

Dress, Body Modifications and More

Written and Illustrated by: Cheyenne Darcy

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In this age and day no style in particular exists, fashion styles are divided into sub groups such as; business casual and sophisticated attire, streetwear, sportswear, classic, chic and vintage. An advantage about picking a style is you're able to mix and match and choose clothing items based on different trends, colors and textures that fit our personality or our mood that day. Speaking for Cheyenne, her style is diverse and her wardrobe ranges from comfy, athletic pieces to casual , urban pieces as well. She dresses and presents herself based mood she's in on that given day.

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This book is about various occasions where fashion and dress was significant to me both physically and emotionally. The book follows through different life stages as it transcends from my early middle school education through my high school education and beyond.

Dedicated to my sister-in-law, Hanite

I love you so much.

First Kiss is a Bliss

A girls first kiss is an experience she'll never forget, more than anything. As a youngster I attended middle school at 655 Parkside Preparatory Academy in Brooklyn. In the 6th grade I had no interest in boys but things changed when Naisiah and I became boyfriend and girlfriend. Tall, brownskin, skin with dark brown eyes with a buzz cut made him all the more perfect. Our middle school relationship was the best, we'd hang out in school, talk, laugh, hold hands and I was always so smitten over this boy.

The *dress* policy for my school uniform as I wore polyester navy blue chino pants with a cotton white short sleeve polo shirt tucked in. To add on, I wore a polyester navy blue seam blazer with flap pockets in the front and three buttons along the front. My navy blue criss cross necktie sat neatly around the collar of my polo shirt and school logo was *attached to my blazer*. The logo I wore white school socks with my black Mary Jane shoes with a faux leather upper, hook and loop mid strap with a flower accent. My hair was permed and slicked up in a ponytail and I wore off white colored stud flower earrings. I made sure that my uniform was well kept as I knew it meant alot to me on that day.

Our friends, Azalea, Tyrese and Lanasia would be so ecstatic when Naisiah and I would hang out together. One day during lunch time I was with Naisiah sitting in the cafeteria and our friends suggested that we

kissed. Feeling as if they planned this, they looked so eager for this kiss to happen and I was a nervous wreck. The whole idea made me anxious and was awkward because I knew nothing about kissing or what to do. Azalea and my other friends were chanting “Kiss, Kiss, Kiss!”. I felt so peer pressured to kiss him and I wasn’t ready for this but he was. I stood tall, looked up at him and kissed him on the cheek and he was aiming for my lips. I literally had no idea, what so ever that a first kiss had to be on the lips. Hahahaha, it happened, my first kiss was crazy but the upcoming red, pink and white themed Valentine's Day was even better.

Red, White and Pink Day

Red, pink and white was the attire for Valentines Day at school and I was so excited. We were able to dress down and wear our themed Valentine's Day colors instead of the bland uniform that we always wore. Everyone came to school dressed in their colors and I was eager for lunch time to come so I could show my cool outfit off and see Naisiah. Valentine's Day was interesting as everyone was so happy to take pictures in their outfits and get gifts from their crushes and friends.

I wore a polyester hot pink v neck shirt tucked into my soft to the touch hot pink pants. To compliment the pink attire I wore a thin black glitter belt and a white denim jacket with black buttons along the front and on the cuffs. My high top Adidas sneakers had white rubber soles, a black suede nubuck upper and three hot pink stripes representing the adidas aesthetic. The laces of the sneakers were black and the tongue sneaker showcased the Adidas trefoil logo in hot pink. To add on, I wore a huge hot pink bow headband and I had bangs to the side of my face and the remainder of my hair in a ponytail. The hot pink was such a look for valentines day as I added on hot pink heart shaped costume jewelry stud earrings that glistened in the light.

Lunch time came along and I saw Naisiah and ran to give him a huge hug. He said "*You look nice Cheyenne, Happy Valentines Day*" and I responded to him saying "*Thank you!*". He handed me a really cute

stuffed lion with a heart shaped nose and I just fell in love with it. I was so surprised because he loved my *dress*, making me feel a lot more confident. Not only did he like what I wore, but I got a gift that I wasn't expecting. Taking pride in the outfit, hoping that Naisiah would like it, he actually did and couldn't have been any more happier. Valentines day was great and my 13th birthday was a few months ahead in April, and preparations took place at home.

