

A Story

LOVE LOST

KAYNAIT ZAFAR

Forward

If there was one word, I could use to describe my older sister, Kaynait, it would be passionate. I remember her struggling with figuring out which career she was going to pick when she was very young. When we started visiting our cousins back in Pakistan a lot, Kaynait started to get close to one of our eldest cousins, Huma, who was a fashion designer. Huma talked about her career a lot from the trips to the tasks and the risks, and everything else that was revolved around the fashion industry. Whenever she spoke about it, she spoke with enthusiasm. Seeing that would make Kaynait happy and curious. Curious because she wanted to know why she did what she did and why it made her feel and seem the way she did. Huma gave Kaynait some of her works pictures and left-over fabrics, which she held on to till this day. When we came back to America, she started to do her research and started sketching some designs of her own. In the beginning, she was very messy but that did not stop her instead it gave her a bigger reason to do better and better. Which she did, her passion for fashion grew every day. Even now, she is always looking for different ways to share her art, she recently started uploading on TikTok and Instagram. One thing that I truly loved about her was that as she was growing into a better artist and designing more designs, she was also

looking back at the old works that she started with, the ones that were not so great. Kaynait would redo the old ones and make them better than before because she does not want to leave any of her works out. Kaynait has a special place for each one of her works in her heart which is truly adoring. I was the first one who figured out what I wanted to do in my life, but I did not do much about it. I want to be an Architect and that was the only thing I did, I told myself that and only did a couple of research for a good college but not properly prepare myself for it. Seeing her work so hard for fashion at a young age and continue doing that till today, pushes me to do as great as her. She inspires me to want to work hard towards my future like her.

-Nayaab Zafar

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Prologue

I remember the times when I was in public school when fashion got introduced to my life through my sketches. From that day, fashion has been a passion for me. I have learned that every piece of clothing you wear has an emotion attached to it. Due to that people have an emotional memory of the garment. Not only does dress require putting on a garment; it also includes types of *body alterations* and *body adornments*. This book dedicates the moments of my life that recall fifteen of my memorable life events to define my life and my fashion choices.

Acknowledgements

This novel is credited to my mother Rukhsana, my fashion class instructor Mr. Mackenzie and my fashion designer cousin Huma Javed. Thank you for all your encouragement and hard work for me to continue to pursue my goals.

My H.S Graduation Day on June 2015

1



It was a sunny morning day, I was very stressed and nervous at the same time. It was my mother and my three sisters who were planning on going to my graduation. I had my dress and my jewelry ready for the morning so I do not forget anything behind. My dad ate his breakfast but we, unfortunately, could not eat because we were all fasting. It was the holy month of *Ramadan*. Then we went to get ready because my dad was going to drop us off and he did not want to get late for work. We all were in a rush because we did not want to get late for the event and also get our dad angry. We did not want to repeat the same mistake that we did for my little sister's graduation, forget the tickets at home.

I first went straight to the bathroom to freshen up, my sister quickly straightened my hair and left them loose. Then I wore a white and black A-line mini dress ending with an umbrella skirt at the end. The dress has a zipper that opens and closes the dress. The dress is designed with some prints of *Rome* and bridges on it. I also wore black leggings with a pink scarf. To top that I wore my navy blue graduation gown and cap. To match that I wore white heels with beads on them. I kept my jewelry simple and wore small earrings and two rings. I wanted full coverage of makeup but simple so my sister did my makeup using *Revlon* nude lipstick, lipgloss, *NARS* bronzer, *Urban Decay* highlighter, *NARS* Foundation, *Tarte* concealer, *Revlon* mascara, *NARS* blush, *Revlon* primer, and *NYX Professional Makeup* eyeliner. I used my mom's favorite perfume, *Elizabeth Taylor White Diamond* because it smells so nice.

