

# Dresses &

the life of a

Christian singer



By: Jessica Rosa

## Foreward

My wife Jessica, by the way, she dresses is a woman that reflects security and elegance. Her peculiar style in the way that she combines the garment, gives it a unique and special touch.

When she dresses up, she generally prefers warm and soft tones. Red and black looks phenomenal on her ,and it gives it a touch of elegance and strong presence. This makes her a happy person and decisive, that she knows what she wants. She has a contagious, charming, and tender smile. She is friendly and fun. Her charisma makes her an attractive person.

Her silhouette and her penetrating look, projects her to be an intriguing woman.

Wilkin Santana

# Table of Contents

FOREWARD BY WILKIN SANTANA .....	<b>I</b>
<i>Prologue</i> .....	<i>ii</i>
<i>Acknowledgements</i> .....	<i>iii</i>
<b>CHAPTER 1: A PRINCESS IN HER PINK PARADISE .....</b>	<b>1</b>
CHAPTER 2: MY FIRST YOUTUBE VIDEO .....	3
<i>Chapter 3: Lights, Camera, action</i> .....	5
<b>CHAPTER 4: A CAPE IN TIME .....</b>	<b>7</b>
CHAPTER 5: TESTING, ONE, TWO, THREE .....	9
<i>Chapter 6: Shocking decision</i> .....	11
<b>CHAPTER 7 NOW LARIMAR PART ONE.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<i>Edition: Food, experiences and new friends</i>	
<b>CHAPTER 8 NOW LARIMAR PART TWO.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<i>Edition: A chiffon in time</i>	
<b>CHAPTER 9 NOW LARIMAR PART THREE .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<i>Edition: A chiffon in time</i>	
<b>CHAPTER 10: LET ME THINK ABOUT IT.....</b>	<b>19</b>
CHAPTER 11: SINGING IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.....	21
<i>Chapter 12: The matrix dress</i> .....	23
<b>CHAPTER 13: A QUARANTINE BIRTHDAY.....</b>	<b>25</b>
CHAPTER 14: WHAT IF CLOTHING .....	27
<i>Chapter 15: I do!</i> .....	29
<b>ABOUT THE AUTHOR .....</b>	<b>31</b>

## Prologue

Since I was a little girl, I have been inspired by my mom's fashion and makeup. She helped nourish the desire to look beautiful. A piece of advice that she gave me that is very present to me was "Jessica, always look nice. You never know who you are going to see".

## **Acknowledgments**

This novelette is dedicated to my awesome husband, Wilkin Santana, and my amazing parents, Anibal and Mary Rosa. Thank you.

When I was a little girl, I have always wanted a *princess gown dress*. I always saw princesses like Cinderella, and snow white in their respective animated films with *floor length dresses*. When I saw princesses like that in animated movies, I wanted to become one. Since I was the only girl in the house, I could say I had my own crown at home besides my older brother, Anibal Jr. and my younger brother, Ariel. Every Saturday I went to church with my dad, Anibal and I did not have many *dresses* but my mom, Mary, made sure I was always pretty anywhere I went. I would have probably slept in my *dress*. My dad always told me to have my *clothes* ready on Friday before the sun set. In my religion we believe that the Sabbath is holy and starts after the sun set on Friday. The name of my church is called *Iglesia Adventista del Septimo dia*, it is located in 113 vermilyea between 204 and 207 street in Manhattan, New York.

My mom went out one day, and she bought me this gorgeous *rose pink floor length puffy dress*. This dress was *puffy* because it had *tulle fabric* making it bigger than the *appearance* of other *dresses*. It was made of *sateen* giving the *dress* a subtle shine, and softness to the touch. The dress also had *puff sleeves* and it had a *crew neckline*. This *princess dress* did not have any *designs* or *details*. It was just a *rose petal sateen dress*. My mom, Mary, would use a relaxer to make my shoulder length hair softer and manageable. She washed my hair the Friday because the next day I was going to church. She also did a roller set, and blow dried my hair. It was Saturday and my mom was fixing my hair by using a curling iron to create wand curls, and hairspray so my hair can hold curls throughout the day. I was also wearing white stockings, and white shiny shoes. To complete the look, my mom gave me a *rose-pink chain clutch* to complete my *outfit*.

