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Dress Who You Are

By: Michelle Wu Feng

Prologue

In life, we will meet many people and things so that we can truly grow up, but the people who accompany us to experience these things are all passers-by in our life. Clothes are also, from young to old, we will wear different styles, designs, and outfits when facing other occasions or challenges. These are unique in our experience and represent the various memories of our lives' joys and sorrows. Because every day we choose an outfit to go through our lives. Every enterprise has its meaning, and every outfit we choose every day will become every memory point in our life. When we pack our clothes, we can think of those happy, sad, tragic, and even frightening memories with these memory points. To record their existence is to document our lives.

In this book, I recorded my clothes from kindergarten to 21 and the stories between them and me. What I recorded is not all about me; it is just about my life, and it is a record of my most important moments and stages. Because of them, I have gone through challenging phases of my life, and they mean a lot to me. I hope you also enjoy my clothes and my story.

Sincerely

Michelle Wu Feng

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Forward

My name is Stephanie Chen, I have known Michelle Wu Feng for seven years, and we have been friends since the first day she immigrated to the US to study. After years of getting along, our relationship has become more intimate, and we have become good friends. At the same time, our mutual understanding is getting deeper and more comprehensive. I'm not sure if there is a thing called fate in the world, but there is fate in my relationship with her. Fate allows us to immigrate from China to the United States and still get to know each other.

I read the book she wrote carefully, and I can feel that she is a person who pays great attention to the sense of ritual, and I also feel her joys and sorrows. I feel fortunate and touched that she wrote me in her book. I have been able to appear in her books many times and have accompanied her through the crucial stages of her life. She is a design lover. She designed and made many gorgeous elegant dresses in high school. I was with her through every bit of it, and luckily, I ended up wearing her work as her model. The story and style of her clothes in the book made me feel like she was standing right in front of me. It's like going back to when we were making clothes together, she was drawing designs, and I was looking for more inspiration for her.

From the first day I met her, I thought she was a very reserved and shy girl. After getting along with her later, I realized that it was not her "true face." After a long time of getting to know her and getting along with her, I realized that she is a cheerful, straightforward, steady, enthusiastic, and helpful person. When her friends asked her for help, she wouldn't say no. Being a "crazy girl" with our group of good friends always brings us joy. Some people say that every person in their life is their passer-by, and the protagonist is only themselves. Even though I'm a passer-by, however, I still hope I can accompany her for more time.

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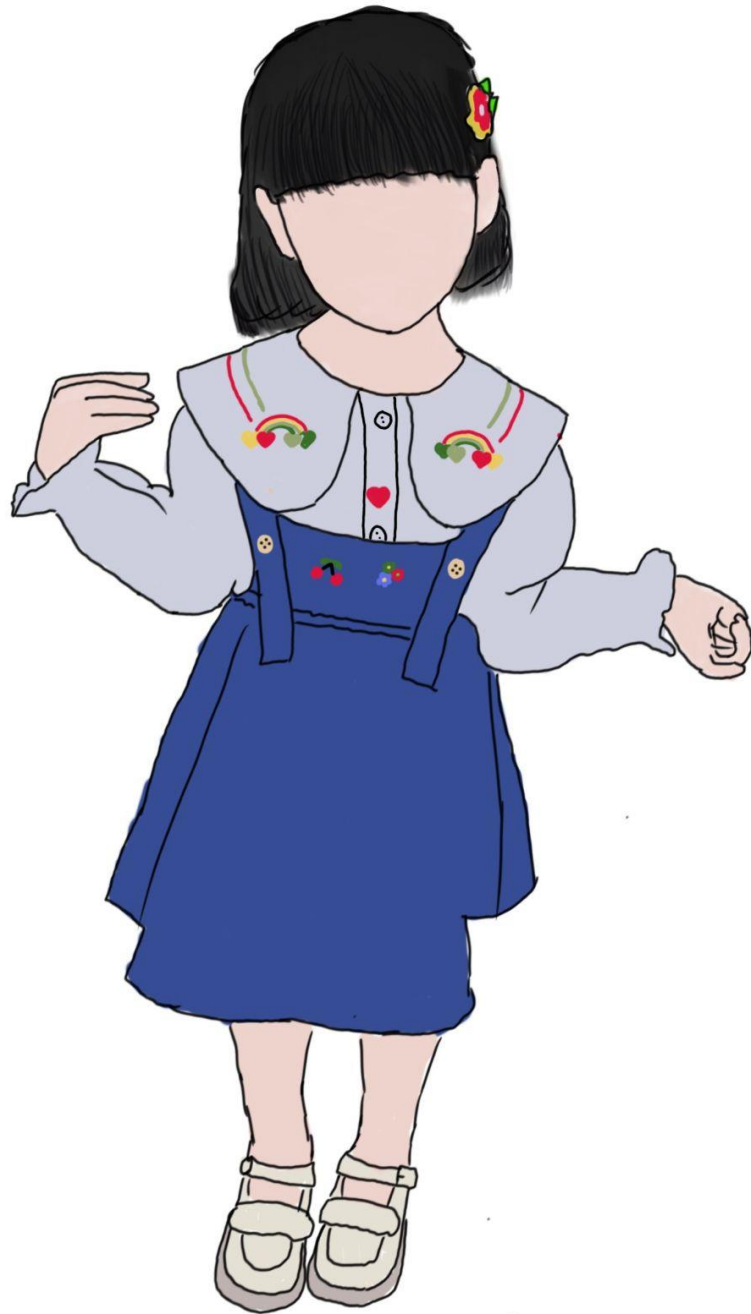
Chapter 1: New Friend!!