When we reached our destination, the *Botanical Garden* in *Bronx, NY*. My dad dropped us at the entrance of the place and left us for work. Thankfully, a man came with his golf car and helped us and took us to the venue. I was twenty minutes late, my teacher was stressing out waiting for me. My favorite gym teacher honored me by walking with me for the graduation walk. I felt special and appreciated. Everyone complimented me on my dress and makeup, that kind of brought my nervousness down. After getting on the stage to get my diploma, I felt freed and independent. It was our last goodbyes to each other but we took the memories

with us. On our way home it took more than half an hour to catch a cap and we were sweating because of the hot weather. We could not even get to eat anything because of fasting. It was a crazy and memorable day for us all.

2



It was seven in the morning in the year of January, I woke up with many emotions going around in my head. I can not believe that I made it to college and I'm going to be independent now. My mom made me breakfast and packed me food too. It was my first day going very far because I have never taken a train by myself. My dad decided to take me to college and guided me to the streets and locations. Then I went to get dressed up for my first day of college in the *New York City College of Technology* located on *Jay street, Brooklyn*.

I had decided on my outfit since last night, I wore a black and white hippie type of shirt with tassels in the front,

matched it with dark blue tight jeans, and a blue scarf. I wore my blue and white color flats. I kept my jewelry simple so I wore small blue earrings, rings, a *Fossil* watch, and a cubic diamond necklace. I had my hair in two braids and kept a simple makeup using *NYX Professional Makeup* Eyeliner, *Revlon* mascara, *NARS* Foundation, and *Revlon* nude lipstick. My dad dropped me at college because I was afraid to take the train alone for the first time. While entering college, having so many questions going on in my mind about college was making me so nervous. How will I get to make friends, because I was shy and wasn't outspoken? How will I adjust to this new environment?

I was very shocked because everybody in college was so nice and friendly. Everyone here was mature and was here to take their education seriously and to be something in life. It was a good day and I made new friends and the professors were also very sweet and kind. Everyone complimented my outfit and how I did my makeup and I felt really good that day. The crazy part was that my best friend also goes to that college and she also had a class that day. We met and spoke about our first day of college and other things too. I also got to travel on the train for the first time alone with my friend and felt independent and felt the joy of my freedom.

3



It was the start of summer vacation and finally getting away from college stress. The fun part about *Pakistan* trips is attending cousin's weddings because we get to shop, visit every cousin's house, see new places, and eat the best cart food on the market street. It was a wedding environment going on in the house, people getting the errands done, decorating the house with lights and flowers, the women getting the shopping done, and the men getting the finance part done. The bride left for the salon to get ready for her big day. While we females got ready at home for the event.

I didn't have time to shower so I just washed my hair with *Garnier Fructis Sleek & Shine* shampoo and conditioner. Afterward when my hair was fully dried then I straightened it. The garment I wore was a brown and red net *sari* with gold and black embroidery on the bottom of the *sari* with a black beaded blouse with long net sleeves. I wanted to keep a simple look with the outfit so I wore black and red bangles, red and gold *jhumka* earrings, silver anklets, two attached ring, my engagement heart-shaped ring, and matched it with black strap heels. I had my hair in a low ponytail to bring all the attention to the net *sari*. I sprayed some of my mom's favorite *Elizabeth Taylor White Diamond* perfume and it had a Feminine scent.

The function of my cousins *Barat* and *Nikah* took place in *Pakistan, Lahore* because most of our relatives (grandparents, uncle, aunt, cousins) live there. I was excited to show off my net *sari* because I felt elegant and pretty in it. The hall was very big and decorative with roses and lights. When I entered the wedding hall many people could not stop complimenting me. As the bride and the groom are seated on the stages and are being pressured by the cameraman taking pictures of them with their families and relatives. One could sense the tense and uncomfortableness going on in the brides

and groom's mind. One thing that is annoying about Pakistan weddings is how people act like they have not eaten for weeks when the food is being served. I had the privilege to tigh a *ganna* (bracelet) on the bride's hands to show her appreciation and love. I felt so comfortable in the net *sari* even when I sat down on the stage while taking pictures with the couples. The special moment is when you see the bride leave the hall crying and saying bye to her parents and siblings. This always brings tears to every woman's face and reminds them of their day or the ones that are about to get married. That day was a long and very exhausting one, my makeup almost faded away because of sweat, and felt good after washing my face with cold water. I changed into my pajamas right away went straight to bed.