I was ecstatic. If my mom would have let me, I would have probably slept in my *dress*. Having this *princess puffy dress* made me feel so special. I really liked my hair because it was soft, and I can flip my hair. The *soft texture* and *elegance* of the *dress* and hairstyle truly reflected, for me, the look of a princess.



## Chapter 2: My first YouTube video

Singing in church is my ministry. I was invited once again to sing in the second service on a Saturday. In the second service there are a lot of people about 200-250 people is the capacity at my church located in Manhattan. I was told to sing after the welcoming. The welcoming is just greeting the visitors and the members of the church.

I usually do not like *lace dresses* because I do not like how it feels but I decided to give this *midi jet black lace dress* a chance. The *tailored sleeves* were made of lace. From the waist down the *dress* had a *wrap skirt* made out of *velvet fabric*. I also put *black sheer stockings* and *black pumps*. My hair was in a side part low bun, and I use hairspray, so my hair has a sleek look. When I was getting ready, I made sure to shave my legs, put lotion and perfume. I wanted to feel and smell good. I started singing and it was so silent I could have heard a pin drop.

I am always nervous to sing and this was not the exception. As I was waiting in the room, I was praying and doing breathing exercises to calm myself down. It is not easy to talk in front of people, but singing is another level. The other detail is that it was live, so if you made a mistake is recorded that is what makes it even more nerve wrecking. However, I did it. I calmed down, and I was able to sing. I was recorded and I was able to ask my friend to edit the video and that became my first YouTube video.





### Chapter 3: Lights, Camera, Action

One of my desires within the church is to host. I was a makeup artist for a show that was shown in the local news on Thursday nights at 10pm named “Reparadores de Portillo” This show was directed by the “Men’s Ministry” department in my church. This weekly show invited several preachers and singers from Dyckman church or just other churches. This time they were including the youth, and they wanted a host, and I was asked if I wanted to be the host for that episode. I was ecstatic, and I immediately said yes.

I decided to wear *a sleeveless royal blue midi polyester dress with a v-neckline with off-the -shoulder sleeves and a cotton floral blazer*. The flowers in the *blazer* was also *royal blue*, and the base *color* was *white* with *tailored sleeves*. I wanted to do makeup that looked nice on camera. I used a full coverage foundation. This will help to cover even more the imperfections since a camera with HD quality was used it will really show all the imperfections. So, it was essential to have a good foundation. I also used a brightening concealer to make me look more awake and I used HD powder to conceal any shine. I also filled in my eyebrows so it can have a fuller look. I wanted to wear my hair in a low bun. I used a mascara that will help me achieve fuller lashes. To finish the look, I *wore pointed royal blue wedge pumps*.

I was extremely excited that I was able to host. I interviewed my friend; Rafael and I was part of a local tv-show. Before hand, I was so nervous because I wanted to do an awesome job. After everything was completed, I felt a sense of accomplishment. I saw it as a personal growth. I wanted to become one of the go-to hosts in my church.



## Chapter 4: A Cape in time

In my church, *Iglesia Adventista del Septimo dia*, social events were organized on a frequent basis. There were at least four to five social events per year. In these events other churches would be invited to sing, host, or present the games. The point of these events was to have fun. The food was always my favorite part. There would be linguini in white sauce with garlic bread and a variety of salads. I was invited to sing by the director of social events at my church. I usually reject invitations for social events because I just want to have fun, and not stress about singing.