Everyone will face a lot of challenges in their life, and for the first time, I stepped out of my "comfort zone" and stepped out of the shelter of my parents. That was my first exposure to an unfamiliar environment explaining new friends. And this happened in a kindergarten in a small city in Guangdong, China. And put on my favorite little dress at the time.

Recalling that day, It's not the first time I've worn this outfit, but it's what I wore on my first day of kindergarten when I was four years old. This outfit is witness to the moment I face new situations alone and meet new friends. Although it was already 18 years ago, I felt panic and confusion at that time, and it is still very influential to this day. On that day, I met many good friends and future playmates (Zhang, Yuyuan, Wu, Wenjie, Chen, Qing, Chen, Xiaoyi, and so on).

That suit wasn't colorful, just a few little hearts of various colors (green, yellow, and red), cherries, and a few small flowers. That is a separate upper and lower garment. The upper body is a haze blue shirt, and the lower body is a Navy blue denim suspender skirt. Straightforward design, but it is my favorite color scheme. *My mother took me to cut my hair before school to have a refreshing image. It was a bob-style hairstyle, and a flowery headpiece was clipped on the head.*

As mentioned above, this outfit is a two-piece design. There are not too many complex layers, only two simple blues and some brighter colors to embellish. The embellishment is not printed but embroidered. So the pattern feels a little rough. While both shirts and denim can feel intimidating, this outfit is quite the opposite. It's soft and comfortable to the touch, and it's a spring-worthy outfit. Because it's not new clothes, it doesn't smell like new clothes. It's all "home smell" (the smell of flower-scented laundry detergent).



Chapter 2: Dance! Dance! Dance!

When I was six years old, two years after my first "challenge" (kindergarten), I stepped onto the stage of a dance performance. That leaves me in awe. And this dress is also the first time I have appeared in front of so many audiences with me. It was on the stage of a theater in the small city of Guangdong, China.

I still remember wearing nice stage makeup (*colorful eyeshadow, red lipstick, and pink blush*) and putting on a new dress I bought for this dance show. I was nervous and excited at the time. Fearful is the first time I have had to perform in front of more than 1,000 people. I am afraid that I will forget the dance moves because of my nervousness, which will lead to the failure of the performance. And the excitement is the first time performing in such a luxurious and formal place. It is a very different experience. Fortunately, I completed the entire performance under the public's gaze at that time.

The primary color is blue, the upper body is a gradient from left to right, and the lower body is an all-sky blue tutu skirt. There are also flowers and tiny beads (pink, sky blue, green, purple, and yellow) in various colors as an accent. Since it was a dance performance, *I also wore flower clips (yellow, blue, and purple flowers) on my head, braiding and styling my hair.*

The lower body of this skirt is made of three to five layers of yarn of different quality, layer by layer so that it has the effect of fluffing up. Although the primary color is only blue, the gradient and the embellishment of flowers and beads make this skirt more detailed and eye-catching. The embellished beads are inlaid and sewed with the flower on the dress. So it will be bumpy to the touch. And because the skirt was made of yarn, it will feel a little rough to the touch. The fabric used for the upper body is Paduasoy, which is soft to the touch. And there is no pungent smell.



