow Day

The chilly weather is perfect for layering and bundling up. It was a snowy evening and I received a call for an invite by one of my cousins. An invitation to a launch party in Lumas Gallery located in Lower Manhattan. The heavy snow and the fog when I breathe gives me chills till this day as it was one of the coldest nights in winter I experienced. At the time, I could not say “no” to any social events but as I got older, it was not practical to go out in negative temperatures.

Even though I prefer hot summer days, there is something special about a cozy snowy day and on this particular snowy day I had plans. I chose to *dress* in a simple black top, *nylon* snow pants, a red puffer jacket, and sturdy Dr. Martens boots to stay warm and handle the snow. Lastly, I stepped out of the house with leather *gloves* to keep my hands warm and packed hand warmers inside my *purse*. I wanted to be practical yet stylish, and my outfit achieved just that, keeping me comfy while looking *good*.

To get ready, I first started with lotion, *applying* it to my hands to combat the dryness caused by the cold as my *skin* tends to dry out. I *pierced* my *ears* with my gold *earrings* to make a bold statement piece. I decided to put my *hair* into a simple sleek low bun. After that, I was all set for the day ahead.

As the weather gets colder, it makes me think about what's coming next because the way we *dress* changes – we have to layer up. This outfit reminds me of that change, especially when the snow comes. It can be tricky to look *good* while staying warm because most winter clothes are built for function, not style. To *dress* in comfort in style embodies that idea. It shows me how fashion changes with the seasons.



Chapter 8: Reunited with my childhood best friend

It has been years since I have reconnected with my childhood friends. When I was four years old, I became best friends with one of my neighbors in the town I lived in back in the Philippines. The nostalgia I felt for my childhood and most importantly, when I see this person, everything brought me back to when we used to play with dolls and have playdates after school. The tropical feeling with my best friend Nathalie brings back many memories as we often play under the sun. This friendship partly shaped me to who I have become today.

In New York, there is always planning involved. From what I have noticed, people plan to see one another in this city in advance due to busy schedules. My best friend Nathalie visited New York and I decided to plan a meet up with her whom I have not seen for seven years. Sadly I was unable to spend my teenage years but our twenties makes up for it. Since it was around spring time, I decided to put on a navy blue long-sleeve for my inner base that *hugged my body* followed by a wool black coat as it was still chilly outside. I put on my light washed *baggy* jeans to feel comfortable yet put together. Before I stepped out the door, I *slipped* in my New Balance 550s in the shade “pine green” and *wrapped* my neck with my navy blue and dark green plaid scarf.

To *modify* my *appearance*, I had my regular three-step skincare routine followed with no *makeup* except for a rosewood shade of shiny *lip* gloss and a light *application* of dark brown *eyebrow gel* to keep my *eyebrows* stay in place. I *inserted* my go-to thick gold hoops *earrings* to look put together, followed by curling my hair using a *flat iron* to create a light wavy effect. I *applied* hand lotion on my *hands* as they tend to get dry quickly in cold temperatures. Lastly, I sprayed on my favorite *Byredo* perfume to give a pleasant scent to my *body*.

On this day, the outfit that I was wearing has made me grow to have an emotional *connection* to it as it will always remind me of the time I reunited with my childhood best friend. The moments I had with her is something I cherish ever since we were young. It brings me so many memories of the *attachment* we had of each other as if we were stuck like glue together. We bond and share over nonsense yet it makes so much sense to us, it is just like sisterhood.



Chapter 9: Graduation

Fast forward to the summer solstice, I am finally walking in my senior year of high school graduation. I felt accomplished to complete four years of my highs and lows, tennis varsity team games, new friendships, and most importantly growth. I was able to make my parents proud and celebrated the success of my studies. The excitement and overwhelming feeling as it indicates that the next following years will all be about growing up and adulting was not something I looked forward to. Leading up to this day, I was nervous and excited for what is about to come... College.

In this formal event, I *slipped* on my mini black satin *dress* to show sophistication and paired it with black heels that made *noise*. Since I wore my blue graduation cap and *gown*, it was a perfect inner outfit to *emphasize* the attire. I brought my tiny black mini purse to match with my *dress* to elevate the look.

Firstly, I took a shower to feel refreshed, *applied* shampoo and conditioner to make my *hair* feel silky and smooth. I then *applied* moisturizer and followed with *makeup* to brighten my *face*. Following my regular routine, I *shaved* my legs and armpits for a smoother feel since it will be exposed. After I blow dried my *hair*, I added texturizing powder to volumize its *appearance*. On the final touch ups, I decided to put my *hair* in a half-up and half-down hairstyle. It was perfectly *coiffed hair*.

