

What I Wore in the 21st Century



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Prologue

Throughout these chapters, I explain and showcase how I transform, modify, and supply my body in the 21st century. Each chapter includes a brief of information of locations I was at each year and event and the people who taught me, relatives, and family members. However, what was most important in each chapter was how I dressed my body. I created illustrations after each chapter to make my chapters clear. I wore clothes that fit the events throughout my life. As a kid, I did not know what dress meant. I had the help from my mother, guardians, and guidance on what to wear. I enjoyed and appreciated what I wore growing up.

Foreword

Hello, my name is Cynthia and I am Marilyn Chiu's cousin. Marilyn and I grew up together most of our life. We were babysat by our grandmother, so every time her mother dropped Marilyn off at our grandmother's house I would see Marilyn dig into our grandmother's dresser. Our grandmother was not fond of Marilyn's actions because our grandmother had to put the clothes back where they belonged. However, Marilyn would continue to use our grandmother's clothes to play dress up and we would make up stories and act upon it. A Nintendo fashion game influenced Marilyn because I remember her telling me that she would want to become a fashion designer and would make my clothes.

When Marilyn and I go to the mall and she sees something that she likes but could not afford, she would keep talking about it. At this age, Marilyn's fashion sense changed as she is getting older. Marilyn prefers to dress comfortably instead of trying to follow the latest trends. Marilyn would only dress for occasions when they happen to come up. Regardless of what she decides on what she wants to do, I support her in whatever she chooses to do.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Tran

Table of Contents

Chapter #1: 2005.....	p01
Chapter #2: 2007.....	p05
Chapter #3: 2008.....	p09
Chapter #4: 2009.....	p12
Chapter #5: Swimming Pool.....	p15
Chapter #6: 2010.....	p18
Chapter #7: 2014.....	p21
Chapter #8: 2015.....	p24
Chapter #9: 2016.....	p27
Chapter #10: Community Service.....	p30
Chapter #11: The Sacrament of Confirmation.....	p33
Chapter #12: 2017.....	p36
Chapter #13: 2018.....	p39
Chapter #14: 2019.....	p42
Chapter #15: Wedding.....	p45
About the Author.....	p48

Chapter 1: 2005

P.S. 506: The School of Journalism and Technology was the first school I attended. P.S. 506 was located on 330 59 Street, Brooklyn, New York 11220. I was a student at P.S. 506 from pre-kindergarten to 5th grade. In the year of 2005, I will be graduating from pre-kindergarten with my classmates. The graduation took place at P.S. 506 in my pre-kindergarten classroom. Guardians of my classmates were invited to join the graduation. My father, Tony, attended my graduation. My father recorded me with his early digital DCR camera and my classmate's guardians did the same as parents recorded their child's first graduation. My mother, My, prepared for me the outfit I wore on my graduation day was formal, sophisticated, and appropriate for graduation.

There was no requirement as to what to wear for graduation but since my parents knew what type of event it would be that day, they knew what I should wear. The outfit I wore was a pink cotton collared shirt that has short sleeves, a button placket, side vents at the hem, and tagless label. Along with this outfit, was a navy blue skirt made out of organic cotton and the fabric was soft and stretchy knit-like a uniform. The navy blue skirt had zips on the side. The skirt somewhat gave *volume* to my hips. Also, I wore open round toe sandals that have backstrap with adjustable hook and loop. The fabric of the sandals were soft and bouncy which are comfortable to wear for the whole day. The material *color* sandals are pink. My pre-kindergarten teachers supplied us with a flower mask that was made out of paper and was in the *color* pink with an elastic string.

On the day of my pre-kindergarten graduation, I was woken up by the taps of my mother's hand, her name is My. I was woken up at 6:30 AM. I felt groggy and like a slug while

trying to get out of bed. I slowly walked into the bathroom. I turned the right handle faucet with my hand, so cold water can run. I cup my hands together under the running water to splash the cold water onto my face. My face was so cold that the cold water woke me wide awake. I squeezed out toothpaste onto my toothbrush and brushed my teeth. After finishing brushing my teeth, my breath smelt fresh and my teeth were smooth. Before getting dressed. I ate cereal before dressing up because I did not want milk to splash onto the outfit. Cereal was poured into the bowl first and then poured the milk into the same bowl that has cereal. After consuming my breakfast to be energized in the morning and the rest of the day, my mother helped dress me up. I lifted my both arms straight up towards the ceiling so that my mother could *insert* the shirt through my head and arm through the hole onto my upper body. Then, I put my hands on my mother's shoulder to balance on my two feet to get into the skirt. I lifted one leg and put it into the hole of the skirt and did the same with the other leg while my mother held the skirt. My mother zipped up the zipper from the side of the skirt. My mother did not take long to stroke the brush through my *hair* because my hairstyle was a pixie haircut. My *hair* was detangled, smooth, and was in place. My *hair* was short enough to be easily handled by my parents. Lastly, my mother *inserted* stud earrings that were probably from Clare's into my earlobe to add jewelry and sparkles. In my classroom, my pre-kindergarten teachers supply their graduating students with color-papered flower masks to wear during the graduation. I *attached* the flower mask to my face and the string around the back of my head so it would not fall off my face.

I vividly remember wearing this outfit during the event that day, not because I looked through my old photos taken by my parents but also because I enjoyed my time during that event. My father was present during the process of graduation. I got to graduate with my

classmates that I enjoyed hanging out with at that time. Throughout my pre-kindergarten school days, my teachers made my time and my classmate's time enjoyable. All I can remember during pre-kindergarten is playing, eating, napping, and sometimes crying but it was still fun.



Chapter 2: 2007

My dancer teacher who formerly taught in my elementary school, The School of Journalism and Technology, wanted students from my 1st-grade class to participate in a play, The Nutcracker. The play took place in the auditorium that is within the school. There are rows of seats for a bunch of people to watch the play. Students from other grade levels, staff, faculty, parents, and the principal are invited to be able to be seated and to watch the performance. My dance teacher patiently taught the students from my class how to act and what to do before the day of the performance. My dance teacher made some requirements as to what we need to wear during the play but she also prepared us some attachments to our worn outfit.