13th Birthday Bash

April 15, 2013 marked the day of my 13th birthday party at my home in Flatbush, Brooklyn. Becoming 13 years old was such a milestone birthday as I was no longer a preteen and now a teenager. It felt great knowing that I became a teenager and opened another chapter in my life. My godmother Pat threw me a party to celebrate such a milestone and I invited a few girl friends from school, and had family come over.

With such excitement to get dressed on that day, I wore a white polyester tee shirt from Aeropostale with the brand scripted on in pink. Surrounding the scripted brand, there were organza flowers with rhinestones centered in the middle of each flower. I wore a neon pink poofy tutu with layers of tulle and knee length pink knee length tights and pink zip up sandals with three tassels along the front. My hair was in curls on that day and I wore pink costume jewelry earrings that complimented my outfit well.

Everyone loved my outfit and my friends Leah, Kayla, Sheena and Tashema were eager to take pictures with me. The girly aesthetic that presented itself through my clothing meant alot to me. I became a teenager and my dress was a perfect yet *modest* representation of my age. For a day can't be forgotten, my *dress* was important as my mom and grandmother helped to pull together the outfit that everyone seemed to love.

The party was a lot of fun as I got to spend time with my family and friends on such a big day. Purple decorations filled the living room and dining room, great food, good vibes, party games and my cousin dj'd. The apartment was pumping with some of my favorite songs of the time like Miley Cyrus's single "*We Can't Stop*" and Alecia Keys single "*Girl on Fire*". Apart from becoming a teenager and soon starting high school, I got my first designer item.

Dolce and Gabbana Glasses

Glasses were a big deal for me, considering that I wear them everyday I new glasses that were a proper representation of my aesthetic but also *self-present* themselves I got my eyes tested in middle school and I've been wearing the free frames that the school provided, consequent to the exam. The free glasses weren't satisfying me anymore as my eye prescription changed and I was extremely excited to get something new.

I wore a white polyester long sleeved shirt with medium washed denim. To add on, I wore a polyester black Aeropostale hoodie with the brand scripted on in white and silver across the front, and had white draw chords. My black and white Converse Chuck Taylor All Star Lo Sneakers had a low canvas upper, white lace up closure and rubber cap toe and outsoles. I wore costume jewelry silver studs and let my hair down with a centered middle part.

My dad drove and my parents took me to a Target Optical in Jersey City, New Jersey that had tons of glasses in different styles, colors, brands. I tried on about 15 different frames in the mirror and then came across black rectangular framed Dolce and Gabbana glasses that I fell in love with. Examining the glasses on my face, along with my subtle outfit on that day is what made me say "*Yes, I want these!*". I envisioned how the

glasses would look on me on a daily basis and my outfit is what made me say “*Yes!*”. The temple of the glasses had D&G written on them which was very pleasing to look at. I was excited to find a pair that I actually liked, my prescription was filled to the glasses and wow, I finally had designer glasses that I could wear everyday. These Dolce and Gabbana glasses became a staple addition to my everyday *dress* as I started high school.

Meyhem of Individuality

Attending a new school on the first day, is never easy, seeing tons of fresh faces, new teachers, and not to mention there's a million and one emotions different emotions going through the mind. I attended Brooklyn College Academy High School located at 350 Coney Island Avenue, in Brooklyn. My high school had a strict uniform policy that I had to abide by, which was annoying but there was no way of going around it.

The 9th grade uniform consisted of a grey polyester polo shirt and black twill straight leg pants. To give the basic uniform a twist, I added a black fine knit viscose cardigan with buttons on the front and ribbing at neckline, cuffs, and hem. I wore soft suede leather Minnetonka Moccasins with suede bow tie laces on the toe. As a *body supplement*, I wore costume jewelry off white colored earrings in the shape of a rose and a butterfly shaped pendant necklace. My hair was let down with a stretchy black glitter headband to keep my hair back.