4



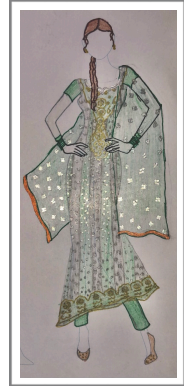
July the 22nd was a very important day for my family and me because it was my *Nikahfield* day. I was extremely nervous since last night thinking about myself going to be in a relationship that I will be tight with forever. I have never spoken or met him in my life before. The first time I saw him was on our engagement day and I was satisfied with what my parents had chosen for me and I agreed with him. I was mixed with so many emotions at the same time that I could not tell if I was excited or nervous. Everyone was busy with arrangements and decorations, while I was getting ready to go to the beauty salon to get ready. My uncle and my mom took me there and also they picked me up for the event.

When I reached the beauty salon, they took me to a separate room where nobody was allowed. My mom was getting ready outside in the lobby. Last night I took a shower and shaved my facial and body hair off with the *Veet* cream. First I wore my pink and green A-line *kameez* and *lehenga* with a tail that was filled with gold and silver embroidery and beading on it. Then I got my bridal simple makeup started, they used many popular products such as *Revlon* pink lipstick, *Revlon* bronzer, *Urban Decay* highlighter, *NARS* Foundation, *Revlon* mascara, *NARS* blush, *Revlon* primer, and *NYX Professional Makeup* eyeliner. Next was my hair, they curled my hair first and then put it in a low bun and left some curly strands in the front. They adjusted the *dupatta* afterward and then I wore my gold jewelry set, pink and green bangles, my engagement ring, two artificial flower bracelets, and silver anklets. With the dress, it came with a matching purse. My hands and feet were filled with henna that got done last night. I wore gold heels with silver gems on the heel leg.

After I got ready, we left for the event and first had to wait in the bridal room. Everyone was so excited to see me and blessed me. After all, I was the youngest one from my cousin getting married. The ceremony started, first, the priest came and sat next to me and asked those three words *Qubool Hai* (Yes) that I had to say three times but it was hard and my tears came out the moment I saw tears in my dad's eyes. Then finally, I had to sign the document and gave my life

away to my soulmate. Then the priest went to him and they did the same thing to him. We were officially married and I went inside the hall and sat next to him. He could not keep his eyes off of me. I was all dressed up and felt like a princess like how every bride should feel on her special day. When my family saw me as a bride, they started to tear and got emotional and they hugged and kissed me.

5



August is my favorite month because of my birthday and *Pakistan Independence Day*. We stayed in our mother's grandparent's house in *Lahore*. A week before the *Pakistan Independence Day*, my in-laws called my mother and told her that they have sent us a parcel from *Karachi*. I was excited to see what they had sent me, when I opened the parcel it was an outfit, jewelry sets, flats, and a *Pakistan* flag badge to wear it on *Pakistan Independence Day*. My mother had sent the clothes to get stitched by the tailor. The fun part about *Pakistan Independence Day* is when you see every house has

hung a big *Pakistan* flag on their balcony and the house all lightens up. The streets are never dark at night. The teenagers have the fireworks all set for that day.

When I woke up I went straight to the bathroom to take a shower and washed my face with an *aloe-vera* cleanser and *head-&-shoulder* shampoo and conditioner. After, shower I wore a green and white net long straight *kameez* with gold and green beadwork lace embroidery on it. A plain green long A-line long shirt. It had long white net sleeves and a tassel to tighten the back of the *kameez*. A green with white beadwork net *dupatta* and green A-line *salwar*. The jewelry I wore was green and white bangles, gold small earrings, a *Pakistan* flag badge, and my engagement ring. I had on gold pointed beaded flats. I kept my hair in a simple braid because it was extremely hot. I did not do too much to my face, just wore pink color lipstick and mascara.