This moment in my life was impactful as it shows growth and development. This accomplishment is a reflection of my *personal* growth and by incorporating how I dress in this event feels rewarding. To be able to walk in a ceremony holds an importance in which I take on the next step in my career.



Chapter 10: Summer

As the season goes by, the city that never sleeps blooms again and is filled with greenery and high beams of the sun. The perfect weather to play tennis, and in response, tennis courts get filled all around the city. My love for tennis started very young when my parents would put me to tennis classes, all the way to when I was high school when I was a part of the doubles varsity team, but it also came from watching legends like Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer and many more. I always noticed that their outfits were well planned and even though it is the least of their problems, they still always show up well suited.

In sports, performance usually takes priority over style because being comfortable can make a big difference. However, I like to express my personality on the tennis court by believing that when I look *good*, I play better. So, for my tennis practice that day, I wore a simple yet classic outfit, a breathable and lightweight plain white sports bra with a matching white pleated tennis skort, and my trusty tennis sneakers. Along with my tennis racquet and black visor cap.

Since I knew I would be practicing I prepared by *shaving* my legs to add more comfort so I can move around freely. This extra step not only made me more comfortable but also made me confident further improving my performance. I put my *hair* in a high ponytail to avoid distractions while playing. I *applied* sunscreen on my *face* to protect my *skin* from the sun throughout the day. In addition, I also *applied* sunscreen all over my exposed *body* to prevent sunburn.

I believe that being your best self is closely tied to your physical appearance. When you feel confident about how you look, it can significantly impact your performance and overall well-being. Hence the famous quote, "look *good*, feel *good*". Something as simple as wearing a well-coordinated matching set was all it took to boost my confidence and help me perform at my best.



Chapter 11: GRWM

As I have gotten older, I began to adore fashion trends that I swore I would never wear. I started to notice content creators all over Instagram and YouTube posting their “Get Ready With Me” videos which consist of them putting on their trendy outfits. I was impressed by their creativity and I took some inspiration when I went out to lunch with my friends. It reminds me of the feeling when I was only nine years old and I looked up to young adults *dressed* up nicely and telling my mother “I want to be like them one day.”

I centered the look around a captivating yellow *corset* top to build my entire outfit from it. The *corset* top with *tight wrappings* of my *waist* that has tie dye patterns—this piece became the focal point of my outfit. I paired it with simple beige *trousers* to tone it down. To keep it classic, I *slipped* in my light brown ballet flats and a dark brown *Gucci* handbag to *accessorize* the look.

When I was getting ready, I *applied* light *makeup* to brighten up my *face*. I gave my *hair* a blowout to make it a little fun and bubbly. I *clipped* on a pair of pearl *earrings* and *applied* my favorite *scent* of perfume. As I was looking in the mirror, I *emphasized* my *waist* to *appear* smaller to *modify* my *body shape*.

The moment I realized my love for dressing up was a turning point for me. I find joy in every step of the process from gathering *ideas* and inspirations to mixing and matching pieces in my closet until I discover an outfit that perfectly aligns with the vision in my head. I then realized to myself that I have potential to be as creative as the people I admire, as I have made my own style by mixing different ideas and putting my personal touch on it.



Chapter 12: Night Out

When college started, all the way back in my freshman year, two of my close friends began a six month tradition where each one of us gets to choose any restaurant that we would like to dine in at. It became a solid tradition for us as both of them dorms in Upstate New York. Meanwhile, I stayed in the city and whenever the time comes, I always get excited to reunite and catch up with new gossip, new love interests, and a few other personal updates. We agreed to go to an Italian Restaurant located in SoHo called Sant Ambroeus. I have always loved the ambiance and *aesthetic* of the place. As I get older, I tend to enjoy going on dinner dates with my close friends rather than staying in. I felt empowered to dress nicely and feel confident, it felt like I fit in the crowd.

As the night came, I picked a bold black lace midi dress because nothing says "fun" like a perfect black dress. I had to choose between classic black stilettos and knee-high boots to complete the look. I *slipped* on my knee-high boots for comfort and to give the outfit a more laid-back feel, avoiding an overly fancy look that the heels might bring. The result? A stylish and comfy outfit that is perfect for a night of excitement.

I began to *shave* my legs for smoother *skin texture* and *applied skin* lotion to moisturize my *skin*. I washed my *face*, *brushed* my *teeth*, and gargled mouthwash to have a fresh *scent* of *breath*. I *clipped* on my favorite piece of gold hoop *jewelry*. I *applied* my *Dior* foundation, *Kosas* concealer, and topped it off with *Charlotte Tilbury* pressed powders. For my second half, I *applied* my *Hoola* bronzer to contour my cheekbones, jawline, and forehead, then I proceeded to add my *Nars* blush, *Benefit Cosmetics* mascara, *Glossier* eyebrow gel, and my *Dior* lip oil. I noticed how blooming I look once I get my *makeup* done, although it is not my natural *appearance*, it feels nice to get glammed.