The school day went by smoothly as I was calm and sat through my classes and met my new teachers for English, Spanish and Global class. The bell rang and lunch time arrived later that day around 11:15pm. Walking in a cafeteria with hundreds of students wearing grey was quite intimidating, as I noticed was the only one wearing a black cardigan over the uniform. My

assistant principal Ms.Rennis noticed me and called me out to speak to me and anxiety flew threw me as I wondered what I did wrong. Ms.Rennis goes to say *“Black cardigans aren't the uniform here at BCA. If you notice, everyone else is wearing grey sweaters over the uniform.”* I thought my black cardigan was a perfect twist to the bland uniform but she shut me down by telling me to take it off, as it wasnt uniform. My individuality was expressed through the cardigan and it shifted because I was no longer allowed to wear the black cardigan during school hours. A year later, I joined a World Ensemble at school and my individuality and creativity fostered itself.

Black Dignified Seriousness

The power of music and using sounds to tell a story was a breathtaking phenomenon as I was a member of a world ensemble at BCA in the 10th grade. Amongst a group of 75 students, my music instructor Ms. Laurie taught us to play instruments from all over the world. I was one of three members to play the Middle East/ Egyptian Darbuka drum. The performance told the story of the Cherokee Removal, the Trail of Tears between 1836 and 1839 and each instrument told a part of the story of the removal.

Extremely excited for the performance, I wore a black pair of satin trousers with a black polyester sleeve floral peplum top with embossing accents. With a rounded neckline and ultra soft fabric, the pretty top added visual interest to the black trousers. Creating a twist to the otherwise dressy look I added by black Air Jordan 6 Infrared sneakers. The sneakers had a black suede upper with Infrared detailing on the midsole, heel, and the sneaker lace lock with a translucent outsole. To accessorize, I wore silver costume jewelry stud earrings.

Ms. Laurie lead the performance, to an audience of over 200 people as my group and I played our worldly instruments with dignity and pride. With such uniformity in the groups all black attire, we played our instruments seamlessly as we progressed through the story of the Cherokee Removal. With excitement, I played to the beat of my own drum and my *dress* helped make a statement

for such a breathtaking event. The black attire was important as it was a representation of the seriousness and power in the Cherokee movement. With such an emotional connection to the darbuka, I created my own unique rhythm and tempo and came together as one to unify it. A feeling of strength, power and authority came over me as I knew that my dress left a mark. Since the performance in February, my family had exciting news for me but refused to tell me what the surprise was.

Alex and Ani Bracelet

My 16th birthday was celebrated during spring break as my dream of going to Universal Studios Florida Theme Park came true. I was thrilled as my sister-in-law invited me to go with my oldest brother Kevin and niece Ariella and nephews Liam and Jaiden. We walked and toured the movie and tv based theme park, took pictures, went on rides, spent quality time together and it all felt so right.

I wore a white cotton short sleeved, crew neck Peanuts comic tee shirt. Complementing the tee, I wore mid rise black jean shorts with scoop pockets in front and patch pockets in the back with rolled cuffed legs. To be comfortable, I added my Air Jordan Baron 9s that showcased a white black and cool grey colorway. The colorway of the sneaker features pinstripe detailing on the heel collar, a heel tab and Jordan's baseball jersey #45 at the heel stitched in black. Adding on to my streetwear vibed *dress*, I wore a black 90s bucket hat with my hair up in a ponytail and accessorized with costume jewelry silver stud earrings.

While walking through the park with my family, my sister-in-law noticed The Universal Store. I was amazed by the large gift shop as it housed decorations, souvenirs, collectibles and many more. As I looked around I saw a glass display case with Alex and Ani themed bracelets that caught my eye. Absolutely falling in love with the Disney Mickey Mouse Hat Charm

Bangle with a gold finish, it looked great on my wrist and perfectly accented my streetwear look. The sales representative loved my outfit and she explained that the bracelets are *adornment* to the body as they enlighten and empower. The concept behind the bracelet is what moved me and my sister-in-law brought it as a gift for my 16th birthday.

Months went by after my birthday and times became rough as I received bad news.