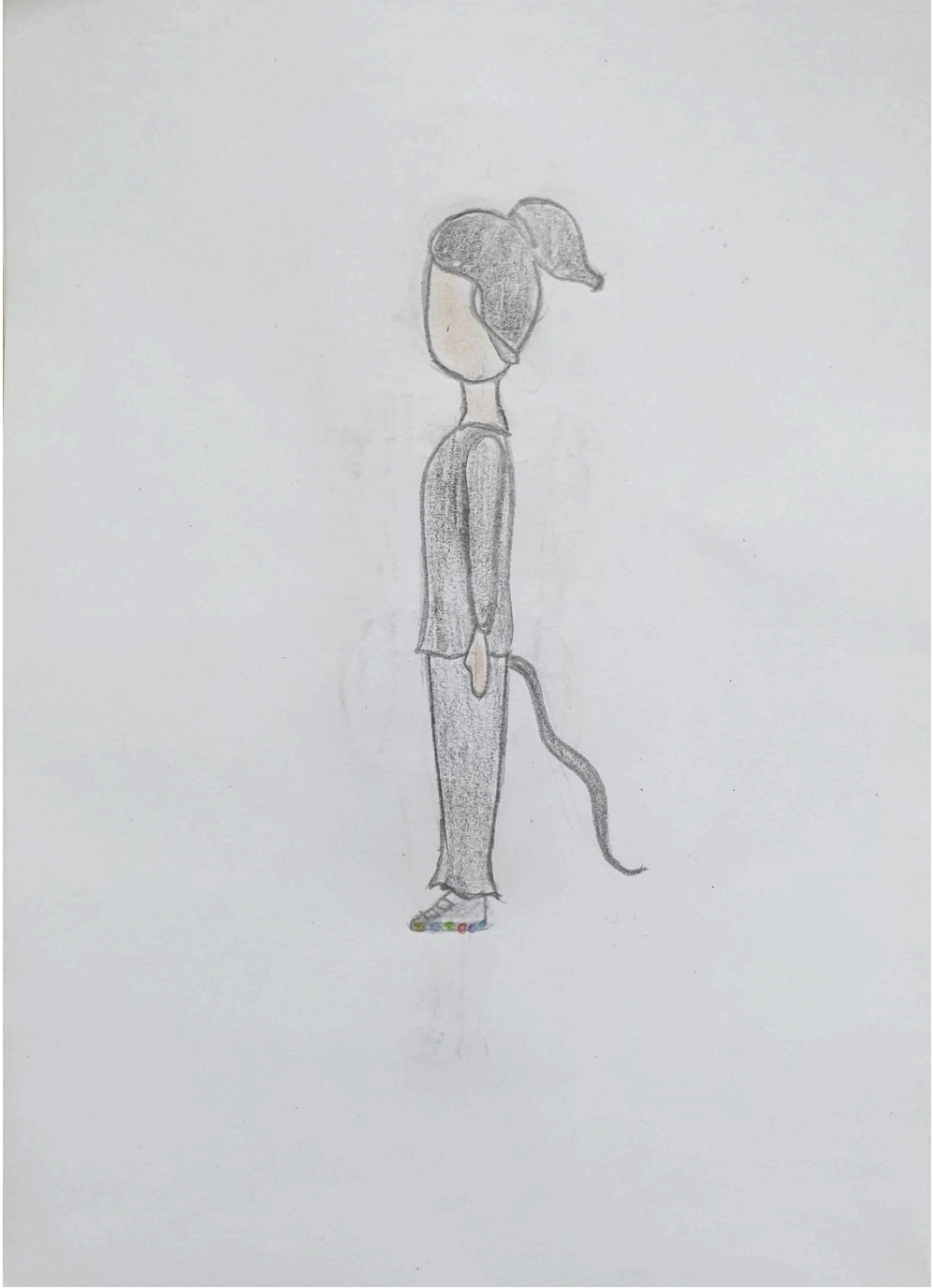
My dance teacher requires my classmates to wear black long or short sleeve shirts and black pants. My dance teacher did not specify what type of style shirts and pants to wear but only said a general category of shirts and pants. The outfit I wore was casual. I wore a black long sleeved turtleneck. The long sleeves sat right on my wrists and the height of the turtle neck was not long nor was the turtleneck tight against my neck. I wore a black high-waisted fleece flared yoga pants. The high-waisted pants that covered my belly button. The fit was straight and flared towards the bottoms of my ankles. I wore sketchers shoes that were pink and gray. The shoes had lights once you stomp your feet on the floor and they also had velcro straps on top of the shoe. My dance teacher provided a long skinny fabric to be an addition to our outfit for the play. That fabric was soft and textured, the texture felt like a velvet fabric.

In the Nutcracker play, some students played as the Mouse King, Clara, and the rest of the students played as mice. I was chosen to play as one of the mice. The day before the play, I remember vividly practicing with my classmates where to stand and what to do during the

performance. I had to run in a circle around another student 2 times. Although my classmates and I did not practice for too long, we still sweat and huff and puff for oxygen. The practice of the play felt like an exercise session, working out the *muscles* in our body. After resting, our dance teacher told me to come with her. My dance teacher told me to turn my back towards her face and I followed her instructions. Before I turned my back towards my dance teacher, I watched her *insert* the safety pin into a long soft, I then turned around. I felt my teacher's hands grab the top of my pants and *inserted* the safety pin with the long fabric and locked the safety pin. The fabric and safety pin *attached* to the back of my pants. My dance teacher wanted to test out whether her plan of *attachment* works for the performance and the safety pin lasted long enough. The next day was the day of the performance. For breakfast, my father ordered McDonalds pancakes and had the food set on the table before I woke up. The lingering smell of pancakes roams through the apartment unit woke me up. After eating pancakes gave me energy and happiness because I like pancakes, my mother helped me by *applying* my outfit for the play. My mother scrunched the long sleeve turtleneck hole to loop my head through the turtle neck. My arms went through the long sleeves and there appeared my hands. I lean on the bed for balance to wear my pants without the help of my mother. I *inserted* each of my feet to the correct hole of the pants and pulled my pants up. The high waisted yoga pants covered my belly button and cinched my tummy a little bit to keep my belly in place but also my pants would not slip off my legs. My mother stroked my *hair* using a comb to detangle any knots from my bed *hair*. My mother stoked and gathered all my *hair* to the top of my head and tied my *hair* with a *hair* tie to create a ponytail. The ponytail hairstyle gets my *hair* out of the way of my face. Then I inserted white socks onto my feet in order to wear my sketchers shoes. I *detached* and *stretched* the

velcro to give space to *insert* my feet. I used the tap or handle at the back heel of the shoe to help *slide* into my shoe and then *pull* the velcro to slightly tighten my shoe. The velcro took less time compared to laced shoes and around 1st grade, I did not know how to tie my shoelaces.

My dance teacher who formerly worked and taught my class was one of my favorite teachers. The auditorium was where my dance teacher taught my classmates and I. She made my classmates and I have fun. The subject did not feel like a studious task where I needed to do research. The course helped my classmates and I relax and relieve stress from other subjects that were taught during the day.



Chapter 3: 2008

October 31, 2008, is the day when people celebrate and a day in remembrance of the dead. My father, my mother, and I do not practice or celebrate Halloween. My mother, My, and I visited my aunt, Hanh, at her house located on 328 60th ST, Brooklyn, New York 11220, and my other aunt, Huong, was present in the house. My aunt, Huong, gifted me a Halloween costume. Although I did not celebrate Halloween, I still wore the costume my aunt, Huong, gifted me.

The gift my aunt, Huong, gifted me on Halloween was a Cinderella costume. The dress type was bubble/bubble. Fabrics used to make the costume were satin and mesh. The *color* of the costume was blue and white. The dress had zippers on the back of the dress. The dress had meshed puffed sleeves, giving *fullness* and *volume* to the top and arms/biceps. The neckline was made out of satin and the neckline type was square. The square neckline had an *attached* small plastic silver frame of Cinderella. The *attached* skirt to the top was structured as a bubble bottom that gave *volume* to the hip and thighs. The length of the skirt bottoms was just above the knees. I wore classic blue cotton slippers slides.

My mother picked me up from school and we went across the street to go into my aunt, Hanh's house. My aunt Hanh's house was across the street from my elementary school. Before I enter my aunt's house, I need to take my shoes off and *insert* them into my aunt's spare slipper, so that the dirt and grime from my outdoor shoes do not dirty the house floors. While my mother assisted my aunt Hanh in the kitchen, my other aunt, Huong, handed me a gift that was a Cinderella costume. I undressed by taking my clothes off to try the costume. My aunt, Huong, opened the Cinderella costume packaging, so I can try the costume and see if the costume fits me. My aunt unzipped the zipper to *expand* the hole, so my head can easily go through the hole. I

lifted both of my arms up to the ceiling and my aunt *inserted* the costume and zipped up the zipper, so the costume did not slip off my body. I still wore the slippers that my aunt, Hanh, let me borrow since I was not going trick or treating.