Chapter 3: Fly in the Sky!!

Tourism can experience the customs and cultures of various cities and countries during the journey. At the age of 9, I also began to travel with my family (parents and brothers) and experience the culture of different cities. The 9-year-old's journey was to Beijing, the capital of China (we visited the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, and other attractions).

It was a journey that I will remember fondly. Since I was a child, I have been traveling with my family, but this is the first time I have memories of flying. Flying into the blue sky and looking down on the plane, you can see the usually invisible scenery. The clear blue sea and blue sky complement each other, and the top and bottom are a blue world. I could vaguely see a small island in the ocean, palm-size. Flying over a city, you will have a panoramic view of the scattered urban plates.

The building is like a matchbox, and the whole city is like a village. The entire world seemed to be in Alice's Wonderland. The mood is very high and feels fantastic. Since I traveled, I wore a sweater and a down jacket since it was winter. The shirt is yellow and has green fabric stitching. The down jacket is a simple seashell color, without too much embellishment, as long as it is warm enough. And the trousers are a simple pair of black trousers. *Although it was winter, the sun shone brightly when we set off, so I put on my sunglasses. I tied up my hair that was neither long nor short, and I had bangs.*

Since it is winter clothing, the most important thing is to keep warm. The fabric used for the sweater and trousers is fleece cotton, which is soft and warm to the touch. The down is a Down-proof Fabric, which can effectively prevent wind and water from overflowing. The stitching on the sweater is also made of the same fabric. It has the word "family" and the embellishment of love. The simple design of the yellow sweater and the embroidered bunny on the black trousers can reflect my happiness and liveliness at that time.



Chapter 4: School Celebration!!

When I was 12 years old, my last year at this primary school, I attended for six years. This year, I witnessed the celebration of its 90th anniversary (this primary school was established in 1919 and is a critical primary school in Kaiping City, Guangdong Province, located in Kaiping City, Jiangmen City, Guangdong City). On that day, all the teachers and students of the school needed to dress up to celebrate the school's birthday. And I work as a bit of receptionist at the door for alumni from all over the world. I put on a school skirt representing the school.

That school never made that skirt was never made to order after my class. I was the last class of students to have this school uniform. This memory means a lot to me. Being a small receptionist is not an easy task. You need to have excellent results in all aspects, and you need to go through a month of training before you can be elected. I studied hard and participated in every exercise to achieve this goal to stand out among the many students. That is my honor. And my friend (Fang, Jiaying) was elected with me. She is my best friend. We were elected together because we supervised each other's training and learning. It also left me with an excellent memory.

The design of this school uniform is not new, as it was designed ten years ago. The overall design is sky blue because that is my school's color. And blue also represents the blue sky, which means that students have their atmosphere and can soar in the air. The collar is a navy collar design, which can reflect the liveliness of the students. *And as a receptionist, the image has to be crisp and lively, so I keep my hair tied back. This way, you won't be disturbed by hair or block your view during the reception. And cut your nails neatly not to hurt the alumni or guests who have returned to their alma mater during the reception.*

This is a summer dress school uniform with an overall blue design. The fabric is made of polyester and cotton, which is not stuffy and cool to wear in summer. It's soft to the touch

and doesn't leave marks from vigorous rubbing, and it is a fabric that does not quickly leave traces. As a school uniform, there are not too many designs. Only the school badge is embroidered on the chest. Even if the school badge is heightened, it will not feel rough to the touch. There is no peculiar smell after being produced by the factory. This school uniform has been "following" me for six years. I will not wear this school uniform on non-important days, but only on significant celebrations such as school celebrations.



Chapter 5: Graduated!!

Two months after attending the school's 90th-anniversary celebration, I graduated! In the past six years, I can't bear my campus, my friends: Fang, Jiaying; Yu, Xiaoying; Zhang, Jiajing, and other classmates who have spent six years with me, and my teachers: Ms.Liang; Ms. Wu and Ms. Chen. On the day I got my graduation certificate, my friends (Fang, Jiaying; Yu, Xiaoying; Zhang, Jiajing, and a few other classmates who usually played well) made an appointment to go to KTV to celebrate graduation and at the same time, Say goodbye to our elementary school days.

