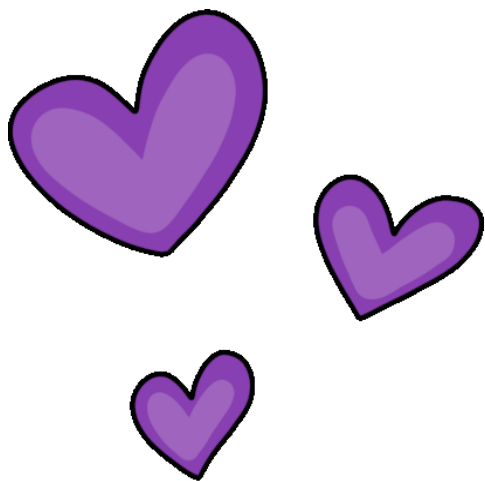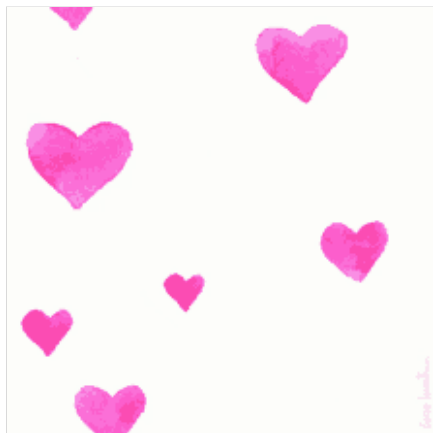# *Passion4Fashion*

Written and illustrations by

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Passion4Fashion

I'm extremely grateful to my mother because she has had a huge influence on me and my love and passion for fashion and this book wouldn't have been possible if I didn't feel so strongly about fashion and what I wore throughout my life.

I would also like to thank my professor for giving me this opportunity to work on such a creative project and give me and classmates a creative outlet to express ourselves and look back at moments in time and truly appreciate how special they are.

Mini black bag:
This mini black bag means so much to me. I got it when I graduated high school with my own money. I've been saving all throughout my four years of high school just for that bag.

It is made out of calf leather that's pebbled and it has silver hardware. Pebbled leather is a safer option than smooth leather because you have a lower chance of scratching it. I remember because it was such a huge purchase. I was making notes of every little thing and evaluating my decisions based on my list of pros and cons.

This little bag is the whole reason I fell in love with fashion and got into it in the first place. Other than the fact that it was my first designer item that I paid for myself, it holds so much more sentimental value. I remember this bag was the "it" bag at the time. When I was finally ready to buy it I couldn't find it anywhere because it was sold out.

This bag symbolizes my growth from a little girl to a young lady. It symbolizes independence. It symbolizes my love and passion for fashion and the reason why I love it so much. It marks the end of an era and the beginning of a new one.

Nude jumpsuit:

This taupe jumpsuit I wore to my high school graduation back in 2018. A lot of people didn't agree with me on wearing it to my graduation. But again I just felt the need to wear something special for a special occasion.

The way this jumpsuit modified the body is that it had this sculpting effect on the body. It accentuated all the right parts. The dress was made out of this bandage super stretchy material that cinched your waist, and made you look skinnier. This bandage material and the way it was cut turned it into a sexy jumpsuit.

The jumpsuit had this double bandage strap that further accentuated the chest area. The double strap design is also beneficial for giving the chest area a lifted flattering look. The hem was super sturdy and thick material that when I went to get it tailored, I was turned away by a couple tailors because they were scared they were going to ruin it. The color is a nude taupe color.

The emotions tied to this jumpsuit are enormous and many. I wore it on my graduation day. It felt like a huge accomplishment to be able to stand there and hear my name being called. This jumpsuit also made me feel confident about my figure at a time where I was very insecure about it and thought nothing looks good. So I'd like to think that this jumpsuit gave the confidence and power that I was lacking on such an important day.

sequin pants: I wore these sequin pants back in 2015 for a one direction concert. It was the best day of my life. My parents wouldn't have allowed me to go to any restaurant but they knew what one direction meant to me

These pants were made out of stretchy material so they stretched a lot. While the material was stretchy and smoothing out the body, the sequins hanging on to the pants helped modify the body to look more curvy and hip py.