This outfit was memorable as it was one of the first times I got to experience the nightlife. As a kid, I always looked up to my favorite characters on the television like Charlotte York from *Sex and The City* and Serena van der Woodsen from *Gossip Girl* and especially my aunts that would always get ready around me as they wore their "going out" outfits. I draw inspiration from them and would one day be like them. As the day comes, I finally get to experience what it would feel like to sit in dinner with *good* company, it grows an *emotional attachment* to me as this is only the beginning.



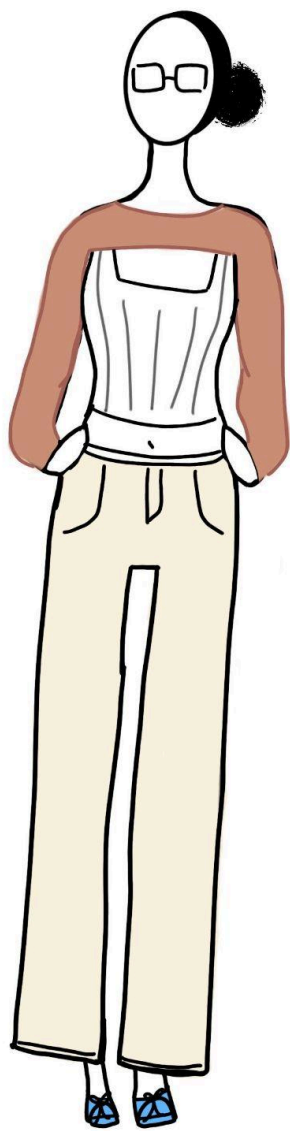
Chapter 13: US Open

Growing up, I watched tennis matches on television and I envy how *good* these professional tennis players perform. “I want to enroll in a tennis lesson.” I said to my mom. I loved every moment of tennis practice and I got to make new friends. As a tennis fan, the US Open is one of my favorite times of the year as it usually also happens before my birthday. I always see it as an early celebration and it is also my excuse to dress up nicely to watch tennis live. This year, I came to see Novak Djokovic and Daniil Medvedev. The match was intense and as an audience, it was full of excitement and I was tuned in as they progressed leading to the championship.

An event like this is a place to *dress up*, typically the unofficial theme for the open is upscale and sophisticated, so in response I wore a neutral colored outfit that consisted of a white ribbed top and classic taupe straight cut *trousers*. I added a cable knit Ralph Lauren *sweater* draped on my shoulders for a dramatic look. I also *slipped* on my blue Sporty & Rich Adidas collab samba sneakers for comfort.

As I got ready for the event, I *applied gel* on my *hair* for a chic low bun which creates an illusion of a *face lift*. I also *applied* deodorant as it was a warm sunny day. To *accessorize*, I wore my *eyeglasses* as my vision gets blurry but also to make my look more dashing. The *modifications* I made to my *body* were not extensive as my purpose was to feel comfortable throughout the day rather than my *makeup* melting on my *face* from the sunbeam.

My love for tennis started in my childhood and carried through my teen years. Going to the US Open has always been a blast, whether with family or friends. I used to *dress up* for the occasion, and this year felt like a full-circle moment. I got to share the sport with my partner, making it a significant memory since it was one of our first events together. This experience holds a special place in my heart.



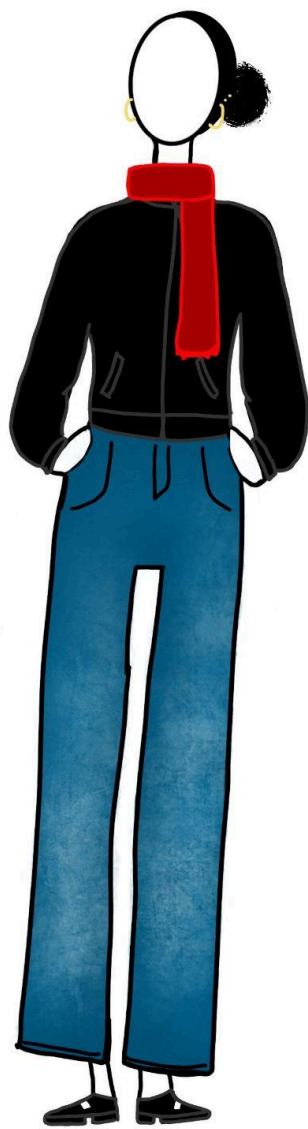
Chapter 14: Museum Trip

A trip to the Museum is always a good idea. In my teenage years, I loved watching *Gossip Girl* where they featured the iconic landmarks in New York City like The Met. As I have grown to appreciate art and world culture, I decided to take my friends from Texas to show them thousands of curated art pieces from famous artists such as Picasso, Claude Monet, and other prolific painters. Exploring art museums where it starts from the Renaissance all the way to Contemporary Art pieces is a world class collection to be appreciated. I gave my friends a tour around the museum which took us about three hours to finish but was worth the trip.