It's Saturday, and some of our classmates made an appointment to go to school to get our respective graduation certificates. We came to a KTV in the city center and booked a room two days ago. Once we arrived at the KTV, we ordered songs and sang for our elementary school days. Say goodbye to our past, and after this summer vacation, we will part ways and go to different junior high schools. And to meet our future, go to a new school, we will meet new classmates/friends. The six years are neither long nor short. We have all witnessed each other's growth in these six years. This time will be unforgettable in our memory. We hugged and cried together that day because we were reluctant to part with each other, but this is the parting that everyone needs to experience.

In honor of this beautiful and momentous occasion, I put on my new dress, a sheer white midi dress. There are not too many patterns on it, and it is a straightforward design. The lace fabric on the sleeves, pure white skirt, just like the junior high school I'm about to enter, no understanding/blank. The dress is solemn and pure. After leaving a familiar campus, you have to step into another unfamiliar environment and become friendly again. It reflects the feeling that I initially didn't know about junior high school, but I miss elementary school time. *I didn't tie my hair that day because, at that time, I thought that when I left my classmates, I had to separate with a smile, and the coat that was draped could help me hide*

my red eyes that wanted to cry. But the fact is that a group of people couldn't hold back and called into a ball.

The primary color of this skirt is white, and the skirt body does not have too much pattern embellishment—only one row of buttons and lace fabric on the sleeves. The lower body of this skirt has two layers; the inner layer is Paduasoy, which is soft to the touch and will not scratch the skin. The outer layer is a relatively complex yarn, and it will feel a little rough, but it will not hurt you. The upper body is made of cotton except for the lace on the sleeves, which is not too stuffy to wear in summer and is soft to the touch. Even though this is a new dress, there is no unpleasant smell.



Chapter 6: Love Wedding!!

How many times in life can you witness love? I saw my aunt's love (Fang, Maoting) when I was 13 years old. She and her lover got married, and after five years of mutual understanding, they decided to become partners for the rest of their lives. It was a wedding in our city's famous hotel (Pan Tower International Hotel). Because of their Chinese wedding, they didn't go to the church.

It's a spring weekend, chosen because relatives have weekends off. To be able to have time to bless and attend their wedding together. At that time, I was 13 years old and could not be their flower girl, so I chose to watch them enter the palace of marriage from the audience. They have been in love for five years, and they have gone through many quarrels, adjustments, and reconciliation together, and they have come to this point. Her lover became my uncle (Lin, Bingyu) for five years, and I was delighted and honored to witness their step into a happy life, and this was the first love I have seen since I can remember. The host broadcasted how they met at the wedding, fell in love, and fell in love. This makes me happy and moved. It turns out that pet needs time to run in to turn into a good marriage. They are still very much in love now.

It was a solemn and happy moment for me, so I wore one of my favorite dresses at the time to their wedding. The primary color of this dress is red. For Chinese people, red is worn on festive occasions. Red represents peace, romance, and bravery. That is also my blessing to my aunt and uncle. The sleeves are brown lantern sleeves because it is spring when the wedding is held, so long sleeves will be warmer. *I had my hair down that day, and I didn't wear any accessories because the dress was so bright, and too many accessories would complicate the whole thing. And I also took a rose that day. A rose is a symbol of love and romance.*

The fabric of this skirt is made of pure cotton. Because pure cotton is used, the color of this dress will be more vivid and not easy to fade. It is also very soft to the touch. This suit does not have too many decorations, only a red belt around the waist and two small bows on the sleeves as embellishments. The dress is all made from the same fabric. Not very rough to the touch and very warm.



Chapter 7: Chinese New Year's Party!!

After graduating from elementary school, I learned that my time at school was short. I also often regret not having an intense memory color in elementary school. So to be able to leave a perfect memory for my junior high school, with my teacher's encouragement, after eight years, I mustered up the courage to retake the stage. It was a cold winter at a theater located in Kaiping, Guangdong, China. Performing with me are my good friends (Xia, Zhiwei, Xiao, Yanzi, and Jin, Suo). The program we performed was a traditional Chinese dance.