The gift my aunt, Huong, gifted me was the first and last costume I ever had in 21 years. Even though I don't celebrate Halloween, I appreciate my aunt's generosity because the costume was the only costume I had in my life. My mother took a picture of me for memories, so that I can look back at what I wore and looked like back in the day. When I wore the dress I felt pretty and a princess. Also, Cinderella was one of my favorite Disney princesses.



Chapter 4: 2009

August is in the summer season when it is so humid. August 2, 2001 was the day I was born. August 2, 2009 was my birthday and it was celebrated in the apartment building address I lived in is located on 376 58th Street Apt 3F Brooklyn, New York. I celebrated my birthday with my father, Tony, my older brother, Anthony, and my younger brother, Kevin. My mother, My, was not able to celebrate my birthday with me due to working late at night. However, my mother set an outfit for me to wear during my birthday celebration with the rest of the family.

My birthday celebration dress consisted of a bright color that fit the warm summer weather. The *color* of the dress was yellow. The fabric of the dress was made out of cotton and the *texture* of the fabric is smooth. The neckline *shape* of the dress was square. The length of the dress is knee length. The silhouette of the dress is A-line. Since the dress fabric is straight and the *shape* of the dress is rectangular, the dress does not give *volume* to my hips. The *proportions* of the dress are asymmetrical because of the high waist top and elongated bottom skirt. Since my birthday celebration took place in my apartment unit, I wore slippers that are made of natural rubber from plants. The *color* of the slippers are black and have a strap *inserted* into the rubber slippers, so that my slipper would not fall off my feet.

Before I celebrated my birthday, I went to take a shower. I washed my *hair* by applying shampoo to my scalp and rubbing my palms to lather the shampoo. The shampoo helps remove sweat, excess oils, buildup, and germs. Then I use the running water from the showerhead to remove the shampoo from my head. The next step was to wash my body. I rubbed the bar soap onto my *skin* to remove sweat and germs. I then removed the soap off my body by using the running showerhead. I used a towel to absorb the water off my *skin*, so that my *skin* can be dry to

wear my dress. I used a blow dryer to dry my hair quickly by using the highest setting. Once my *hair* and *skin* became dry, I scrunched the dress to *insert* my head and my arm into the neck and sleeve hole. I brushed my tangled *hair* to detangle and straighten my *hair*. I then hung out with my family to celebrate my birthday. By consuming the cake slice I felt sugar high and satisfied.

I remember this specific birthday because of the bright yellow dress I wore the day of my birthday. I was able to enjoy the cake with my father and brothers. My mother was not present during the celebration but my mother came home before midnight. My mother still contributed in a way where she bought and chose the dress for my birthday. My father and mother are hardworking guardians and I appreciate what they have done for me.



Chapter 5: Swimming Pool

Before entering 3rd grade of elementary school at The School of Journalism and Technology, I was on my summer break. During my summer break, I went on a vacation with my family and cousins to the City of Ontario, Canada. In the hotel complex, Four Points by Sheraton Niagara Falls Fallsview located on 6455 Fallsview Blvd, Niagara Falls, ON L2G 3V9, Canada, that my family and cousins were staying at had a swimming pool and a jacuzzi. Around the age of 8-9 years old and hearing that there would be a pool in the hotel building made me excited. I wore a one piece bathing suit in order to swim in the pool.

I wore a one piece bathing suit in order to swim in the pool that was in the hotel building. The fabrics that were to be used to make the one piece were polyester and spandex. The *color* of the bathing suit was black and pink. Most of the bathing suits are *color* black and there are stripe lines of the *color* pink from the shoulder to the end of the shorts. The bathing suit had a zipper *inserted* for back closure. The leg length were surfer shorts and the sleeves were short sleeves. The neckline type was a halter. The goggles I wore were in the *color* pink. The goggles' frames are made of plastic and the lenses are made out of glass.

Before going into the swimming pool I brushed my hair with a comb to detangle the knots in my *hair*. I used a hair tie to tie my *hair* up onto a ponytail. Having my *hair* tied up keeps the *hair* in one place so that my *hair* would not be in my face while swimming. I unzipped the one piece bathing suit to expand the hole, so I can *insert* my body. I *inserted* my legs through the leg holes and *inserted* my arms into the armhole. The bathing suit was tight to my body but the suit helped reduce friction and *muscular* vibration while swimming in the pool. Loose fabrics do

not make swimming easier. I *inserted* my head through the goggles *to fit snug around my eyes*. The goggles help protect my eyes from the chlorinated water from the pool. The goggles also prevent and reduce irritation and redness to the eyes.

This vacation was the first and last vacation I ever had in 21 years. I had a lot of fun during this trip with my family and cousins. I never swam before this trip, and although the first attempt in swimming was not the charm, I was still satisfied being around the people who I call family. The one-piece bathing suit was not colorful but the suit allowed me to swim in the swimming pool. If I did not pack the bathing suit, I would not be allowed to swim in the pool.



Chapter 6: 2010

My father, Tony, worked as an Appliance Repair Service Technician at CSC ServiceWorks. My father's workplace is located on 35 Pinelawn Rd Suite 120, Melville, NY 11747. An executive from CSC ServiceWorks invited employees' families to join a party. My father gladly took the opportunity and drove my family to the party. My father took the opportunity because he can relax from work and enjoy a day off from work with his family. I did not have a sense of style but I came up with an outfit to wear for the party.

The outfit I came up with to wear for the party was quite interesting. My outfit was layered, for example, I wore a long sleeve cotton shirt as an inner piece. The shirt is in the *color* white. The shirt has a turtleneck. I wore a mini dress over the long sleeved shirt. The *color* of the dress was burgundy. The neckline has a square neck. The materials that were used to make the mini dress were viscose. The dress had spaghetti shoulder straps where you can tie the straps into a bow. The silhouette of the dress is a sundress. I wore leggings under the mini dress. The materials used to make the leggings were Lycra, Spandex, and Elastane. The *color* of the leggings are brown. The leggings were high waisted and the length of the leggings ended above my ankles. The *texture* of the leggings were smooth. The socks I wore were in the *color* white and are made out of polyester. I wore Nike running shoes which were in the *color* black and white.. The running shoes had black laces.

Before my father drove my family and I to the party I had to dress up. I scrunched the long sleeve turtle and expanded the turtleneck area a little but to be able to *insert* my head. I *inserted my arms* into the armhole. I inserted my legs into the leg holes to be able to wear the leggings. Then I loop my head and arms into the area where the arms and head are supposed to

be. I tied the spaghetti straps into a bow to accentuate my shoulders even though my shoulders and arms are covered by the long sleeve shirt. I made sure to tighten the spaghetti straps, so that it would not fall off my shoulders. I *clipped* my hair with a butterfly clip to the side of my head, so that the *hair* would not go onto my face and the *hair* would not absorb the oils from the *skin* of my face. If the oils were absorbed into the *hair*, my *hair* can get greasy faster. I inserted my feet into the socks to keep my feet protected, reduce friction, prevent blisters, and calluses from the shoe. Then, I *inserted* my feet into the shoes. I tighten the shoe laces, so that once I walk the shoe would not detach itself from my feet. The shoe protects my feet from injuries and germs from the outside floors.

I remember this outfit because the idea of it was unusual. However, I understand that I was 9 years old at the time and would not know what I was doing. This event was the first and last time I visited my father's workplace. Although, my attention was on the foods and different activities such as making pins, basketball machine, foosball, and bouncing house. However, I got to enjoy these activities with my family.