It was five in the afternoon, my cousins and I went on a long drive with our uncle. The roads were busy because a lot of families were out driving and looking at the streets covered with lights and decorations. I was so uncomfortable in what I was wearing because the net fabric was giving me an itch on my body due to the humid weather. It's a good

thing I did not do too much for my makeup. People were screaming and going crazy on the roads and taking selfies while the traffic was jammed. My brother played some *Hindi* music on high volume in the car and we all took selfies of each other while being stuck to each other and sitting on each other laps. My sister sat on my lap and kept falling on me. Due to that my hairs got messy and I had to redo my braids again. To end our day we ate at *McDonald's* and got burgers, French fries, drinks, and dessert some ice cream.

6



It was a sunny day and my family and I decided to go out and enjoy the weather. We all decided to go to the *Brooklyn bridge*. My mom cooked some *pakora* (fritters), I made the fruit salad, and my sisters got the soda, water bottles, snacks, plastic plates, cups, and spoons ready. My dad went to get the car started and had the location set on the navigation. We all buckled up and were ready to go to enjoy our trip as a family. While on the road we played some hype music and looked outside the window to enjoy the view. My younger sister took control of the camera and had it all set up for the trip.

I wanted to wear something casual so I wore a white, turquoise, and pink printed lace straight long shirt with magenta jeans, and to match with the outfit I wore a grayish lace scarf. I wore pink sandals with a peacock beaded design on it. Just to keep it simple I wore a ring and small earrings. I was feeling lazy so I just kept my hair in a low bun and I did not do makeup because of how hot the weather was outside. When we reached there, we were lucky to find a parking spot.

It was so crowded on the *Brooklyn bridge* and what I dislike about it is that they should not have a bicycle lane because it feels unsafe while walking on it. I kind of felt weird because of what I was wearing. I did not feel pretty that day and regretted not doing makeup. While walking on the *Brooklyn bridge*, my mom's gold earrings fell into the ocean. She got so stressed about her earrings because her gold set got ruined now and can't wear it with the earrings anymore. We all got worried and sad because we couldn't do anything to help her find her earring. Till today, whenever we talk about that day or mention *Brooklyn bridge* she always remembers her earring and curses that day.

7



My *ruksakti* (farewell) day has come, when I get to leave my family forever and start my new life with my soulmate. I have never felt ready to leave my family that fast but it was time and I had to keep myself strong. The wedding took place in *Lahore, Pakistan* where most of my cousins lived and where I was staying in my father's brother's house. The house was filled with our guests and some people were putting up lights and decorations. It was a fun time and all the attention was on me. I ate my breakfast quickly and left for the beauty parlor to get ready.

I went to the beauty parlor with my two cousins who are my best friends. The lady took me inside the room to get

me ready. First, she did my nails and applied red nail polish. After that, I wore my red and green color *kameez* with a tail in the back. The *kameez* was filled with red and silver floral beaded embroidery. Then I got my bridal makeup done using NARS company makeup products such as foundation, concealer, blush, primer, eyeshadow, highlight, bronzer, lipstick, lip liner, and mascara. They applied the *Huda Beauty* eyelashes. Afterward, I got my hair done, they did braids and some strands of curls in the front. They attached floral clips to my braids. Then I wore my green velvet *lehenga* with red embroidery border and they placed the two *dupattas* on me, one was purple velvet and the other one was red colored filled with silver embroidery. The dress came with a matching purse. I wore my artificial jewelry set, nose ring, bangles, anklets, *ganna* bracelets, gold rings, and 5 ring layer bracelets. My hands and feet were already filled with *mehindi* (henna). I wore gold and red heels.

My cousin's husband came to pick me up and took me to the event. When my parents saw me as a bride, they started tearing up and hugged me tightly. I had my entrance to the stage with my parents and my husband took my hand and took me on the stage and we sat down. Everyone kept telling me I looked like a beautiful Korean princess, they all loved my wedding gown. That was my dream wedding dress that I wanted to wear on my wedding day and finally did. There was a photo session with every family and then we had our couple photo shoot. We all ate dinner and a milk ritual happened where the bride's sister asks the groom for money and then gives him milk to drink. At last, the farewell took place, when I got to hug all my family members and have a

tearing moment. Then I walk with my husband to the car and we leave for our house.