When I was deciding what I was going to wear, I remember that I had recently bought an *olive-green maxi cape blazer* with an *asymmetrical shape*. It looked different. It had *lapel collar* in the front, and it had a little bit of a *rough texture* overall. To complete this *polyester asymmetrical shape cape*, I wore it with a *cotton sapphire black fitted long sleeve shirt* with a *crew neckline* because it was cold. I also wore a *carbon black jersey fitted midi skirt*. I wanted the focus to be on the *blazer*. Because the *cape* had a lot of *layers* it was a bit heavy. I wanted to protect myself from the cold, so I also wore *thick black stockings* from H&M and *black ankle boots*.

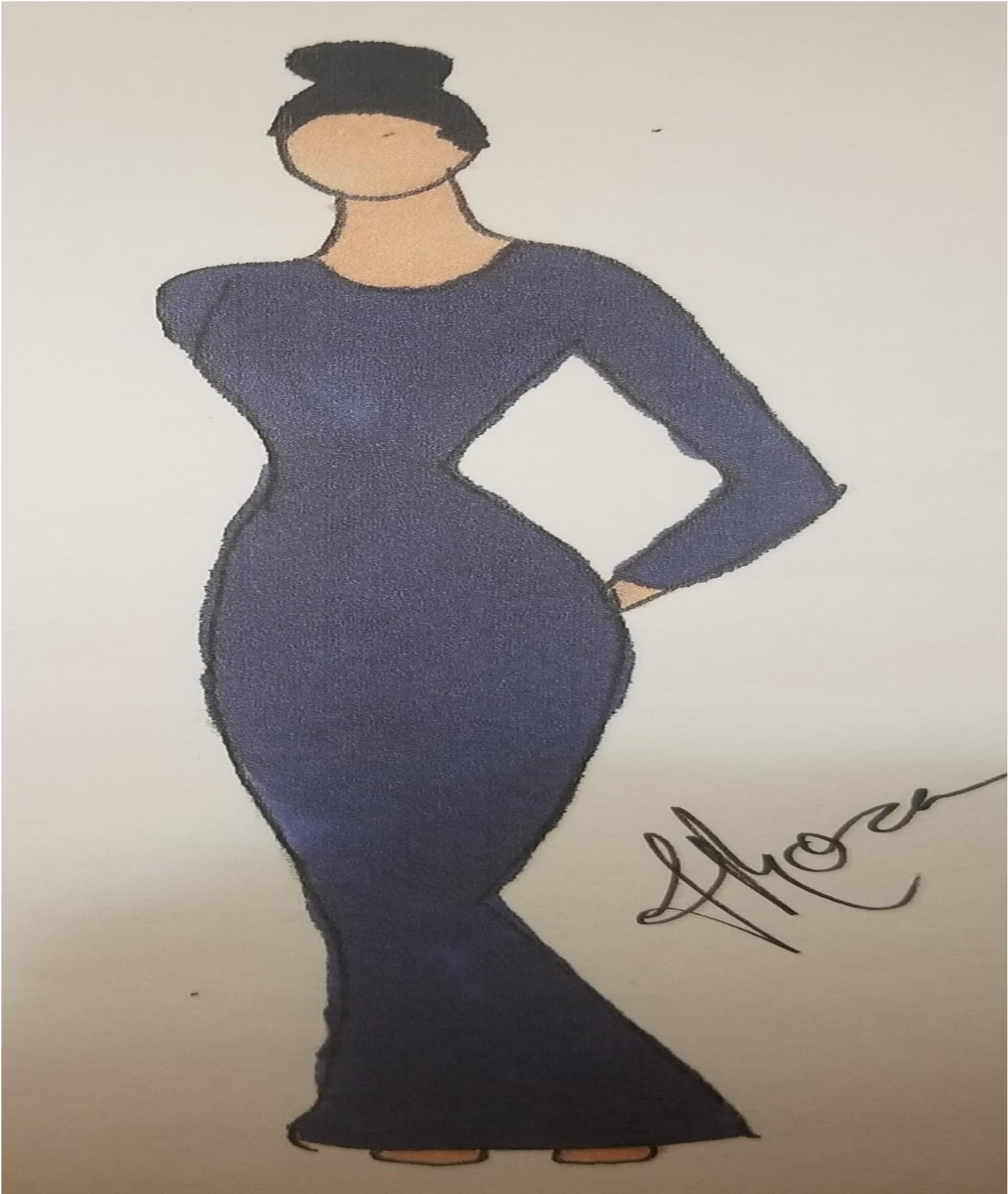
This *outfit* made me feel empowered. It was different. When I choose *outfits*, I do not want them to look like other people. I want it to have a unique touch, and I believe this *outfit* had that. The *cape* truly reminded me of my childhood and the superheroes that I use to watch while I was growing up. Superheroes like Superman, Batman and Wonder woman, so it gave me a little bit of nostalgia. But this *cape blazer* had a modern twist that the other superheroes did not have, and it was the *asymmetrical design*.