It's been a cold winter, and it's not New Year's Day. Because traditionally, in China, there are 15 days in the New Year to spend with family members. The New Year's party held by the school was two weeks before the new year. Although it was a cold winter, the weather was perfect, and the sun was shining, and it didn't feel freezing under the sun. For the arrival of this day, my friends and I have been preparing for three months. We all arrange by ourselves by choosing music, clothes, and rehearsing dance moves. After many choices, I finally chose the song "Eyebrow Snow." That is a Chinese-style song with a very gentle style. To have an incredible performance at the party, we used the time after class to practice for two months. Finally came the day of the stage. Since we chose traditional Chinese dance, our clothes were also traditional Chinese clothes - Hanfu. To match this beautiful outfit, we all applied delicate makeup. *I put on a slightly paler foundation than our skin tone, painted the willow eyebrow that prevailed in the Tang Dynasty, as well as red eye shadow, pink blush, and red lips. Because it is stage makeup, it will be more intense than everyday makeup. In addition to applying makeup, we also decorated our hair, which we turned into braids and updos. Used a hairpin to hold the hairstyle on top. And gold earrings (because we think gold goes well with red.)*

Putting on the costume of this performance is like returning to the Tang Dynasty thousands of years ago. This costume was divided into two parts. The upper body is all red because red is auspicious in the Chinese New Year. It was embroidered with the style of plum blossoms, which symbolize the spiritual quality of perseverance, perseverance, self-improvement, and courage. There is also firework-like embroidery on the sleeves. The top has two layers, and the bottom layer is a soft apricot lining. The lower body skirt is a red gradient color with a golden fringe pattern and embroidered with a plum blossom pattern. The dress also has two layers, which are winter clothes. The two-layer skirt will be warmer. The belt is apricot with plum embroidery on top and has a string to fasten the dress. Just as I was about to take my clothes, they were attached by this red rope, so I needed the skill to tie them tightly. Otherwise, the clothes would come loose.

This outfit has many kinds of fabrics because this is a highly complex garment. The inner lining of the upper body is made of apricot cotton. In contrast, the outer red coat is made of satin with plum blossom embroidery. The fabric is very smooth and soft, the embroidery part will be a little rough, but it will not hurt your hands. The inner lining of the lower body is still satin, a very smooth fabric. At the same time, have printed in the outer layer chiffon. The pattern above is published, so it's not as rough as embroidery. And it is more convenient for us to perform shows.



Chapter 8: Welcome To New York

2015 was the year that changed the trajectory of my life when I immigrated from China to New York with my family (mum, dad, and brother). New York is foreign to me, a country I have never set foot in, but I will live here after this. Also, a considerable change. I'm going from a Chinese-speaking environment to an English-speaking environment. At that time, I was very reluctant to have my friends and classmates in China because I had lived in China for 15 years. I had to move to a country that I was not familiar with. I arrived in New York in March, and it was not a lovely day. It was raining heavily that day in my memory, and it felt like the sky was also sad with me.

It was March 3, 2015, and it was a very memorable day for me. When I left, my grandparents, who loved me, moved to New York with my parents and brother. However, I will go back to China to visit them when I have time. But I'm so used to living by their side, and I really can't bear to leave them. On that day, my grandparents and I came to Guangzhou Baiyunshan Airport to see us off. On that day, I still talked a lot, and I didn't express my sadness. But my heart is sorrowful because I know that it will be difficult to see each other again after this parting. I also know that my grandparents hate me too, but I can't make them worry, so I keep making them happy. My emotions have always been hidden in my heart and have not shown. But the moment I got on the plane, I couldn't hold it anymore. I recalled the days when I was with my grandparents from childhood to adulthood. I remembered the red and tearful eyes when my grandparents said goodbye to us. I couldn't control my mood any longer, and I cried while holding the necklace my grandma had given me. The only accessory I had was a silver necklace with the Chinese character "happy" engraved on it. That is also my grandma's most sincere blessing. She hopes that I can live a happy and carefree life every day. *I didn't dress myself up that day. I just wore no makeup and let my long hair loose because I didn't think I needed to dress up on a plane.*

This set of clothes accompanies me to say goodbye to my grandparents. It is also the new clothes my grandparents bought me because I was going abroad. The top of this suit is a hooded sweater, which is simply grey with an "ahphlab" print on it. Pair it with loose jeans and casual sneakers. This combination can be more comfortable on the plane. I also carried the red bag my grandma made for me. Red is the best blessing to my traditional grandma. She hopes that red will bring me luck and make me feel like she is accompanying me.