8



It was a very nerve-racking day for me because it was my third time taking the road test. I had to pass it in any way and not let my family down again or myself. It was kind of shameful for me because my two younger sisters passed their test for the first time and it always made me look stupid next to them. I was proud of them and glad they did not have to go through what I had to. I have been practicing with my driving teacher, my husband, and my sister for months and I wanted to get my driver's license as soon as possible. I received a text from my driving teacher saying that he is about to pick me up in a few minutes. The road test took place in *664 Havemeyer Ave.*

I did not want to do much with my dressing because I was extremely nervous. I first went to freshen up and then I just picked out anything from my closet and wore it. I wore a blue and white striped t-shirt with long sleeves, a grey sweater, blue jeans, and a blue scarf. I just put my hair in a ponytail and did not do makeup. I wore my favorite *Adidas* sneakers to be comfortable while driving. I sprayed some *Pink* perfume on myself that smelled like mist. I was shaking so much and could not stop thinking about failing again.

At last, I passed my road test and was so excited to tell my family about it. My driving teacher was so happy to hear about me finally passing. He said to me “Finally, I do not have to see you anymore with a big smile.” This all happened, because of the help of my teacher, husband, and sister trying to teach me how to drive and give me lessons every day. I think it was because of my favorite *Adidas* shoes, I felt comfortable while taking the road test. It was not the same feeling telling my family about my passing as how it feels for the first time. They were all very happy and proud of me, especially my husband. I was very thankful for those three.

9



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It was the month of love when lovebirds get to express their feelings to each other. This *Valentine's day* was special because it was my first time celebrating with my husband. I did not pay much attention to this day because I did not know if my husband knew much about it. This type of holiday is not celebrated much in *Pakistan*. I did not even mention anything to him either about this holiday. My husband had to go to work at five in the evening, he dropped me at my parent's house.

I quickly took a shower and kept my wet hair in a clip. After when it got dried I made a low bun. Then I wore a black t-shirt with the logo of the *Metropolitan College* with

black sweats to stay comfortable at my parent's house. I wore my navy green *Guess* jacket because it was freezing outside. I wore *Nike* sneakers to keep my feet warm. I did no makeup nor wore any jewelry because I was feeling lazy. I sprayed some *Islamic* free- alcohol perfume on myself.

When I was in my parent's house, I played *Ludo* with my mom and my sisters. Also tried finishing some of my college assignments and sketches. When it was time for dinner, my husband also came back from work and we all ate. When we got home, my husband surprised me with a cute bear holding a heart with writing saying "*I Love You*" and a heart candy with my favorite red roses. I had nothing imagined like this in my mind. He wanted to take pictures of me, but I was not dressed for it but he told me I looked beautiful in anything I wear. That day was so special for both of us and unimaginable too.

10

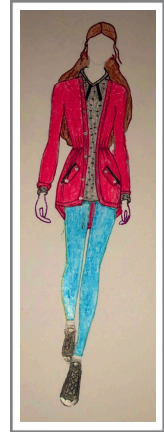


It was a lovely weekend coming ahead, so my dad decided to go on a trip with the whole family. This was my husband's first trip to *Pennsylvania*, he was excited too. That's my dad's favorite place because this was our seventh time going there. We packed our luggage accordingly for a three-day vacation trip. For every trip, we have a menu that my mom always makes and that is *chicken pulao*, *pakora* (fritters), chicken kebab, and *naan*. Let's not forget the water and drinks placed in a cooler. We all shared one plate of rice and then went to get ready.