As the events continued in my church, this time I was not invited to sing, or be in charged of a program. This time I had the opportunity to do one of my deepest desires. I was invited to host a concert. This group is very well known in the Adventist world. The groups name is “Grupo Boses”. I admire one of the singer’s voices, Addy. She easily can do runs or just harmonize effortlessly. This special event really was my opportunity to wear an *elegant dress*. One of the ways to find *clothing* for me is through *online shopping*. I started searching and I found the *dress* in windsorstore.com. They always have gorgeous *dresses* at a reasonable price.

I did not have an idea of what I wanted my *dress* to actually look like I just wanted it to be gorgeous. While I was searching, I found this *royal v-neckline fitted dress with long fitted sleeves*. This *neckline* was different, they inserted a short metal to make it hold the *neckline*, so it would not fall because of the *fabric*. The *dress* was made out of *jersey*. *Jersey fabric* tends to roll up, and it will not hold a *shape*, so I believe they inserted this metal for the purpose to hold the *v-neckline*. Also, I did not consider *jersey* to be an *elegant fabric* because it *stretched*, and It would mark the *undergarments* if not *worn* correctly. I did not believe it would be flattering. I honestly thought of returning it, but my mom convinced me that It looked nice, so I kept it. I also had to wear a *nude tank top* underneath because the depth of the *neckline* was too low, and it was not appropriate for church. Regardless I would not have *worn* it without a *top* underneath. After the knee, the *length* of the *dress* would start to come out at the *side seams*. It had a *mermaid flare*. I did my hair in a high ponytail and I used hairspray so I would not have hair fly away hairs. I kept my makeup very simple. I used warm tones and a rose tone lipstick. The lipstick was just a little bit darker than my natural lip color just to complement my lips fullness.

When I was invited to host, I just wanted to scream of excitement. I could not stop smiling. I came to the realization it was going to happen. I was able to take a picture with Addy, and with the group. I was scratch off from my mental list the things I wanted to do.



## Chapter 6: Shocking Decision

In 2019, when I was at the meeting where the positions for the new year are given. The position for the new director of the praise team came up, and I was nominated to become it. Many challenges come with this position. For example, As the praise team director, I had to make sure that there were always people singing every time a song was required. Also, I like visiting other churches and with this responsibility I had to be in church every Saturday. As the year progressed, I really liked the way I set up my *fashion style* for a particular day while I was directing with the praise team.

Usually I would not wear all *black* but that day I wanted to, so I wore this *carbon black rib knit A-line flared midi dress*. It was *fitted* throughout the *body* except it started coming out after the hips area. It had a *turtleneck* and *fitted 3/4 sleeves*. I wanted this look to be *elegant*. To complete this *effortless elegant look*, I paired this *outfit* with *velvet black pumps* and *sheared stockings*. I wanted my hair to be long, so I used 24-inch hair extensions and I curled my hair. My hair looked gorgeous and voluminous. By combing my curls with a wide tooth comb, it helped achieve that voluminous bombshell look. I used edge control to comb my baby hairs and I also used hairspray to hold the curls.

This position, as praise team director genuinely surprised me because I thought that I would get that position if I was older like in my forties or fifties. It was challenging for me to cancel singing invitations from other churches. I am proud to say that I was the youngest director and for that I am thankful.