Chapter 7: 2014

My cousin, Johnny, got engaged to his fiancée, Marianna. Johnny invited my family to an engagement party. The engagement party took place at a venue called, Mamma Vittoria Catering located on 160 Franklin Ave, Nutley, NJ 07110. The venue had many tables and chairs for Johnny's friends and family to eat and drink. The venue also had a dance floor with a DJ playing music in the middle surrounded by tables and chairs where people can dance after eating and drinking. I did not know what to wear for the engagement party because I had never been to an engagement party before. My mother, My, passed down her dress to me to wear for the engagement party.

The dress I wore to the engagement party was in the *color* black. The silhouette of the dress is A-Line. The A-line dress was made out of cotton, silk, and mesh fabrics. The length of the dress was midi. The neckline is a scoop design. The dress had pre-shaped short sleeves and was made out of mesh fabric. The dress had a zipper *inserted* for back closure and was in the *color* black to camouflage with the dress. The type of shoe I wore along with the dress was a low chunk low heel. The pair of heels had one strap around the ankle and an open toe strap.

My mother, My, reshaped my nails with a nail file to change my nail shape into an almond. My mother also filled the nail plate, so that the nail base coat can *adhere* to the nail plate. The clear base coat prevents discoloration of the natural nail. My mother then *applied* the nail polish that was in the *color* white. After the nail polish, my mother *applied* the top coat on top of the nail polish to prevent cracking. The *texture* of my nails was smooth. I unzipped the zipper to expand the opening of the dress to *insert* my legs, arms, and body into the pre-shaped holes of the dress. The texture of the mesh short sleeves was surprisingly soft and not scratchy to

my skin. The mesh shoulders also give *volume* to my shoulders and arm. I *inserted* my feet into the pre-shaped ankle strap of the heels and the chunky heels increased a few inches to my height.

I remember this event because this was the first engagement party I went to. I still have the dress my mother passed down to me. I also wore the dress to another occasion because I was able to fit in the dress at the time. The dress was simple yet it was appropriate to the event. The dress does not grab too much attention to one's body.



Chapter 8: 2015

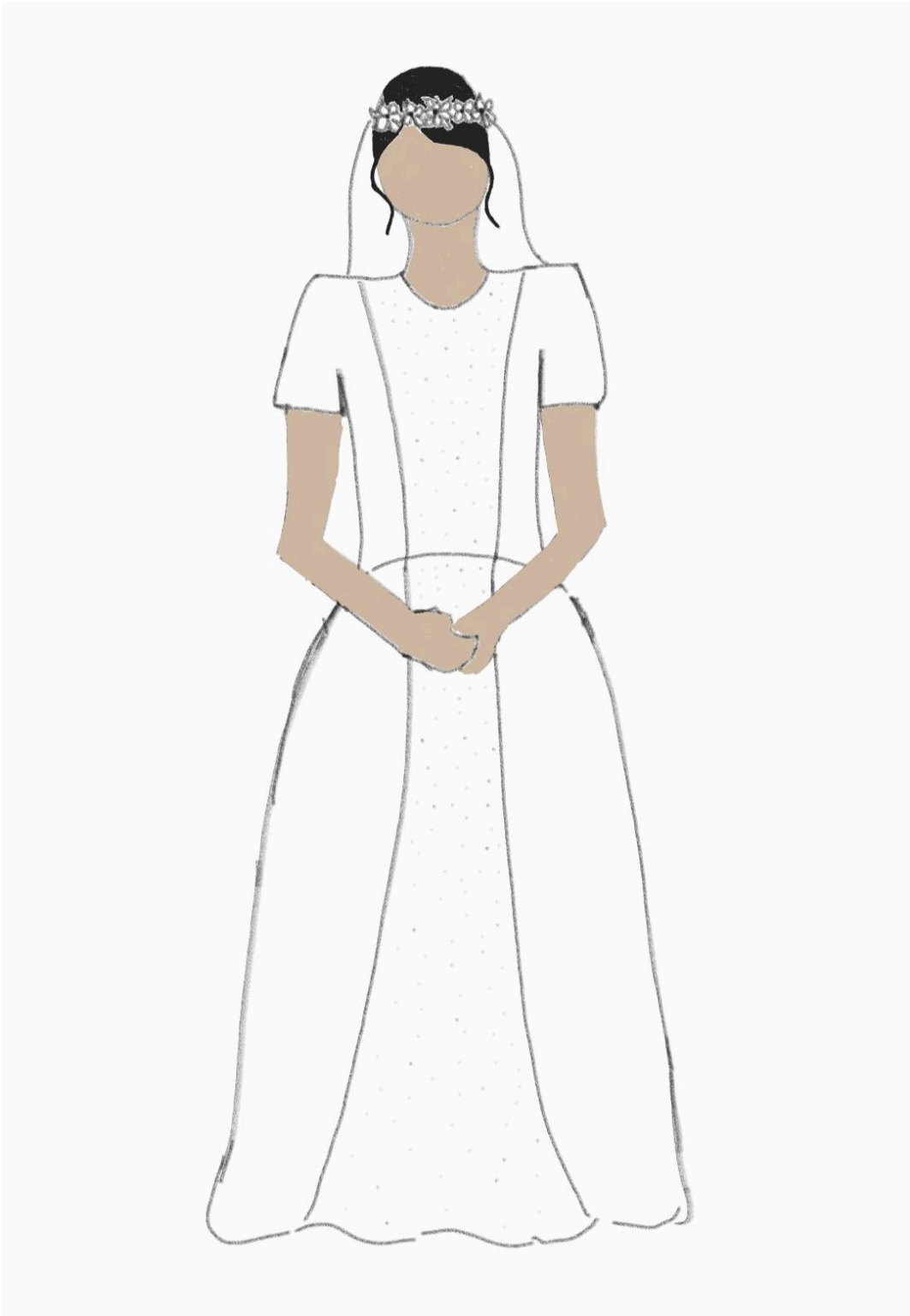
My mother's side of the family are Catholic Christians and I also followed the same religion as my mother. I finished 2 years of Sunday church service at the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help located on 526 59th St, Brooklyn, NY 11220. The cathedral has 2 floors and the ceremony took place on the second floor of the cathedral. The second floor of the cathedral has a higher ceiling and seats compared to the first floor. The administrators of the program had requirements for male and female attendees to wear during the ceremony.

The requirement for females to wear during the ceremony was a white *colored* dress that does not reveal a lot of skin. The silhouette of the dress was a ball gown. The dress I wore to the ceremony consisted of a long maxi skirt. The sleeves of the dress were short. The neckline was a crew neck. The dress was made of silk and linen thread. On some parts of the dress, the *surface design* had some white-colored sparkle sequins which changed the *texture* of the dress. The dress had a zipper *inserted* for back closure. I wore white *wreath* consisting of fake plastic flowers with a mesh fabric veil. I wore a white *colored* chunky heels with pre-shaped straps around the ankle with the dress. The chunky heels increased my height.

I ate Reese's puff cereal to get energy to move around throughout the day. The *texture* of the surface of the cereal was rough but once the cereal soaked in the milk the *texture* of the cereal became soft. The soft cereal made my teeth do less work on chewing down the food. The *scent* of the cereal gave off a peanut and chocolate smell. I unzipped the zipper to expand the opening to the dress. I *inserted* my legs into the hole and then *inserted* the arms through the arm holes. I zipped the zipper back up to ensure that the dress did not fall off of my body. The skirt of the dress gave *volume* to my hips and legs. I *attached* the wreath onto my head and I *inserted* bobby

pins into my *hair* to make sure the wreath did not fall off of my head. I *inserted* my feet into the pre-shaped ankle strap of the heels. I *applied* lotion to my *skin* to keep my *skin* soft and moisturized throughout the day.