Saddened Heart in the Midi Black Dress

January, 24th 2016 was the day I attended my grandmothers funeral in Kingston Jamaica. I didn't get to see her often, only when my mom and I would travel down to Jamaica every few years. She was a caring, kind hearted and loving person of the family and it hurt knowing that she didn't deserve to leave us. Nonetheless, I knew that she was sick and was now in a better place. The early morning transcended into midday and we prepared to attend the Funeral and Graveside service for my grandmother, also known as *momma* as we called her.

I wore a chic black dress from the brand Material Girl, to *modestly* pay respects to *momma* in. The black overlay top sleeveless midi bodycon dress had small oval cutouts on the side of the dress. With a ribbed knit stitch, the polyester and spandex dress was precise and classy, and made me feel well put together. To complement the *dress* I wore a pair of Christian Siriano black pointed toe flats with textured pattern Adding on a small Kenneth Cole Reaction Crossbody bag with a small brand logo detailed in silver metal and a silver zipper, it swung gently off my shoulder. To accessorize, I wore silver costume jewelry stud earrings that helped make my outfit stand out.

The day was gloomy and filled with saddened hearts as we attended the funeral service. The church was filled with family, friends, relatives of my

grandmother and all the like. The funeral service was hard to endure because I knew that momma was a great person with a kind heart and always saw the good in people. Saddened by her passing, I tried to support my mom and mom and other family members. Watching her brown casket go down into the ground, had me in silence as I took in all the emotions I was feeling. Numb to the feelings, mommas funeral wasn't easy to endure but I did my best to stay strong as my midi black dress made a statement. Grieving over mommas death wasn't easy but I didn't let it get to me and I enjoyed my senior year at Brooklyn College Academy.

Lights, Camera, Action
The great part about being a senior was taking

lifetime pictures that were placed into the high school yearbook. You were allowed to dress in any way that was a representation of you, your aesthetic and create an image you want to project to others. Senior pictures were a big deal to me as I ensured that everything from the makeup, hairstyle, clothing, accessories and the heels were just right.

With careful consideration of my *dress* I wore a smooth cotton off the shoulder, navy blue, a line t-length dress with a flounce trim and box pleat. To accent the t-length dress I wore black faux suede wedge booties with a rounded toe, adjustable black laces and zipper on the side. Keeping the look simple I wore a chunky curved shaped pendant necklace with medium sized hoop earrings and a silver studded bracelet that sat on my left hand. My hair extensions were shoulder length and cut in a bob cut hairstyle, which greatly accentuated my off the shoulder dress. My dear friend Addy, had done my makeup that morning and I truly felt like a young woman.

Excitement ran through me as I proudly presented myself in the outfit to take pictures. I walked down those Brooklyn College hallways with confidence and received compliments from my peers. I got various shots taken in my outfit with a cap and gown and in a black velvet drape as the photographer directed me on how to pose. In those specific moments, I realized that

my *dress* was an indication that I was no longer a teenager, but becoming a young woman. I displayed a level of self confidence and validated myself to dress the par for senior pictures. My best friend, didn't go to the same school as me, however her birthday was coming up and I was eager for it to come.

Late Nights and Neon Lights

My best friend Quincina, is a real one, a ride or die girl who has been my best bud since the fourth grade. She's intelligent, pretty, outgoing, kind, and all around just a great person. Sadly, we separated after she moved to Long Island after graduating from elementary school and we attended different middle schools. I remained to live in Brooklyn while attending middle school and Quincina and I had no form of contact for a while. It saddened me because I thought I lost my best friend for good. A few years later, in the 8th grade we rekindled as she found me on Facebook and from that moment on we've been tight as ever. We talked on the phone, texted one another but we haven't seen one another until her 18th birthday dinner.

I wore a black polyester long sleeve bodycon dress with lace up back detailing and black nylon sheer stockings. To carry off the look, I wore black faux suede over the knee boots with self-tie accents, stacked block heel, and a side zip closure. To accessorize, I wore a thin gold necklace, costume jewelry watch and costume jewelry thin medium sized gold earrings. Over the outfit sat a black wool double breasted coat and black woven scarf with fringe at the side. A brown leather Michael Kors crossbody bag with a charm logo sat gently on my shoulder. I just got into makeup at the time and tried my hardest to do my makeup.