## Chapter 7:

### NOW LARIMAR PART ONE

Edition: Food, experiences and new friends

The opportunity of singing internationally finally presented itself. My Pastor is the director of family ministries in our conference, The greater New York conference. He was hosting an event for the single people. When I saw the flyer and video promotion that it was going to be in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, buffet and bougie rides were included; I said to myself “no need to tell me twice, I am going”. This trip was going to be exciting for me. One of the things I wanted to do was to travel alone or with friends. I convinced my close friend, Rafael to go with me.

I have been in Dominican Republic for about a day and a half now. This event was only for 4 days and 3 nights. We went to drive around with the bougie cars during the day and now we had to change for the night program. I was extremely tired after the bougie activity, and I was doubting of whether to go but I had promise myself to enjoy every activity since it was a very short time. I decided to wear a *halter neck strap plunge neckline maxi chiffon dress*. This *dress* had orange *snake print*. This *dress* had *high slits* on both sides of the *princess seam dress* which I put safety pins on the inside of the *garment* to cover it more. Also, this *dress* was *backless*, so to cover the *plunge* and the *backless dress* I wore a *black cotton bodysuit* underneath with *short sleeves*. The *design* of this *dress* was a little bit but I knew I can *modify* the *design* so it would appeal to my liking, and I did. For my hairstyle, I used hair wax and an elastic band to help secure the ponytail. I also wore *tawny platform pumps* to elongate my *body* and to match the *dress* because It was a *maxi dress*. I used foundation to cover any face imperfections like acne marks, and I used concealer to cover my dark circles. I also put bronzer to create a glow.

Every moment of this day made me enjoy life even more. I really appreciated the moment I was in and just giving myself the opportunity to be there. Being there by myself in Now larimar hotel in Punta Cana just helped me appreciated my time alone. It was an opportunity to decompress of everything. Pushing myself to be in the activity of that night was very pleasing because of the singers and fun activities.



## Chapter 8:

### NOW LARIMAR part two

#### Edition: A chiffon in time

This event already had so many highlights for me. After Friday night's program I went to sleep, and I woke up energized. I was supposed to sing Friday night, but it did not happen because I honestly thought the program was cancelled since we came late to the hotel after the bougie activity. Well, I had the opportunity to sing the next day, Saturday night. I practiced the song in my hotel room to tighten any last detail and just to be vocal ready.

For my singing presentation I decided to wear a *v-neckline dress* with *chiffon flared sleeves*. The *dress style* was like an *empire dress*. From the bottom of the *bust to the calves* the *dress* had *accordion pleats*. The *garments* I chose for this event were *lightweight fabrics* because Dominican Republic is a Caribbean country that means that the weather is hot, and I always wanted to be comfortable. I believe a high ponytail is an *elegant* hairstyle, so with this *dress* I also put my hair in a high ponytail, and I put gel in my hair to achieve a sleek back look. I chose *black ankle low heels*. I wanted to be comfortable and pretty. Also, because the *v-neckline* was low I also wore a *black bodysuit* to conceal the bust area.

I was excited, nervous, and just grateful for the opportunity to sing in another country for all the activities and new people we were meeting. I felt comfortable also the *garments* I chose really represented me. My *personal style* for this trip was *comfort*, and *chic*.



## Chapter 9

### NOW LARIMAR: part 3

#### Edition: A beautiful night

So, for this last night, there was an organizer that was setting people on dates and I did not want to be put in that situation by force. I did not want to push my luck meaning being set up with a guy that I did not want to. Believe it or not even though it was an event for single people I was not there for it. I went to Dominican Republic because of the experience and buffet. Afterwards, I saw everybody was going to go on a date and started to gather a group of new friends so we can eat together but It failed. Well, it failed because I was introduced to a guy that had caught my attention earlier. The sound system guy, Bernardo was asking a lot of questions before I started singing. He was asking more questions than an FBI agent, and he was asking them because he believed his friend, Wilkin, and I were a good match. He wanted to know who I was, to present me to his friend. Before he introduced us, I had a feeling who the person might be, and Wilkin was the same guy that had caught my attention.