The fabric of this suit is simple, and the top is fleece cotton. Because it was spring, it was still a little cold. And there will be air conditioning on the plane. This kind of fabric can keep the cold very well, and the material is very soft and comfortable to wear. The pants are a kind of denim with a bit of gradient, which may feel a little rough, but they are still very pleased.



Chapter 9: Beach! Seaside! Sunshine!

Summer is a good day to go to the beach to play, and three months after coming to New York, the hot summer is ushered in. That was June 1, 2015, and International Children's Day. Dad took us to the beach to familiarize us with New York before going to school and celebrating Children's Day. The beach I went to is a famous New York City: Coney Island, and I also went to the most central beach amusement park in New York City: Luna Park. We were lucky because it had been raining every day before that, and we were still worried if it would rain that day. It turned out that the day was sunny and the weather was fine.

June 1, 2015, is International Children's Day. Since I started my new life in the United States, I have been following my parents to deal with school affairs, and I have no time to go out to play. And because I just arrived in New York, I don't know where there is fun, so I play with my mobile phone and watch TV at home. But my dad thinks that school will start after the summer vacation and wants to have a happy summer before my brother and I start school. So I decided to go to the beach and play with my family on Children's Day. Although I don't know how to swim, I like the smell of the sea very much. It's a pleasant feeling to welcome the hot summer's tremendous and salty sea breeze. I also tried to learn to swim by the sea but didn't and drank a few mouthfuls of salty seawater.

I wore a haze blue swimsuit, a straightforward design, a one-piece swimsuit with a skirt, and boxer pants. And it is a solid color design, only the color of haze blue, and the fabric used is cotton. It's soft and comfortable to the touch, and it's an easy-drying material that won't catch a cold. The chest is a cross design, which will make the figure more visible. The sun was intense that day, so I put on a straw hat for shade so I wouldn't get a tan. *And to be able to take gorgeous photos, before going into the water, I brought various accessories, such as earrings with blue flowers and necklaces in the shape of a heart. I was afraid of swimming and couldn't find the trinkets when I played, so I gave the charms to my mom to keep before playing. That day was my happiest Children's Day.*



Chapter 10: High School!!

After half a year to get acquainted with life in New York, I will step into the hall of study again. But this is my first time going to school in New York. I will make new friends and get used to/become familiar with the different learning atmospheres and environments in New York and China. To make me feel less nervous. I brought my favorite doll pendant, and its company can make me calmer when facing unfamiliar environments. On that day, I met my current best friend Chen, Stephanie. That's where we both knew - New Utrecht High School.

On September 9, 2015, I came to a new learning environment on this day, and on that day, I also met my best friend in New York---Chen, Stephanie. She is also a new immigrant who has just come to New York for two years, but she has two years of junior high school life in New York. That made her less nervous about entering high school than I was because I had just come to New York for half a year. My English was not very good at communicating with teachers. Stephanie took great care of me. She explained that schools in New York are in the form of walking classes, unlike in China, where types only need to be in one classroom. High schools in New York need to go to different classrooms according to their curriculum. The two of us checked the timetable. Our classes were the same, except for one English class, because her English was better than mine. Although I am very nervous, I also feel that I am fortunate because my high school curriculum is bilingual. The teacher teaches in both Chinese and English, which will make it easier for me to absorb the knowledge and learn More English.

I wore a set of casual clothes that day. The United States is different from China. Everyone in Chinese schools has their school uniform, and when I go to school, I only need to wear that uniform. And America is a free country, so you can go to school in whatever clothes you like. The top of my suit is a long thin sleeve, the primary color is white, and the

word "rockstar" is on the front of the cloth. And in the upper right corner, there is also a group like a planet. And the clothes are not very monotonous, only white, and some light blue embellishments. The lower body is a pair of dark blue jeans. *Because it was the first day of school, to go back to school beautifully, I got up very early and did my makeup, which was not too bright. Just put on foundation and put on lipstick and curled his black hair into a slight arc.*

The fabric of the top is pure cotton, which is soft and comfortable to the touch. September is not as hot as summer, and the school is air-conditioned. It will feel a little cold, so long sleeves can better protect me from catching a cold. The "rockstar" on the clothes is not printed on the cloth, but a "rockstar" pattern is stitched together, so it feels a little rough when it touches the edge. The pants are thin denim, so they won't be too hot to wear. And I also brought a white school bag, which I obtained from China. That is a very ordinary solid-color schoolbag, with my favorite doll ornaments hanging on it as decoration.