I was 13 or 14 years old at the time but wearing this dress made me feel like I was wearing a wedding dress. I was able to experience this with my friends at the time because we were in the same class. My aunt, Hanh, was present with me during the ceremony. I still go to the church in which the ceremony took place. There were minor changes to the church interior but I still remembered the event.



Chapter 9: 2016

At John J. Pershing Intermediate School 220 located at 4812 9th Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11220, my guitar teacher taught my 8th grade classmates how to play the guitar during the year. Throughout the school year, my guitar teacher taught my classmates and I to play a guitar and practiced playing a song. At the end of the school year, my guitar teacher wanted my classmates to play the song we practiced for months for the student attendees, staff, and student's guardians. My classmates and I played the guitar at the school's auditorium. There were enough seats for attendees who attended to see the performance. There were staff and administrators from the school and some performers' parents and friends. There were requirements to wear for the performance.

The requirements on what to wear to the performance was a white *colored* shirt and black *colored* pants with appropriate shoes that goes with the outfit. The shirt I wore to the performance was made of cotton and polyester fabric. The shirt was a ruffled blouse with pre-shaped long cuffed sleeves. The shirt had *inserted* buttons in the front for closure. The neckline was a pre-shaped V-neck and was ruffled. Along with the ruffled blouse, I wore wide-leg trousers that were high-waisted. The wide-leg trousers have a stretch-back waistband and pre-shaped side pockets. The high-waisted trousers created an abnormal body *proportion* because my upper body looks smaller and my legs longer. The type of shoes I wore are *colored* black ballet flats. The black flats had an elastic band *inserted* in the rim of the flats to keep my feet tightened.

I tied my *hair* with a hair tie into a bun to get my *hair* out of my face and body when I play the guitar. I *applied* gel onto my *hair* so that the *hair adhered* onto my scalp. The gel keeps

my *hair* in place and prevents my *hair* from sticking up during the performance. The steam from the clothing iron made the ruffled blouse fabric *texture* smooth and the *surface design* unwrinkled. I unbuttoned the ruffled blouse and I *inserted* my arms through the appropriate pre-shaped arm holes. Then I button up the *inserted* buttons to prevent showing my *skin*. I *inserted* my legs through the pre-shaped leg holes. The waistband helped me pull on the pants easily and helped my pants stay in place for the rest of the day. The waistband allows most body types to fit in. I *inserted* my feet into a pair of skin socks to protect my feet. I then *inserted* my feet into the pre-shaped ballet flats.

I never played an instrument before until I went to John J. Pershing Intermediate School 220. I was picky with what I wanted to wear even though my teacher did not clarify what type of shirt or pants to wear during the performance. The outfit was not over the top that grabbed a lot of attention, it was simple with ruffled detailing, I felt professional and sophisticated when wearing the outfit. I was able to use this outfit for other occasions that came up.



Chapter 10: Community Service

In order to receive and participate in the sacrament of confirmation, I had to do about 15 hours of community service. Community service I participated in was by being an altar girl who helps the priest during mass on Sunday. I volunteered at the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help located at 526 59th St, Brooklyn, NY 11220. I volunteered on the first floor of the church where I regularly go to mass on Sundays. As an altar volunteer, I had to wear a specific garment when helping the priest. At the end of mass, the priest would sign the slip as proof that I volunteered.

I wore an altar server surplice while helping the priest. The server supplies were in the *color* white. The cassock underneath the surplice was in the *color* red. The materials used to make the surplice and cassock were cotton and polyester mixed with linen fibers. The neckline was pre-shaped in a square-shaped. The pre-shaped sleeve lengths were $\frac{3}{4}$. The length of the surplice was calf-length. The cassock length was ankle length. The surplice and cassock had zippers *inserted* for back closure. I wore black *colored* sneakers. The sneakers consisted of black laces and the materials used to make the sneakers were synthetic fibers.

I brushed my *hair* with a comb to detangle any knots from sleeping. I *inserted earrings* in the earlobe. I *wrapped* a necklace around my neck. I am supplying jewelry. First I wore the cassock by unzipping the closure from the back and I *inserted* my arms through the arms holes. I layered myself by *attaching* the surplice onto the cassock. The layering of surplice and cassock caused *volume* to my upper body. My body was not *proportioned due* to the layers which created a wide torso and wide arms. I *inserted* my feet into the socks to keep my feet warm and prevent dirt getting into my feet. I *inserted* my feet into the pre-shaped sneakers and tighten the laces

around my ankle.

I was honored to be able to volunteer to help the priest by being an altar server or acolytes. At the time, people around my age would not think or choose to volunteer for this job. I was able to meet new people while volunteering and they were welcoming. I was not alone while volunteering, my family was there to watch me which calmed me. I did not continue to volunteer after the 15 hours requirement but it was an experience.



Chapter 11: The Sacrament of Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation took place on the second floor of the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help located at 526 59th St, Brooklyn, NY 11220. There were more seating and the ceilings were high compared to the first floor of the church. I completed 2 years of involvement with the church by going to school on Sundays and doing community service. I was able to participate in this event with other attendees around my age group and those who were older and younger than me. There were requirements and it was mandatory for participants to wear a gown to the ceremony.

The garments I wore to the ceremony consisted of a gown, a blouse, and shorts. The gown was in the *color* red. The materials of the gown were made out of polyester and acetate. The gown had pre-shaped long sleeves and the skirt length was to the calves. The gown had *inserted* zippers in the front for closure. The blouses are in the *color* white. The blouse has white *inserted* buttons. The blouse has pre-shaped long sleeves and a pre-shaped V-neck. The blouses are made out of cotton fabric. The shorts are made out of denim fabric and are *colored* white. The shorts have a metal button for closure. The length of the shorts are long shorts. I wore white *colored* Nike shoes.

The mouthwash I used was to remove bacteria off my *teeth* and tongue that I could not reach with my toothbrush. The mouthwash also made my *breath* smell fresh. I stretched in the morning to warm up my *muscular/skeletal system*. I *inserted* my arms through the pre-shaped arm holes of the blouse. I button up the *inserted* buttons for closure. I then *inserted* my legs through the pre-shaped leg holes in the shorts. I *wrapped* the gown onto my body and *inserted* my arms through the pre-shaped arm hole. I *inserted* my feet into the socks to protect my feet

from dirt and germs. I then *inserted* my feet into the shoes. I tied the shoe laces to prevent myself from tripping and from the shoes falling off my feet.

I felt happy that I completed Sunday school. I was able to participate in the ceremony with my family who watched me and my friends at the time who were attendees. I like to wear simple and comfortable clothing. However, for the ceremony I did wear clothes that were mixed with formal and casual clothes underneath the gown. I did not want to overly wear clothes that attract attention because the gown would cover the clothes.