After we were introduced, Bernardo suggested for Wilkin and me to go and have dinner, so we agreed to go. I only had about 40 minutes to get ready. I wanted to look pretty and just show that I was confident in my *body* and who I was, so I decided to wear this *polyester midi flared Chili red pepper wrap dress*. This *dress* had *flared sleeves*, and it was just a little bit above knee. I really like my legs, and I wanted to *elegantly* show it off. I made sure my legs were prepped for this *dress*, so I exfoliated my legs and just retouched them by shaving. I put lotion and perfume after I was done showering. I wanted to emphasize the features that I liked about my face like my lips and lashes. I have full lips and I just wanted to highlight that without it being overpowering, so to do that I wore a red lip gloss. For my eyelashes I wanted them to have a wispy look, so I used loreal carbon black mascara to create that lash full effect.

This *outfit* really has a nostalgic feeling because it was the night, I met my husband, Wilkin. I was nervous but excited. I was giving myself the chance to meet somebody and feel butterflies again. I felt so *comfortable* with my *outfit*. I felt *pretty*, and *sexy*. This *outfit* was very *chic*, and it really represented me. It was covered but because it was just a little bit above the knee it was a little daring for my level of comfort. I liked that I gave myself, and him an opportunity.



## Chapter 10: Let me think about it....

After Wilkin, and I met in the singles retreat in September in Dominican Republic we had not met since. We were getting to know each other on a serious level. I was going to Dominican Republic in April, after seven months of getting to know each other to go see him. I wanted my dad to come with me. It was a way of testing Wilkin too. I just wanted to see if he would get nervous because is my dad. He was very charismatic, and he wanted to win my dad over.

We went out on Saturday night, and I wanted to wear this beautiful *lilac mini dress*. which later I regretted it because the *dress* kept going up, and up. I was so frustrated. I had to continually push it down. It was like the *dress* had a mind of its' own and wanted to do whatever it wanted. The *fabric* was very *stretchy*. It had a *keyhole neckline* connecting to a *neck strap* and off the *shoulder sleeves* with *ruffles*. I wore an *forest green ankle strap high heels*, and a *lime small snake purse*. I flat iron my hair, so it would look nice and flat. I also wore a natural makeup. I used eyeliner to create a cat eye look and I wore a nude lip gloss.

I really like this night. He asked me to be his girlfriend, and I jokingly said “ To be your girlfriend, let me think about it” of course I said yes, he is awesome guy and I was happy to start this journey with him, Afterwards, he showed me around the capital in Santo Domingo. If I could back and change something, it would be the *dress*. It was like a power struggle with the dress going up and me pushing it down. However, I really liked the *design* and the *fit* of the *dress* I just wish the *hemline* would have been longer but either way I enjoyed the night regardless of that small circumstance.





## Chapter 11: Singing in Dominican Republic, again....

Central Quisqueya is one of the famous seventh day Adventist churches in the capital, Santo Domingo. This church is completely beautiful, and spacious. I admire the quality service of this church. They have a praise team that the youth is the one in charge of. The Instagram has more than four thousand subscribers. I admired them because they were the model of what I wanted for my church when I was the praise team director. My boyfriend at the time, Wilkin, knew the people that were directing the program and he helped me in being part of the youth program on a Friday night.

For that program, I wore this *black and white lace crop top* with a *nude tank top* underneath because the *lace crop top* is see-through. I also wore a *pleated midnight black satin skirt* and what is more exciting for me is that it had *inseam pockets*. I like my *outfits* to have a *pop of color* when the overall *outfit* has *nude tones*. I put on a *crimson red pump* with a side *bow* at the *ankle straps*. I did not have to do much with my hair because I went to the salon and I had the hair stylist install this beautiful mermaid boho locs. These long hair locs was denser than my natural hair texture, and all I had to do was use an edge control for my baby hairs and that is all. This program is live, so I wore a full coverage foundation to conceal my imperfections and enhance my features. I also used blush to give my face a healthy look, and I was ready to go.