I first took a shower and cleaned my body with a bath & body products. I used *Garnier Fructis Sleek and Shine* shampoo and conditioner for my hair. Then I blow-dried my hair and I kept them in a low bun and later kept them loose. Then I wore a long silk cotton brownish shirt with a design on it and matched it with blue jeans. It was kind of windy so I kept a grey woolen sweater. To be comfortable in the car I wore grey flats so I can take them off easily. I wore a small earring with some bracelets and rings. I did not do makeup until we reached our destination and quickly put on a *MAC* red lipstick.

When we got to our rooms in the motel, we first changed and got into our comfy clothes that we were going to sleep in. The clothes I wore for the car were getting annoying and uncomfortable so I wanted to change right away. Then we all got together and ate the food that we brought from home. It was so delicious and then my dad made us some yummy tea. After eating we watched some television and played *Ludo*. Also, took a walk around the motel and visited every corner to check what they have. Once we all got tired, we went to sleep.

11



It was a Sunday morning with beautiful weather, I was laying down with my husband on the sofa watching my favorite Pakistani dramas on the television. My husband and I were dying of boredom. My husband suddenly made a plan about going out to *Manhattan* taking a train. He did not know much about *Manhattan*, so I decided that we should go to *Grand Central Park*. I quickly packed us some snacks, drinks, and fruit salad. We both got up and went to get ready.

I first went to the bathroom to freshen up and brushed my teeth. Then I went to get dressed and I wore light blue

jeans with a white and grey blackish striped hoodie with a label on it saying *Ocean City* and for safety, I wore a red *Tommy Hilfiger* raincoat. To be comfortable while walking in *Grand Central Park* I wore my favorite *Nike* sneakers. I kept my makeup simple and just used *NYX Professional Makeup* Eyeliner, *Revlon* mascara, and a *Revlon* red lip gloss. I did not do much with the jewelry and I just wore earrings. I kept my hair in a high ponytail so my pictures could come out nice. When we were sitting on the train we spoke about us, the place, and what we will eat. When we reached our destination, we took so many selfies of each other and the place.

We walked around the whole park holding hands and talking about our future. The food I brought from home, we ate our food while looking at people walking and riding on the horse carriage. The crazy thing was that this was my second visit to *Grand Central Park*, the first was when I was like 6 years old and now with my husband. It was nice weather and a cute date trip with him. He kept complimenting me and kept taking a lot of pictures of me. I also liked how our pictures came out and how shiny and healthy my hair looked. Then later we walked by the malls of *Manhattan* and did some window shopping and ate some gyro and fries. Finally, we took the train back home with my favorite drink, Caramel Frappe, and fries from *McDonald's*.

12



The day has finally arrived for my husband and I celebrating our first anniversary happily together and hopefully many more in the future. I sketched our *Nikah* day outfits as a gift for him and I was excited to see his reaction. He woke me up with my favorite roses and my *McDonald's* frappe drink. Then I went to the bathroom and washed my face with *aloe-vera* face wash and brushed my teeth with *Colgate* toothpaste. I made some yummy breakfast for us and then gave each other our gifts. My family called me and told

me to be ready before five in the afternoon. His family video called us from *Pakistan* and wished us too.

I selected his favorite outfit to wear, it was a fully black A-line *salwar* and the A-line long *kameez* had gold beadwork embroidery on it. It has long plain black bell sleeves and a red netted with gold beaded *dupatta*. To match with the clothes I wore red, black, gold bangles, gold jewelry set, gold rings, and gold rainbow anklets that my mom gave me. My sister did full coverage makeup on me and she used *Revlon* red lipstick, bronzer, *Urban Decay* highlighter, *NARS* Foundation, *Revlon* mascara, blush, primer, and *NYX Professional Makeup* eyeliner. I smelled like flowers after using *Victoria's Secret Island Sun* perfume. I wore black pumps and kept my hair open and clipped it.

My family picked us up and took us to my favorite restaurant called the *Afghan House* located at *Hicksville*. I felt sophisticated and classy with the outfit I wore and the makeup I did. It was a great night because we all connected to celebrate this special day with others. We ate some delicious food and then my sisters asked the waiter to bring the cake. My husband and I were surprised and we blew the candles and made a wish of being with each other forever.