The pants were black and high waisted. They had sequins all over the pants. The sequins weren't specifically one color, whenever one would move or the light hits you at different parts. The sequins reflect different bright colors like purple and green. While walking the sequins would make a "tsh tsh" sound

The emotions attached to these pants are definitely still there. Whenever I look at them, it takes me back to the day of the concert. The band One Direction were the only thing I ever talked about and I was so obsessed so this day was a dream come true. So these pants take me back to this particular day because

The outfit I wore to my brother's graduation:

It was my brother's graduation day. It took place on june 27, 2016 in Brooklyn. My mom and I
went to support him and cheer him on. I remember it was a very hot summer day. Not only was
my brother graduating that day, but I was also going to pick up my report card afterwards.

I wore black suit pants with a white blouse. Then adorned myself with a black cardigan on top.
I didn't want to wear any tight or short clothes that showed too much skin, even though it was
summer. I knew that tight clothes *enhanced* body parts which was something I was worried
about. I was very insecure about my curvier lower body. I was very careful with my choice of
clothing because I didn't want any more *enhancements* done to my body.

The pants that I wore were black , loose, straight and slightly high waisted. The blouse was white
and made out of loose material as well. The most special part about the top is that it was *adorned*
with these big ruffles. The ruffles *enhanced* the outfit and gave it a more girly feeling. Another
attachment I added to this outfit was a black cardigan on top. The black cardigan wasn't a
necessary *attachment*. But I was feeling self conscious that day and adding the cardigan made me
feel better. I wore the cardigan to cover up my arms and thighs, it hit right at my hip so it covered
most of what I wanted it to cover. I chose to wear black because it's a color that makes you
appear thinner.

This day was very overwhelming. I had mixed feelings throughout the whole day and couldn't
stop thinking about what my grades are going to look like. Of course it's graduation day so I'm
excited for my brother to see all his hard work pay off. But at the same time I couldn't help but
think "what if I failed math?" (math wasn't my strong suit). So I had to consistently talk myself
out of this stress and remind myself to be in the moment. My planning around this outfit was to
cover up as much as I can so no one would see that I had gained weight. I recall not being
comfortable in my body in this outfit despite all the *modifications* I attempted to do

Prom dress:

My prom took place in a small venue in Brooklyn on may 24, 2018. I almost didn't go to my prom due to a lot of factors. I figured it out and the end ended up going and I'm so happy I did. Prom night was such a special night. I didn't have a date and remember being a little bummed out about it. I didn't necessarily care too much about bringing a date but upon arrival I noticed that everyone had a date except me.

Picking out a prom dress was a journey and took some time. I remember going to a few stores next to my house and absolutely finding nothing appropriate for the occasion. I asked my friend for assistance searching for a prom dress. She offered to come to another store with me since she couldn't find a dress herself either. We left the store empty handed and I started to think about what exactly am I looking for in a dress and according to needs and certain body *modifications* and *enhancements* I was looking to do. The list helped me finally pick out the dress.

Everyone emphasized the aspect of drama being there. So I opted for a long silver sequin dress. It had different tones of silver all throughout the dress and its length. The embellishment alternated between silver beads and silver sequins. It had a halter neck style so the neckline was high enough not to show any cleavage. While the neckline was high the back was cut pretty low. The low back complimented my body type and *enhanced* just the right body curves. My waist appeared smaller and more cinched in.
I was torn between neutral colored or silver heels to match the dress. I thought since it's prom night I should go all out so I picked the silver heels that were the same color as the dress and adorned my wrist with a silver plated bracelet as well.

Everytime I look at the dress, I feel a lot of emotions. Senior year of high school was an overwhelming time for me. And while planning and preparing for exciting events like prom, I was also losing my friends who were close to me all through high school. I was confused and hurt in specific aspects in my life but also getting excited about other aspects. This experience was basically a metaphor for life. It taught me a huge lesson about life, balance and how to deal with hardships when they come your way. Even though it was hard I chose to look at the brighter side of things and decided to do what makes me happy.

DVF dress:

This Dvf dress was my first designer dress. I didn't buy it for any special occasion. I bought it because it was on sale and marked down significantly, even though the style isn't something I would usually go for. I thought I would buy it and try something new out. I remember asking for my size to try it on and they only had that last one available in the whole store and it was my size, so I took that as a sign. Diane von Furstenberg has this iconic dress style called the "wrap dress" . The wrap dress is an elegant and classy style. It basically wraps around the body and you tie it, it's trendy and easy to style. She has this iconic wrap dress in a print with lips all over the dress. The dress I bought was a different style but it had lips printed all over and it reminded me of the wrap dress.