Chapter 11: Coming of Age!!

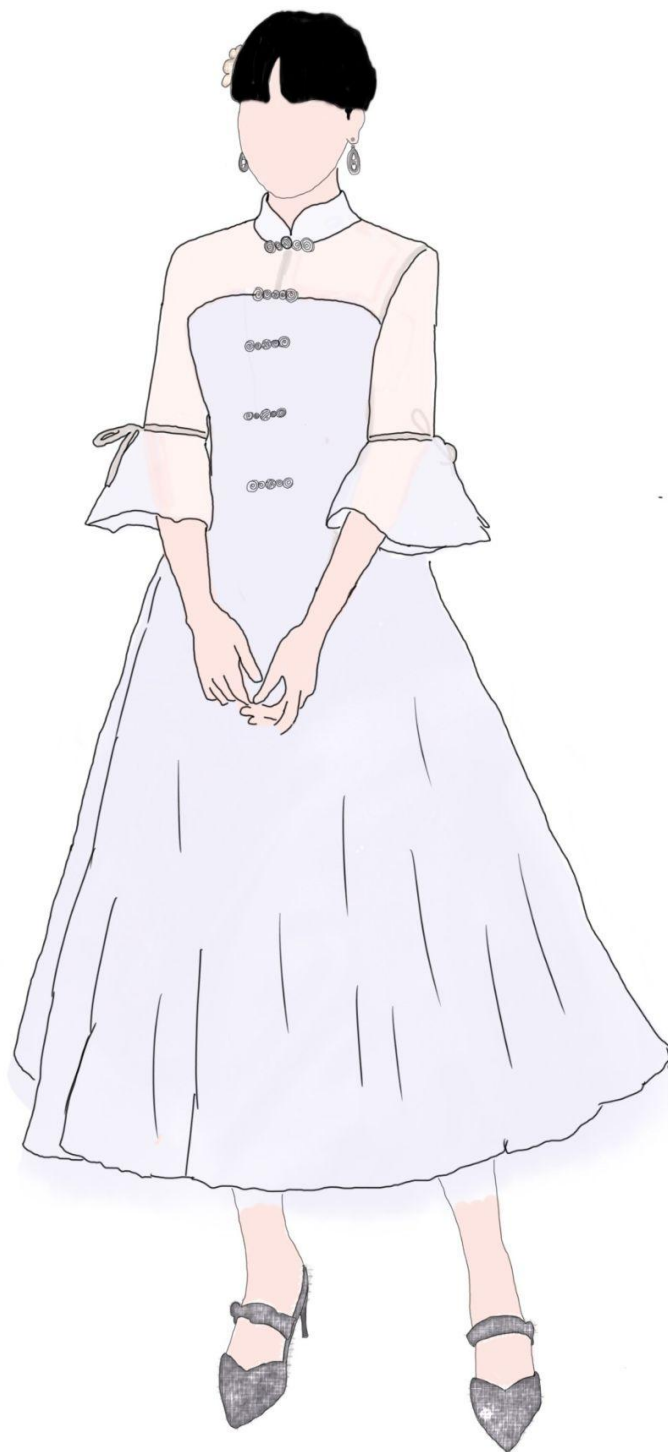
Adulthood is the most significant turning point in life. 18 means so much to us, and no one will be responsible for your mistakes except ourselves. To say goodbye to my "past" and welcome the future as an adult, I celebrated this day with my friends (Lin, Tiffany; Fang, Mary; Chen Stephanie; Chen, Jiaen). We chose to host it at Characters KTV (6121 20th Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11204). It was my birthday on Thursday, 12th March 2018, my school (New Utrecht High School) closed early that day, so my friends and I had more time to go out and celebrate and play.