On a cold winter night, amongst a crowd of thousands of people walking, enjoying the nightlife and the neon signs, I searched to find my bestfriend at Times Square 42nd Street. I locked eyes on the birthday girl, I ran up to her and gave each other a much needed hug. To my suprise, I became very emotional and started crying happy tears in a facefull of makeup as the moment was so surreal. I continued to greet Quincinas sister and her other friend as we all walked to TGI Fridays Restaurant and Bar. We all got seated at a table, got our meals and we ate, laughed and had a great time. Making the most of the night we enjoyed ourselves and that night was one that can't be forgotten. Getting dressed to celebrate my best friend's 18th birthday as my dress was a physical marker for the event. I missed my best friend as it was such a great night, but prom preparations came along.

Tulle, Embroidery and More

A joyous feeling arose as I knew that my prom day has finally come after months of planning and preparations with my mom and dad.

Everything came down to searching for my one in a lifetime dress, heels, clutch and searching for the right hair stylist and makeup artist. With a fresh pedicure and a set of long coffin shaped acrylics done, I ensured that the nail colors matched my dress. I had long, curly hair extensions parted on the side that came down into my lower back.

Getting dressed for prom with my makeup and hair done made me realize that I'm beautiful both inside and out and my dress accentuated that. My gorgeous gold prom dress consisted of two pieces. The gold halter neck keyhole top was made of tulle with floral embroidery with a laced up back and had rhinestones all over. This top had rhinestones that created the illusion that it shines in different colors as it reflects off the light. The bottom was a gold floor length satin mermaid style skirt. The waist of the skirt had a gold strip with tulle, embroidery and rhinestones to resemble the halter top. The remainder of the skirt was a simple satin gold. I wore gold open toed heels with rhinestones all over and had it a zipper going up middle and to set it off I held a simple gold clutch. Shiny rhinestone earrings hung from my ears. On my left hand sat a rhinestone bracelet and

on my right I wore a white rose corsage sprinkled with lightly with gold glitter. The color of my dress brought out my caramel colored skin complexion so well and made me glow.

Prom was held at The Riviera, at 2780 Stillwell Ave in Brooklyn. Arriving at the venue was so surreal as the grand ballroom had a magical and whimsical vibe. Everyone looked great in their gowns and tuxedos and I was amazed by it all. I truly felt like a young woman in my gown as everything felt so right. I received so many compliments on my *appearance* and some people didn't recognize who I was, hahaha. I laughed so much with my friends, kicked off my heels and danced the night away and took plenty of photos. Memories were made that night and my graduation was to follow a few days after.

A Bliss of Dusty Pink

Just 10 days later, on June 21st, 2017 I graduated from Brooklyn College Academy High School. I completed a long 4 years of high school and it wasn't the easiest, however my graduation was one big celebration. Over the years I've made many friendships, more like bonds with my dear friends, lost a few friendships and went through two relationships. Each of these happenings helped me grow and learn a lot about myself. On June 21st, one chapter of my life had closed and another opened.

My charming dress was covered by my white nylon cap and taffeta gown. The base of graduation cap was decorated with careful consideration as a way of setting myself apart from my peers. The base of the cap had rhinestone strips around the edges with pink accented rhinestone flowers on the corners of the cap. The middle the cap had the words "*Yes She's A Graduate! '17.*" stacked on top of each other in pink with glittery capital lettered foam stickers. Hanging from the cap was a tassel with a gold 17' charm attached. White and purple fringe hung from the tassel as well. Both sweet and charming, my dusty pink dress evoked an exciting feeling in me. The textured polyester dress formed pleasantly against my body with a hanging flounce trim. To end the look I wore black leather strappy upper heels, with a zipper along my heel. To

accessorize I wore silver hoop earrings and a thick silver pendant necklace.

I sat gracefully on the stage with my fellow graduates in Brooklyn Colleges' Amphitheater, thrilled to be in that chair. The ceremony went on Mr.Mazerella began handing out diplomas and I heard my name, "Cheyenne Darcy! New York City College of Technology". With elegance, I got up and strutted down the aisle between my peers to receive my diploma. With utter happiness, I confidently walked across that stage in my dress, reached for my high school diploma. The moment of commencement then occurred where my principal advised the graduates to turn out tassels from the right side of the cap to the left. The moment I turned my tassel I knew that a new door has officially opened and my dress symbolized my newfound graduate status. Summer 2018 had began and I rekindled with an old friend.