The dress I bought is called fit and flare. I think this is a perfect name because it sounds exactly like the way it looks. The dress has a tighter stretchy material around the waist. Therefore it *modifies* the body in different ways. The different use of material around the waist *enhanced* the waist to look smaller. Aside from the different material the color of the fabric (only the back side) is completely black which furthermore gives the illusion of a smaller stomach / waist.

The dress is fitted from the waist up and then flared at the waist. It's very well structured and the quality is just flawless. The dress itself is black but has those shimmery lips all over the dress in red and pink. The lips have this metallic shine to them. It's the most perfect combination of cute and sexy. I only wore it once to go to dinner with black heels and tights and it looked adorable, but too adorable for my liking.

I mentioned this style is not the style of dresses I usually go for. And the only reason is because of the puffy / flare at the bottom. At the time it reminded me of princess dresses and what kids liked to wear. I remember at this age I was trying so hard to look older than I actually was. By *adorning* my style and body with things that made me seem older. When I wore it that night for dinner I didn't feel beautiful or sexy due to its style. I knew it was a gorgeous dress but it wasn't my style nor did it flatter or *enhance* my appearance.

I wore this outfit on January 14, 2019. My mom told me we were going to the airport to pick up her friend who was visiting New York so I went with her. But little did I know, my best friend who lives across the country and who I haven't seen in 4 years was the one arriving at JFK. After she arrived we took her to Times Square. Looking back I'm not sure why that's the first place we decided to show her but nonetheless it was an amazing memory and we took a few cool pictures in Times square by the red stairs.

I was with my best friend and my mother. It was during the winter and pretty cold so I was wearing blue levis jeans, a sweater, black jacket with faux fur lining and sneakers.

The pants I wore were super skinny jeans so they made me appear thinner than I actually was at that time. The jacket's interior had a full layer of faux fur, through the arms, back and every part of the body so it made me look puffy and fuller at the top part of body. The skinny jeans were a nice contrast with the puffy jacket. It flattered my body.

I definitely have an emotional attachment to this outfit because it was the outfit to see my childhood best friend after not seeing her for almost 5 years. I was so surprised to see her and I remember feeling so many emotions I was shocked, excited, happy and confused at the same time.

My mother grew up knitting for fun because she genuinely enjoyed it. Her mother, my grandmother, may she rest in peace, used to knit and crochet for fun and kind of taught her along the way.

One day she was telling me stories of my grandmother and her love for knitting and all the work she did. Then she started telling me about her passion for it as well and all the items she knitted. I had the realization that I've never seen her knit anything before and thought it was so weird.

I asked her to make me a crochet hat or whatever she remembers from those years and can still do so she ended up knitting me a beautiful colorful one. I was so happy with it and to see her do something that she once loved.

Even though the hat wasn't my go to style because it was very colorful I assured her that I loved it and that it meant so much to me because I loved the fact that I was the reason for encouraging her to explore a hobby she used to love before she had me. Unfortunately the hat doesn't fit me anymore but the sentimental meaning behind it is what means the most to me.

During my last two years of high school in 2017 and 2018 I wanted to be more involved in my high school. A couple of my friends joined the stage crew club which encouraged me to join as well. I joined my junior and senior year of high school and both times were during the winter because it was the time where all the plays took place.

One thing that resonated with me the most was the outfit the whole "crew" had to wear. All stage crew members had to be in an all black outfit - head to toe. Wearing an all black outfit separated us from the rest of the students and made it easier for teachers to be able to know who is in charge of certain duties that day.

My go-to outfit was always black skinny jeans (yes skinny jeans were cool) a black sweater/ t-shirt, depending on weather that day and always topped it off with a long black cardigan that made me feel like a superhero and black shoes of course.

My favorite color during that time and all through high school was black so I loved it. Even though staying after school doesn't sound fun, the experience of getting to put black outfits together to "work" and just simply look cool made me happy. Joining the stage crew definitely made me understand more why a lot of people join clubs in high school.
 I wish I would've joined sooner.