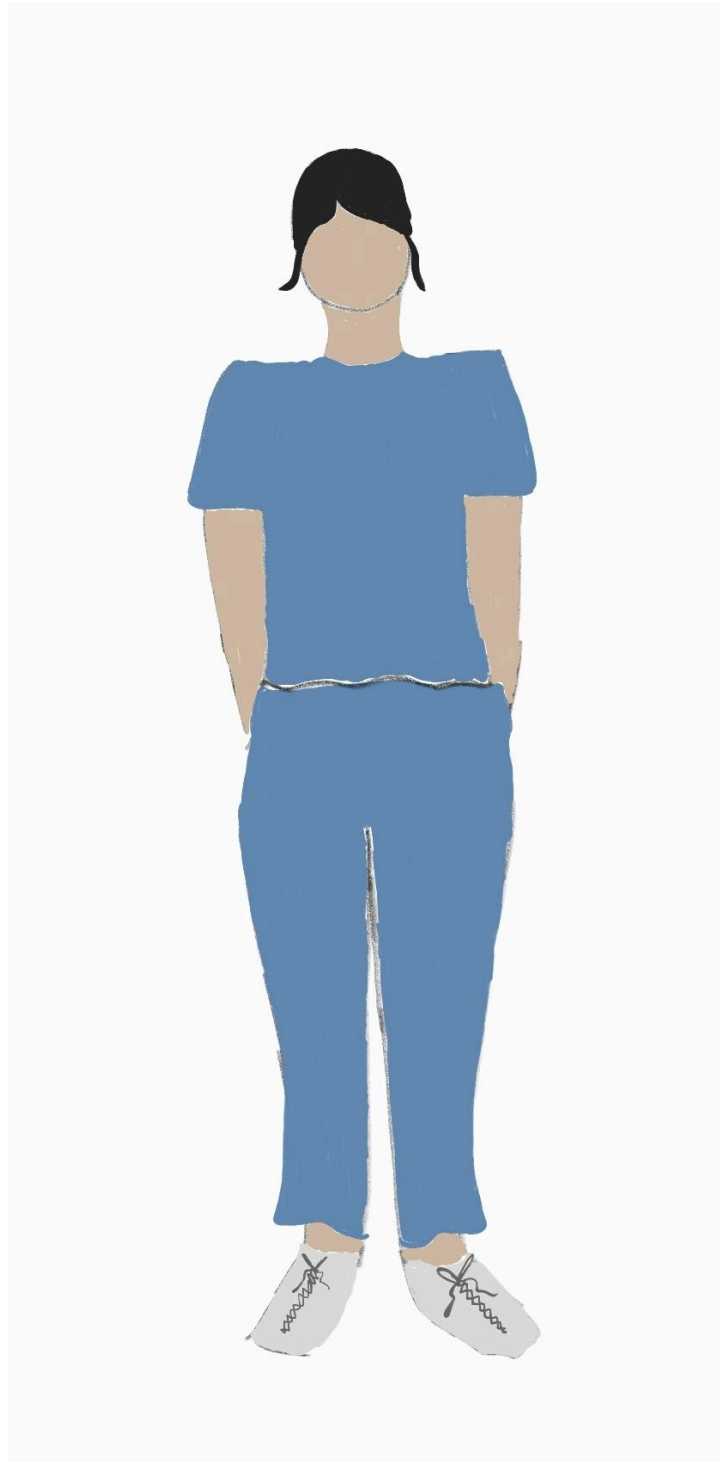
Chapter 12: 2017

I was a student at Fort Hamilton High School from 9th grade to the end of 12th grade. The school was located at 8301 Shore Rd, Brooklyn, NY 11209 mixed with 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders. Fort Hamilton High School had a lot of students and the shape of the school building and structure was almost like the letter “H.” I never had to wear a gym uniform in middle school. For my high school, it was mandatory for students to wear gym uniforms for gym class. I bought the uniform at my school store that was oddly located at the cafeteria. In my physical education class, my classmates and I had to wear a gym uniform before class started to earn credit and participation grade.

The gym clothes I wore to my gym class consisted of a shirt and jogger pants. The shirt was in the *color* blue. The shirt neckline type was a pre-shaped crew neck. The shirt has pre-shaped short sleeves. The shirt was made out of cotton fabric. The jogger pants had wide legs. The jogger pants were the same *color* as the shirt. The jogger was made out of cotton fabric. The jogger had an elasticized waistband to hold tight to the waist. I wore gray running shoes that are in the *color* gray. The materials of the shoes are made of *breathable* knit polyester.

I *clipped* my *hair* with a hairclip to remove my *hair* from my face. I *applied* deodorant to my armpit, so that when I sweat there would not be a bad *odor* lingering. I *inserted* my head into the pre-shaped neck hole and I *inserted* my arms through the pre-shaped arm holes. I *inserted* my legs through the leg holes. I *inserted* my feet into my running shoes and tightened the laces around my feet to prevent slippage. The shoes were lightweight on my feet allowing me to do activities easily in my gym class. Doing activities in my gym class allowed me to transform my *muscular/skeletal system*.

Wearing gym clothes in my first year of high school was new to me. I am glad that I get to sweat on my gym clothes instead of the outfit I wore to school. If there was no requirement to wear gym clothes to gym class then I would be sitting in class with sweaty clothes for the whole day. I would be embarrassed to be wearing sweaty clothes for the rest of the school day. The gym's clothes were comfortable and did not worry about how I looked.



Chapter 13: 2018

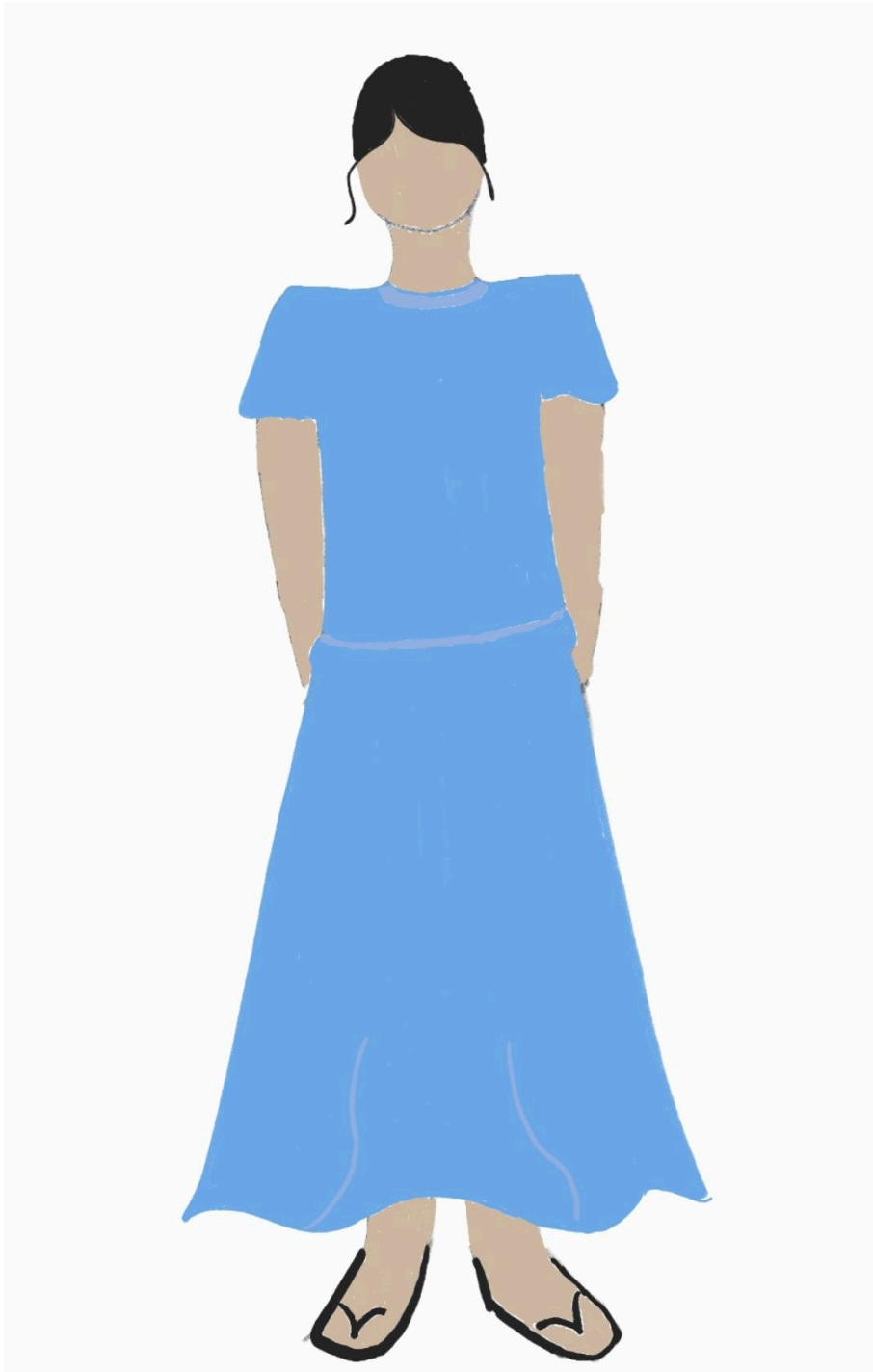
It was nice warm weather during the early summer. I went on a picnic by myself at Owl's Head Park. The park was located at Colonial Road 68th St, Shore rd, Brooklyn, NY 11220. The park had a playground for families who have children and benches who did not want to sit on the grass. I like to go out during the early morning because UV light from the sun is not as harsh in the morning. I left my apartment at 10:00 am in the morning and walked to the park to have lunch. I wore breathable and lightweight clothes to the park.