After cutting the cake we fed each other and then our parents. My husband put frosting on my nose without me noticing it and it pissed me out because my makeup got ruined. My parents got me my first air fryer as a present and I was very excited to use it. I told my sisters to take pictures or record videos of us to send to my husband's family so they could also be a part of it. When we reached home, my husband wanted to take some selfies with me as a couple to keep it safe in our phones to always look back at them. I was afraid that my pictures of me will not come out nice because I had to wash my face cause of the frosting. My husband complimented saying “you look beautiful naturally and you don’t need makeup to prove that.” That day was very memorable for my husband and me.

13



It was the day of my birthday but the day became more special because it was my first birthday after marriage to my husband. I had planned my birthday party with my loved ones, so I had given them an invitation two days beforehand. The second I woke up at midnight, I went straight to the kitchen to cook. The first thing I did was I made green chili *chutney*, marinated the chicken legs, then mixed the gram flour for *pakora*, and lastly made the salad. After that, I decorated the house and wrote down some games that we were going to play. Then I started cooking

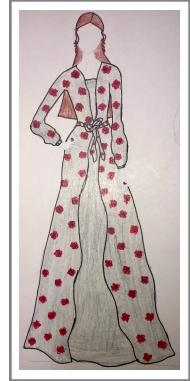
chicken *pulao* rice, put the chicken legs in the oven, and while I was making chicken *pulao* rice I also fried *pakora* (*Pakistani* vegetable fritters) on a separate hot oil deep frying. The house was filled with the aroma of the food.

After cooking, I went to the bathroom to freshen up and washed my face with *aloe-vera* face wash and curled my hair, and then sprayed *Revlon* afterward to avoid damage to my hair. I went to get dressed and I wore a navy blue nylon *palazzo salwar* and an A-line *Kurti kameez* with yellow and baby blue floral threadwork embroidery. It has yellow tassels on bell sleeves ends and on a *kameez* bottom too. Three gold buttons on the *kameez*. To match with, I wore a yellow *dupatta* with yellow tassels and had home blue net sandals with floral beadwork on. I kept simple jewelry such as my gold bangles given by my in-laws, gold rings, small hoop earring, silver anklet, and a gold chain necklace with a mosque design in it. I wore my favorite *Revlon* red lipstick that tastes like red cherry and *Revlon* mascara to make my eyelashes look long. While hosting the party, I tied my hair in a low messy bun.

When my family arrived at my house, we talked, laughed, enjoyed, played *Ludo*, and had a great time with

each other. The best part was that I was comfortable with what I was wearing and was able to do anything. My family brought my birthday cake and presents. My sisters helped me set the food on the table and I was very glad that my family loved the food I cooked. After eating dinner my sister brought the ice cream pizza cake with candles. I blew the candles and made my wish and then fed everyone a bite of the cake. I'm glad that I did not do full coverage makeup because who knew if my sisters would have put frosting on my face. It was time for presents and my family got me a white and grayish scarf, two sets of *Swarovski Zirconia* band rings, and gave me a hundred dollar bill. My husband got me an *iPhone* case and a sketchbook that I wanted for a while but did not get for myself. The thought behind the gifts is what always matters. Before going to bed, I let out my hair and took all the hair clips out, and made braids. I slept in what I was wearing because of how comfy I was in them.

14



It was my husband's first birthday without his family. My family and I wanted to surprise him with a birthday party. He was stuck at homework, we were busy decorating for the surprise. My mom and I already bought his present two days before his birthday. My dad and my sisters went to get the ice cream cake and pizza. My mom made food such as chicken pulao and sweet kheer. When we got everything ready, we went to get ready too.

I was wearing a long black floral print flowy dress with plain black flats and black leggings. I kept my jewelry simple such as a floral print beaded earring and some

artificial gold rings. I straightened my hair and kept it loose. I just used a *Revlon Red* lipstick, *Revlon Mascara*, and *MAC* eyeliner. I used some *Victoria Secret Bombshell* perfume to smell good.