For my museum trip outfit, I went for a classy yet straightforward look. I knew I wanted to center my outfit with my sleek black vegan leather bomber *jacket* since the temperature drops towards nighttime. To add contrast, I paired it with dark blue denim jeans as it goes with anything and also for comfort to walk around the museum for hours. I *slipped* on my black glossy loafers for a classic elevated look and a couple add ons like a brown belt, and a pop of color with a cherry red *wool* scarf.

As I was getting ready to meet my friends in the Upper East Side, I started getting ready by stopping over at the *eyebrow* threading salon to get my *eyebrows* done. I decided to get a manicure and pedicure and get myself a fresh set of painted *nails*. After giving myself some selfcare, I went back home to give myself a nice hot shower then quickly got ready. As I was getting ready, I wanted to give myself a “no-*makeup* look” with light *makeup* on. I *inserted* a few of my gold *earrings* in my *ears* to add accents on my *appearance*.

This museum trip holds an *emotional connection* to me as I was able to explore and enjoy my time with genuine friends that I emotionally connect with. The *good* vibes and the company made an entire museum trip splendid. The laughter and relating to art pieces that we imitated holds a valuable memory hence the pop of color with my scarf always reminds me of good times and excitement. The vibrancy of the color is what made me feel confident.



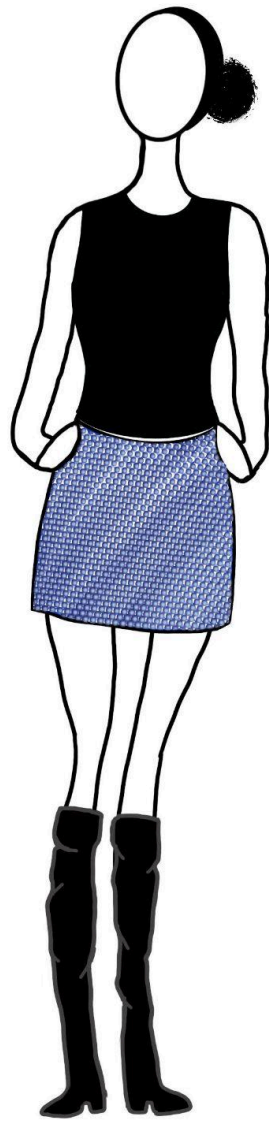
Chapter 15: 21st Birthday

Older and wiser. My motto for my big twenty-first birthday. As I enter my adulthood years, I realize that my perspective has changed and for the better. My close friends decided to throw a surprise birthday for me. It was a very thoughtful gesture, and I got to order my first ever cocktail drink. It felt surreal to experience new things I was not allowed to do before. Spending my birthday with my closest friend group and finding ourselves in a nightclub was a night to remember.

On my big day turning into an adult, I chose a standout outfit that is different from my usual style and stepping outside of my comfort zone. For my birthday celebration, I went for a playful look with a bright blue sequined mini skirt and a simple black top. My legs *wrapped* in my favorite black knee-high boots for a comfy and cool vibe. It was just the right mix of fun and style for a memorable celebration.

To prepare for my birthday, I *modified* my *appearance* by getting my *lashes* lifted and tinted for the first time. I wanted my *lashes* to look naturally curly without having to put on *mascara*. I wanted everything to be perfect on this day so I got ready to wash my *face* and *applied* it to my regular *makeup* routine. I finished off by *applying* lip gloss as it is more fun than *lipstick*. For my hairdo, I put my *hair* in a sleek bun for a clean look.

I often reminisce to my younger self during my birthday as I reflect on all the growth and mistakes I had. As humans we continuously change, just like how my style has evolved throughout the years. As I celebrate adulthood, my birthday outfit represents my transition to maturity as I am no longer a little girl anymore. I can wear fun party dresses now, a moment that I will always cherish.



Biography

About the Author



Anna Molina is a 21-year-old student at New York City College of Technology. Majoring in Business and Fashion. She plans to earn her bachelor's degree. Having exquisite taste and creativity is her motivation to pursue marketing in the fashion industry.