The clothes I wore to the park consisted of a shirt and a skirt. The *color* of the shirt is blue. The shirts are made out of cotton fibers. The shirt has a pre-shaped crew neck and pre-shaped short sleeves. The *color* of the skirt is also blue. The skirts are made out of cotton, polyester, and rayon fibers. The length of the skirt is midi. The skirt had an elastic waistband that fits most body types and tightened around my waist from falling off. The skirt gives *volume* to my hips. I wore sandals that are in the *color* black. The sandals are made out of rubber.

I washed my face with water and face cleanser to remove dirt and oil off my *skin* from sleeping overnight. I *applied* sunscreen onto my *skin* to prevent getting sunburned from the UV. The sunscreen *adhered* onto my *skin* very easily. I *inserted* my head through the pre-shaped neck hole. I *inserted* my arms through the pre-shaped armhole. I expanded the elastic waistband from the skirt in order to *insert* my leg through the pre-shaped hole. I *inserted* my feet into the pre-shaped sandals. I also used an UV umbrella to block the sunlight to prevent my *skin* from getting tanned or skin cancer called melanoma.

It was my first time going alone to the park and it was not a bad experience. It was really peaceful when I was alone in the park and people-watching. The garments were breathable and

fit for the summer conditions. I thought I would not wear skirts again after I hit my teenage years but I was wrong. I was 16 or 17 years old at the time and wore a midi skirt to the park.



Chapter 14: 2019

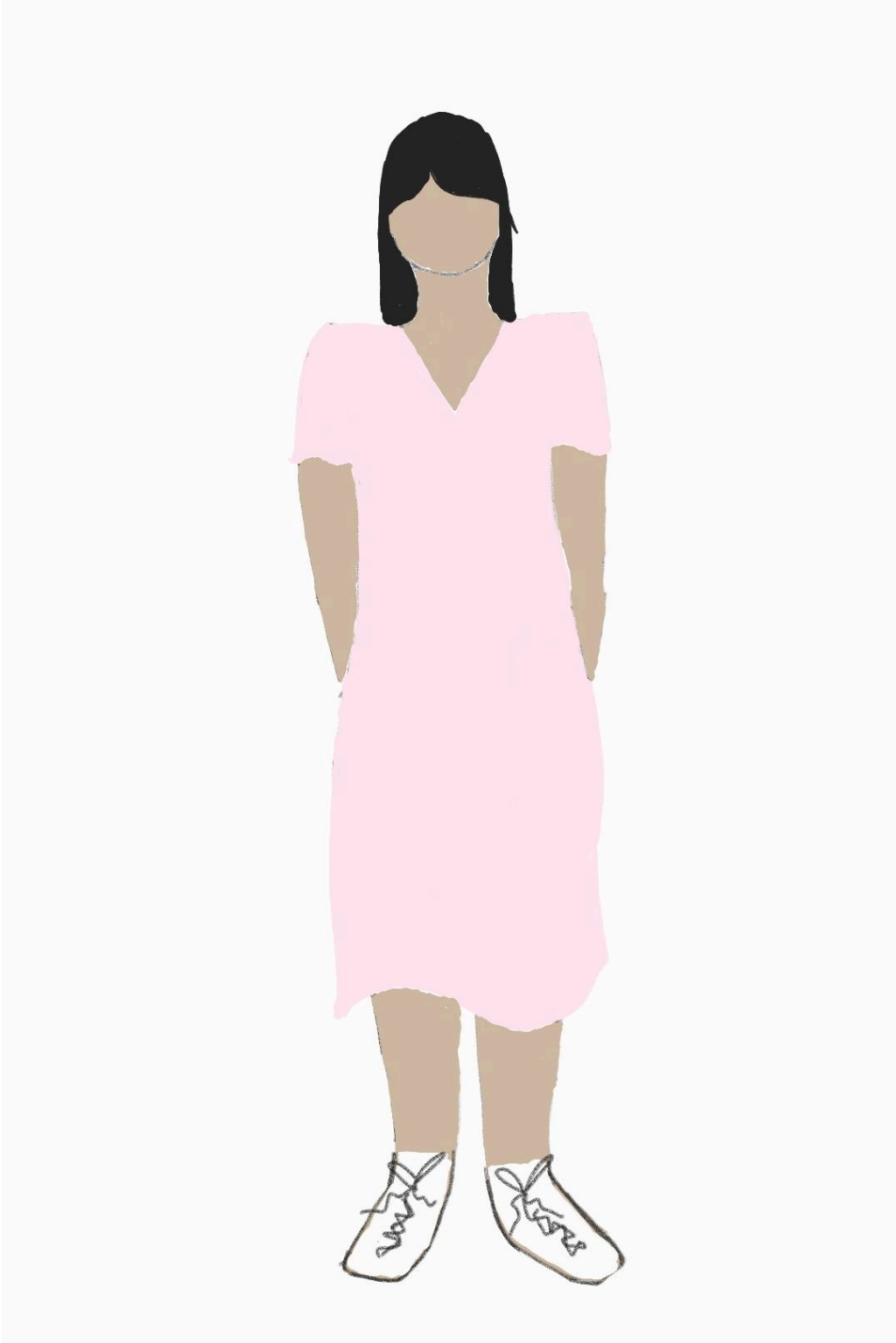
My cousin, Autumn, had a baby shower at her house located at 328 60th St, Brooklyn, New York 11220. Autumn's family, friend's and I were invited to join her at her baby shower. Attendees had to wear a blue or pink outfit if we thought the baby would be a boy or a girl. If we think the baby would be a boy then we wear blue and if we think the baby would be a girl then we wear pink. In my mind, I think the baby would be a girl.

The outfit I wore to the baby shower consisted of a pink *colored* dress. The type of dress was a tee dress. The dress had a pre-shaped V-neck line. The dress had pre-shaped short sleeves. The length of the dress was knee length. The dress was made out of cotton blend fibers. The dress did not give me *volume* but the dress did cover my stomach. I wore white *colored* shoes. The shoe had shoe laces to prevent the shoe from falling off my feet.