I have quite small hands. My fingers are chubby but they're tiny. For years I used to never get a manicure because it emphasized how small my actual nails are. One time I wanted to have the whole experience of a manicure and decided to get one done

I went for a bold choice , a red nail polish by OPI called "Big Apple Red". The color of the nail polish is a true vibrant red. It was something completely out of my comfort zone but so I'm glad I decided to go for it because it has now become a staple in my collection of nail polishes.

The color didn't emphasize my nails in a bad way like I always thought vibrant colors would. If anything the shade of red complimented my skin tone better than any other color has. I have never received more compliments on my nails like I did when I got that manicure done.

To be completely transparent because of the amount of compliments I got it made me think wow there must be something special about it. Now years later I understand why everyone loved the color on me because I absolutely love it now and always go back to it because I know it'll suit me no matter what.

The white Nike air force 1s are my favorite pair of sneakers of all time. I go way back with this shoe. I bought my first ever pair when I was 14.

Everyone needs a staple white shoe and the nike air force 1s is this perfect "staple shoe".
It literally goes with everything. You could wear it with jeans, sweatpants, skirt or shorts and it will work in every occasion.

My favorite thing is that when I'm running late and don't have time to pick a shoe I know for a fact that if I wear my white nikes they'll work with the outfit I have on. so they always help with the stress of picking out a shoe.

I love these sneakers so much that I believe I repurchased them about 4 times since I was 14. That's my least favorite thing about them is that they look old pretty fast and because they're white they also get dirty pretty fast.

My first high end makeup/ highlighter I ever bought is the MAC highlighter in soft and gentle. I was in Minnesota during the summer break visiting family.I was by myself there and was too scared to go in alone but I loved makeup so much since a young age and something in my gut told me to go in.

The highlighter is called soft and gentle and it lives up to its name. It's made out of a very fine powder that has shimmer in it. It has peachy pink undertone. It's called "mineralize skinfinish" because it truly looks like your skin but is more glowy.

When you put it on it looks very natural but also like you have that "glow from within". When the lady at MAC recommended it to me and I tried it on, I was truly fascinated because the concept of highlighter was so new to me. I remember thinking I have to have it!

That day my mom gave me money to go buy food when I stumbled across the MAC store. I was walking in uptown Minneapolis when I discovered the concept of highlighter and how it can make you look so glowy. I spent all my money on it but didn't regret it at all. To this day I still use it when doing my makeup to go out and the pan is still full.

MAC MINERALIZE SKINFINISH

Mac cosmetics was my first high end makeup brand to buy makeup from. Another item that I bought and was my first expensive lipstick was their lipstick in the shade "faux". I was a freshman in high school around the year 2015.

The lipstick is described as a muted mauve-pink. It's not a super bright pink and when you dab a small amount of it it looks so pretty and even natural.

After purchasing a previous product from mac and loving it. I went to the store again and asked the beauty advisor to help me pick out a shade that won't be too dark and intense so my mom "wouldn't notice". She recommended this and advised me to go in with a light hand and it'll look just like lip balm because it was a shade very close to my natural lip color.

Buying MAC products as an early teen made me feel like I was officially a teenager and all grown up. I definitely have an emotional attachment to this product because I still have it and would totally use it today.

My twentieth birthday was hands down one of my favorites and most memorable birthdays. It was november 3 in the year 2019 in Manhattan, New York. I was upset that day because I just felt turning 20 wasn't a special age, I wasn't a teenager and I wasn't 21 and old enough to go to a bar

I wore a black bodysuit with a black leather jacket and paired it with skinny jeans and black shoes. Since I didn't feel too special that day, I thought dressing up in something sexy and mature would make me feel that way.

The bodysuit made me feel sexy because it was open and the black leather jacket gave the outfit an edge and a mature feel. Overall I appeared skinnier and felt better once I put the outfit on. It's true what they say about how clothes can change your mood and day.

This day was one of my most memorable birthdays because I've always wanted to go to a restaurant called Cipriani but it's so fancy and I never found an excuse or an occasion to go there for. Since my brother knew how I felt about turning twenty he wanted to make my day special. He ended up surprising me with a reservation at Cipriani that night. I'm so grateful for him for giving me such an amazing gift and experience on my birthday. I felt like a celebrity, it's a day I'll remember forever.