When it was 9:55 pm, we turned off the house lights and fired the candles. My baby sister had the camera ready to record the reaction of my husband. When he entered the house, we yelled “*Happy Birthday Ali*” and he was so shocked. He saw me after the lights turned back on, he was staring at me for a while and then said you look so beautiful. He has barely seen me in dresses so that was the reason I wore it. We together cut the cake and feed it to everyone. Then it was time for gifts, I got him the *Calvin Klein* clone that he wanted at that moment. We all ate dinner and went back home after the party ended.

15



Eid ul Adha is one of the festivals holidays for Muslim people who patiently wait for this day to come after fasting for thirty days straight on *Ramadan*. This is the day when people get to enjoy a wonderful feast with their loved ones. A day before the holiday is a day called *Chand Raat* when fireworks are being exploded in the sky, music being played on speakers, delicious food being cooked for the morning feast, some families praying and reading the *Quran*, and kids watching movies. My third sister got the clothes ironed and then I was the one to select the jewelry for each outfit. While

my mom was in the kitchen preparing for the food such as the green chili *chutney*, marinating the chicken, mixing the gram flour for *pakora* (*Pakistani* vegetable fritters), yogurt for *chana chaat*, and wheat flour for *puri*. The men of the house were watching the news. One of the greatest struggles on *Eid* for women is to finalize a *mehindi* (henna) design that was being done by my second sister.

In the morning at seven o'clock, every male in the house gets ready for the morning prayer to start the religious day. While the men were gone to pray, we females got the food ready on the table and the smell of the aroma was everywhere. When the males come home from the mosque, we all greet each other saying "*Eid Mubarak*" and hug too. Finally, we all sit together and have a great delicious feast afterward. First, I went to take a shower and freshen up, then I wore a red *banarasi* silk palazzo *salwar and Kurti kameez with long loose sleeves* covering my bangles. The garment was filled with gold embroidery print on it but the *salwar* was plain. I did my makeup using the *NARS* foundation, *Tarte* concealer, *Urban Decay* highlighter, *Naked* eyeshadow palette, lipstick, blush, and *Revlon* mascara. There was a taste of cherry flavor because of the red dark lipstick I applied to my lips. The movement of the hands made a noise that was

coming from the golden tassel earrings and bangles. The outfit was incomplete without some gold flats. There is a saying when *henna* color comes out dark, it means our husband will be deeply in love with us. My *henna* color turned out to be very dark. I was not in the mood of doing something extra so I had my hair in a low bun with some strands of wavy curls in the front of my face. I applied some *Marc Jacobs Daisy Eau* perfume and it was roaming around the room.

As the family was making a plan about going out for dinner and then ice cream for dessert. My sisters and I were taking selfies with each other because I felt confident in what I was wearing. I felt like the most beautiful person at that moment because of how glowing my skin looked. When we reached our destination at Hicksville and ate at the best *Afghanistan* restaurant called *Afghan Kebab House*. My sister told me to let out my hair because it gave nice curls. They served some great food that was very delicious. The best part was the long drive with some romantic music playing in the car on high volume. This is one holiday that I get to wear my favorite traditional clothes and jewelry that gives me an elegant and sophisticated look. On this holiday we all get together to celebrate and have a great time.

About The Author

Kaynait Zafar was born on August 6th of 1996. She has been involved in fashion since she was in public school. Zafar was born and raised until the age of four in Pakistan, Bhera, and moved to the Bronx, NY with the luck of her dad winning the first lottery to the USA. She graduated from the High School of Archimedes Academy of math, science, & technology. Kaynait Zafar is an excellent illustrator and also wants to pursue a career in fashion design. She has been uploading her work on social media and has been gaining a lot of compliments from her followers saying to continue with your hard work and one day you will shine. She already holds an associate's degree in the business of fashion and technology from the New York City College of Technology. She is a senior who is about to earn her bachelor's degree too. One day, she wants to see herself as a Creative Director of her brand in the fashion industry.