Before I went to the baby shower, I showered my body with Coast bar soap to remove body *odor*, germs, bacteria, and sweat. The bar soap also helps my skin smell fresh. I washed my scalp and *hair* with shampoo to remove excess oil and bacteria. I *applied* shaving cream onto my skin and I glided my razor onto my skin to remove hair. The *texture* of my skin became smooth. I blow dried my hair with a blow dryer to remove water off my *hair*. I *applied* hair protection spray to my *hair* to prevent heat damage. The hair protection spray *adhered* to my *hair*. I straightened my *hair* with a hair straightener and the heat from the straightener kept my *hair* smooth. I *inserted* my head through the neck hole. I *inserted* my arms through the armhole. I *inserted* my feet into the shoes and tied the shoelaces for closure.

This was the first baby shower I was invited to. Since this was the first baby shower, I do I do not know what I should wear. All I knew was to either wear a blue or pink outfit. The dress

was simple and comfortable to wear during the event. I was happy to know that the baby would be a girl. I did not mind whether it would be a girl or boy, as long as the baby was healthy.



Chapter 15: Wedding

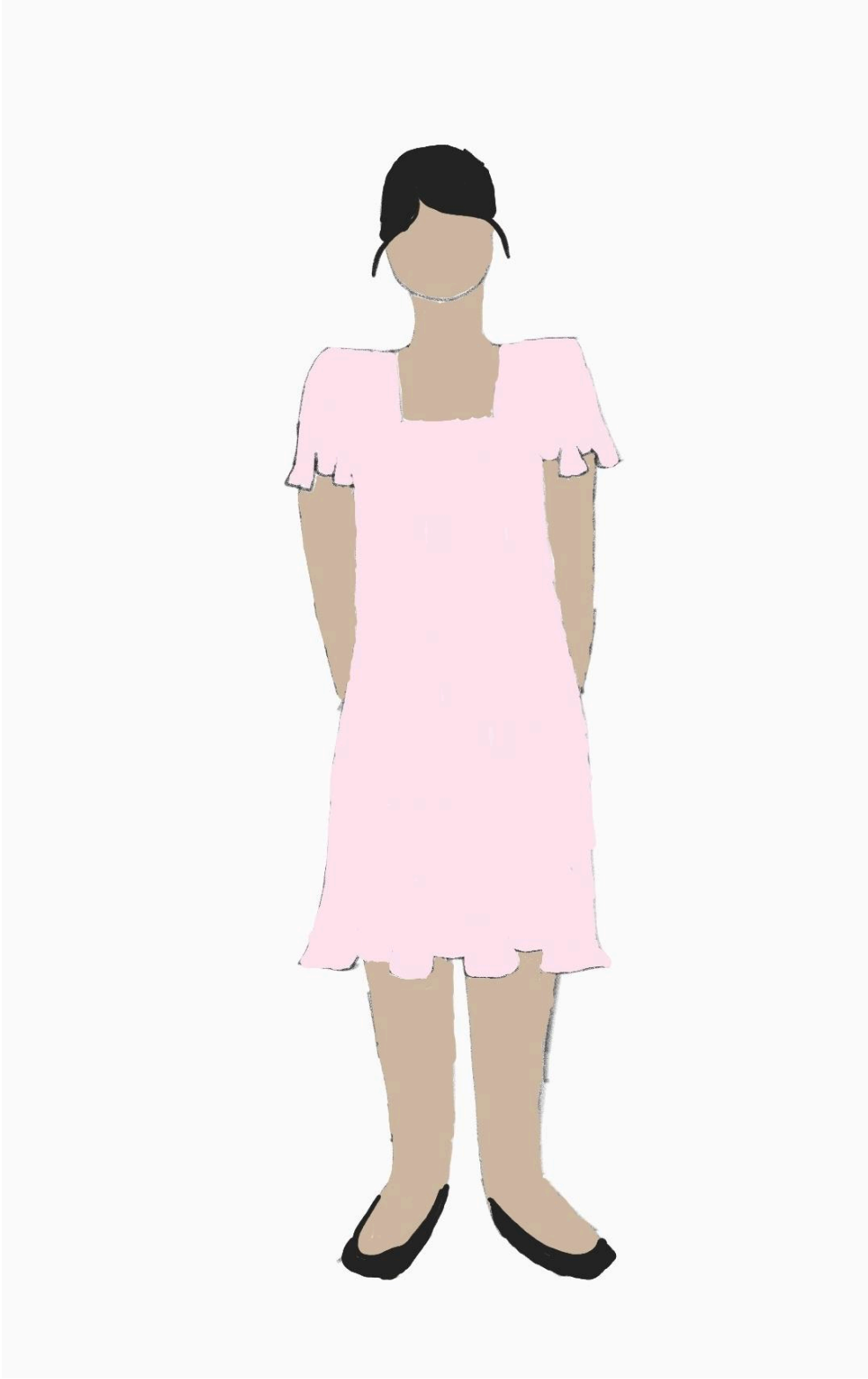
My cousin, Tommy, got married to his fiancée at St. Adalbert Roman Catholic Church. The church was located at 5229 83rd St, Queens, NY 11373. The ceilings were high and had enough sets for attendees to watch the wedding ceremony. Tommy invited his family, friends, and I. My cousin and I are not very close with each other. However, I was honored to be invited to my cousin's wedding.

The outfit I wore to the wedding consisted of an A-line dress and flats. The dress was in the *color* pink. The dress was made of cotton and polyester. The dress had pre-shaped butterfly sleeves. The neckline was a pre-shaped square. The length of the dress was above my knee. The dress had a zipper *inserted* on the back of the dress for closure. I wore *colored* black flats. The flats had a *design* which was a bow behind the heel of the flats. I wore a nude-colored skin sock to be able to wear flats.

I washed my face with a cleanser to remove oil and dirt off my *skin*. I *applied* moisturizer to my *skin* to keep my face fresh, smooth, and moisturized. I *applied* sunscreen on my *skin* to protect my skin from the UV coming from the sun. I brushed my *hair* with a comb to detangle the knots within my *hair*. After unzipping the zipper, I *wrapped* the dress onto my body and zip the zipper back up. I *inserted* my feet into the skin sock to keep any dirt off of my feet. Then I *inserted* my feet into the pre-shaped flats. When it was hot, I used a paper hand-held fan to fan myself to cool myself off.

I was not close with my cousin, Tommy, when growing up. However, he was the first to get married and I felt happy for him because he found someone that is the one. The dress I wore was formal and comfortable to wear. I was able to meet the people who my cousin hung out with

throughout his life. The church was very beautiful and I had never gone to another church besides the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help that I always attend on Sundays.



About the Author



Marilyn Chiu is 21 years old Viet-American. Marilyn Chiu was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York by her parents who immigrated from Vietnam to the United States. Marilyn had no idea what to pursue when applying for college in 2020. Marilyn chose to major in Business & Technology of Fashion when she got accepted by the New York City College of Technology. Marilyn is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Business & Technology of Fashion at New York City College of Technology as you may know it as Citytech. Citytech is located at 300 Jay St, Brooklyn, NY 11201. After Marilyn had taken courses throughout the semesters, the career in fashion marketing and management she desires to become is an assistant merchant.

Before enrolling in the course Gender, Dress, and Society, Marilyn thought of dress as only wearing clothes to express how you feel, protesting against an idea, and protecting your body. However, after Marilyn enrolled in Gender, Dress, and Society taught by Dr. Adomaitis, there is more to Dress than we can imagine. Dress is when you assemble, modify, and transform the body but also supply the body to create an appearance. To dress there is more than wearing garments on the surface of your body. For example, dying and/or cutting your hair into another color is a transformation to your look. Exercising to lose weight and gain muscle fibers is a change in volume and shape that affects the muscular system. Supplements to the body are part of Dress because you are supplying the body with accessories and garments to make an outfit for an event. Eicher & Roach-Higgins.