Blue Hues and First Date Hues

In July of this year I went on my first date with a rather handsome boy named Tyree. Rounded face structure, tanned light skin with a warm and golden brown tint, with dark brown eyes and an egyptian goatee. He was 6'2, slim, yet quite muscular and had dark brown dreadlocks that made him look all the more attractive.

Attending middle school together at Parkside Preparatory Academy in Flatbush Brooklyn, we were boyfriend and girlfriend in the 7th grade. This relationship came to an end after a few months, we graduated middle school and he moved back to Trinidad. Throughout the 4 years spoke from time to time through Facebook and he later told me that he was moving back to the states and wanted to take me out on a date.

Rummaging through my closet one evening and trying on about 6 different outfits, with excitement and utter nervousness, I didn't know what to wear for a first date. Different combinations of denim jeans, casual tops and sneakers, I finally came up with an outfit that connected with me. I wore a navy blue and white cotton baseball shirt in soft jersey with 3/4th length raglan sleeves and rounded hem. Styled with medium washed super high waisted distressed jeggings that *modestly* displayed my curves. I added my crisp white and royal blue Adidas Stan Smith tennis trainers with a lace

closure, leather upper and lining. comfortable to the touch. I added my tawny brown leather Michael Kors crossbody bag that hung off my shoulder. To accessorize I wore sterling silver studded earrings and I had black long hair extensions.

From the moment he spotted me walking down the street he began to smile with his charming looks and of course he made me smile too. He was so happy to see me and I could tell by the sweet look in his brown eyes. Tyree said “*You look nice in your blue and white.*” and I replied by saying “*Thank you*” Putting his arm around my shoulder, he ordered an Uber and we took it to Juniors. I was nervous but tried not to show it as it vibe with Tyree, great conversations, and lots of laughs and smiles. We talked about so much in that short span of two hours and it was amazing. The summer went by and another dream came true.

Red, White and Blue Spectacular

My childhood dream of watching the Macy's 4th of July Fireworks came true and I was so excited. Since I was a little girl, I watched the fireworks spectacular from my television at home with my parents but I never got to see them live. Watching the fireworks on television didn't bring me joy and amusement that I truly wanted. There's just something about Macy's fireworks on the 4th of July that is just so mesmerizing and I wanted to get the chance to be apart of that. My close friend Karina and we practically do everything together and she decided that she'll join me to watch the fireworks.

I carefully picked out an outfit that was not only cute and comfortable, but just right for the occasion. I wore a white lettuce trim rib knit top and light washed slightly distressed mom shorts. I carried off the outfit with black platform sandals with white soles which were very comfy and just right to walk around in. Keeping the outfit simple, I carried a black zip closure crossbody bag and let it hang gently off my shoulder. I wore sterling silver stud earrings and a sterling silver heart shaped pendant necklace to help make the outfit a lot more stylish. I was so pleased with how my outfit looked as I knew that night of the 4th would be a memorable one. I was dressed, excited and ready to go out.

Karina and I met up near Broad Street and Water Street as we Broad Street and Water Street. We were in

the second row of people standing on FDR Drive, along the East River and I couldn't have asked for a better view. We stood in our spots for hours, but it was certainly worth the wait as the fireworks commenced that night. Waiting for hours as time went by and at 9:20pm fireworks shot in the night sky from barges in the East River. So sudden, I was amazed by the beautiful sparkles, eye popping colors and dazzling effects that lit up the New York City Skyline. I've dreamt of this moment since I was about 8 years old and the moment was so surreal. Karina and I took so many videos and pictures just to savor the moment a bit more. Overwhelmed with emotion, I enjoyed every moment of the spectacular show and getting dressed to be a spectator of that event was extraordinary.



Cheyenne Darcy was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. She is half Jamaican and African and the only girl of three older brothers. She is hard working, determined and motivated to work to the best of her ability. Her best friend Quincina has been by her side for over 10 years as she is a great support system. Cheyenne truly has a passion for fashion, and loves the industry for what it truly is.