I was so happy and calm before I sang which was really surprising to me. I usually have a little bit of anxiety before singing at important events. I was just eager to go on the stage and have the experience of being able to sing at Central Quisqueya in Dominican Republic, and I did.



## Chapter 12: The matrix dress

I was in search of a different *type of dress*. I wanted the *design* and *fit* to be different. I was online shopping and I had been checking this *dress* for a while. I wanted a *dress* that will be *elegant* to be in church and comfortable to be with my friends afterwards.

I wore a *calf length carbon black flared faux leather dress*. This *dress had long raglan sleeves*, and a *mandarin collar*. The *top part* of the *dress* is *fitted* with *crossing pleats* at the bust area. This *dress* was very comfortable to walk in. I thought that maybe because of the *faux-leather fabric* it would cause discomfort, but it did not happen. To complete the *outfit*, I wore a *carbon black velvet pointed pumps*. For this specific *garment*, I put gel in my hair to create a sleek look, and I put it in a high bun. I wanted my makeup to be glowy with a natural brown smokey eye, so I used a warm eyeshadow palette to achieve this look. I used brown eyeshadow and black eyeshadow to create a natural smokey eye. I also used eyeliner with a foxy effect to lift my eye look.

This *dress* made me feel in control, and *elegant*. I feel this *dress* was meant to be in the matrix movie. This *dress* gave a strong presence to those who saw it. It also gave me *comfort*, and I enjoyed *wearing* it.



## Chapter 13: A Quarantine Birthday

A deadly virus hit in 2020 called COVID-19. It really changed the world completely. Restaurant, salons were closed, and the Government shut down the country in efforts to control the virus. It all started early in 2020 but the damage started to show its results from March. Many birthdays were spent at home. At the time of my birthday in May, so we could gather in smaller groups. I was going to do a small gathering with my friends at the park but I had to cancel because when I went to do an errand the day before and in the office there was two people that said they had COVID but one of them were coughing really badly. So, this caused for me to cancel the plans to protect my friends and take care of myself.

In efforts to celebrate my birthday on May 30<sup>th</sup>, I decided to do a photoshoot in my room. I saw this image on Instagram of a tv host, Jenny Blanco, that she celebrated her birthday with a photoshoot. I really like it, so I wanted to try it. For my birthday photoshoot I wore an *emerald chiffon maxi dress* with *pleats* on each side. This *dress* had a *v-neckline*, and it was *sleeveless*. This *dress* was really long, and it felt very *delicate* to the touch. I wanted to give my eyebrows a defined shape and a fuller look. To achieve that I used the benefit brow eye pencil, and I started defining the front part of my eyebrow and filling it in afterwards. I really like nude and rosy color for the lips. I trace my natural lip with Mac's lip liner in "chestnut" and then I put on a mauve lipstick to enhance my lips.

I decided to be happy and enjoy this beautiful day. Wilkin called me at 6am and sang me happy birthday. My family sang to me early in the morning as well. My mom brought me balloons and cake. I received a lot of texts and calls. All those calls and messages made feel happy, acknowledged. Family and friends did really contribute to the happiness I felt that day.



## Chapter 14- What if clothing

The opportunity presented itself to participate in the Women's ministry in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. It was about three to four days before the recording. I went out on a *dress* hunt because for some reason when I packed I did not pack "what if *clothing*" meaning what if I get invited to sing *outfits*. I did not bring *skirts* or *dresses*.

While I was on the hunt of a *dress*, about four *clothing stores* later I found this *fuchsia pink* with *viscose*, *spandex*, and *Nylon midi dress*. It is a *fishtail dress*, with a *crew neckline* and *sleeveless*. Although it was *sleeveless* this dress had more *fabric* in the shoulder area extending towards the arms giving the illusion of it to being more covered in the arm area. This *dress* was very *fitted*, and I had my doubts because I was not comfortable with my body at that moment. Before I recorded, I started working out extensively. I drank hot water with lime in the morning to achieve a toned stomach. I also used a flat iron to flatten my hair and I wore an *emerald green strap heel* to complement the *dress*.

I felt focused when I was going to record. My goal was to record it on the first try but it did not happen. However, at the end of the day it was a success because I was able to do it. I feel that as I continue to get invitations for events like those on a national level it will expose me to other churches. This was the effect that this video had because people wanted my contact information. Exposure is important to be able to be invited to even bigger events.





## Chapter 15: I do!

I knew this day would happen ever since I met Wilkin in the singles retreat in Punta Cana. Since I went to dinner with him and it stood out for me how humble he was. What he thought was a mistake of saying to me was one of the most genuine things he said. He started out by saying simply “I come from humble beginnings. My family is very humble”. I believe it stood out to me because usually guys would want to show off, but he did not do that. Fast forward to the wedding that was going to happen in Dominican Republic, he took care of everything. He hired an event planner, and his co-workers and friends helped him with organizing the wedding. It was challenging for me since I was not the one personally going to places to set up for the wedding because I live in the United States, and he lives in the Dominican Republic, but he took care of everything like a champion.

For my wedding day, I always pictured myself with 1920's vintage glamorous waves in my hair, and a *mermaid dress* with a *long tail*. As I was searching for my *wedding dress*, I took the risk of buying it from anlux.com. This *dress* was not designed to be a *wedding dress*, but I turned it into one. I found the *dress* and I was in love with the *design* of the *neckline*. It was like a *sweetheart neckline* but what made it different was that on the *princess side panel*, the *seam* instead of it just being *round and blending* in towards the *side seams*, it had a *pointy design* instead. I was toning my *body* for this *dress*. I ended up *tailoring* it at the *top side seams* for the *dress* to have a more *fitted fit*. I lost more weight than I intended to. The *dress* was simply white without any *designs*. I saw it as a canvas to mold it to my liking. I want it to add *embellishments* to my *dress*. I went to 38<sup>th</sup> street in Manhattan, and I bought about 7 *embellishments* and glued them to the *waist band*. The *hemline* was too long, so in efforts for me not to trip while I am walking with my dad; I *cut the hemline* about 3 inches only in the front and I *cut* to the point where the front of the *garment* connected and seamlessly blended with the *tail of the dress*. This *dress* complemented my body so well. It was *fitted*. Check. It was a *mermaid dress*. Check. And I hired a hairstylist and a makeup artist. The hairstylist to create the vintage glamorous waves took a hair wand and curled my hair and put hairspray. He slightly pushed my hair up with a tail comb to create a voluminous look. My makeup artist, I told her I wanted a look that I saw on her. The look she had on an image I liked was glamorous but natural. She put highlight which I love to use in makeup, and she put in my *decolletage* as well.

This day was so stunning. I was stress free. I loved my hair completely. With my makeup, I got scared a little bit because the eyelashes were super long, and the eyeshadow had a lot of glitter. I wanted to do the pre-wedding makeup sessions but because it was overseas, and I only went for a week, it was hard. At the end of the day, I was happy. The restaurant “El Laurel” look so stunning, and elegant with pink and white roses in the room that was reserved for us. The host, Lissette, she was awesome. My husband surprised me with videos of my friends and family that could not be there. It was the most special event of my life, and I feel so blessed of this new Journey that Wilkin and I started on February 18, 2020 as Mr. & Mrs. Santana.



# Meet the author



Jessica Rosa from a young age was influenced by fashion and beauty. While attending Fashion Industries high school she was able to learn design and sewing techniques. This helped in giving her an insight of the fashion world. Now, she is obtaining her baccalaureate degree in Business and Fashion specializing in Global Fashion at the New York City College of Technology. Her desires are to become a fashion forecaster and eventually have her own fashion business.