After school, I went to 99 Favor Taste (732 61st St, Brooklyn, NY 11220) with my friends (Lin, Tiffany; Fang, Mary; Chen Stephanie; Chen, Jian) for hot pot. There, we chatted and ate. We were delighted because we didn't have to worry about being pushed home by our parents. We had already reported to our parents before that. We will celebrate my coming of age on this day and going home late. When we were full, we set off to Characters KTV, and on the way to KTV, we went to the bakery to pick up the cake we ordered earlier. After arriving at the KTV, we started to play "crazy," It was not until 8 p.m. that we ended the day of the "carnival" and went home. What touched me the most on this day was a passage from my father when I officially became an adult. I still remember the words: "On the road to your future growth, your mother and I are still your strongest spiritual support. We are willing to be your most intimate friends and closest partners. No matter how old you are, no matter where you go in the future, and what kind of difficulties you encounter, you must remember: Mom and Dad will always love you deeply and support you with all their strength!" My father's words made me so touched and grateful that they brought me into this world.

I was wearing a light purple chinoiserie skirt that my mother chose. She thinks this dress is simple and solemn, very suitable for wearing in adulthood, and will be very elegant. That is a modified cheongsam, which retains the collar and buttons of the cheongsam.

Shoulders and sleeves are translucent, of course, yarn. The skin color of the hands can be seen. There is no embellishment on the skirt, only the cheongsam buttons on the skirt. *To match this dress, I pulled my hair up, left my bangs, and added a purple gypsophila clip to accent my drab outfit. I also painted pink eyeshadow, pink blush, and psychedelic chili lipstick. I also borrowed my mom's heels to witness my coming of age.*

The fabric used in this skirt is a soft yarn that is comfortable to the touch without scratching the skin or feeling uncomfortable. And there is a satin fabric inside, which will be more smooth and make the skirt shinier. The skirt doesn't have too many colors, and it's not all uniform light purple. This dress has witnessed me becoming an adult, witnessing my growth.



Chapter 12: Fashion Show!!

When I was in 12th grade, I tried to make memories of my high school life and not leave high school with regrets. Since I first entered high school, I have participated in the fashion club organized by the school. Every year, the fashion club holds a fashion show. Since I was a child, I have had a dream to become a fashion designer. That is also a tiny wish to satisfy me. The fashion show is the need to find models to wear clothes designed and made by themselves to go on the catwalk. I asked my friends (Lin, Tiffany, Fang, Mary; Chen Stephanie; Chen, Jiaen; Ke, Jaky, and so on) to complete the catwalk with me. The fashion show is held at the school (new Utrecht high school). It was April 5, 2019. The weather was not good, and it rained all day. I was worried that no one would come to our Fashion show, but even if no one came to see us, we must work hard to complete this show.

I participated in the Fashion club every year in high school. Still, I wanted to focus and study for the first three years, so I didn't join the fashion show. So I finally got into a fashion show in 12th grade, and I put together 12 outfits I've made over the past four years. The 12 outfits all have different styles and designs. Some are Chinese, some are evening gowns, and some are professional-style suits. And I need to find a model that suits their class for each piece of work and wear them on the catwalk to show the work's beauty better. In the end, I found 11 models to deliver for me, and for the last piece, I decided to show it myself, which also gave me one more experience as a model. And with my work, I can know which parts are what I want to show. To hold the fashion show perfectly, my models and I gathered at my house to do makeup and styling. *My clothes are professional suit style, so I only need to do more daily makeup and curl my hair. The radian is just fine. In addition, I also clipped a clip on the head as an embellishment, which will not look very monotonous.*

This dress was designed in my 11th grade and is a professional style theme. So this is a design with a suit as the main body, mainly made of light gauze, hollow leather cloth, and

wool blended cotton fabric. My design philosophy is that even a professional woman will have her idol, so I painted my idol's image on the subject's suit. And I used two layers of fabric to make the right sleeve. The inner layer is the same fabric as the suit. The outer layer is hollow leather fabric, which can reflect the pattern on the leather fabric. And the left hand and the back hem of the suit are decorated with a veil because I think every woman will have a "princess heart" no matter how strong they are. This suit combines many elements that women would love, and although I made it rough, it was one of the pieces that I took the time to design. With the concerted efforts of the models and me, our group's fashion shows ended perfectly.



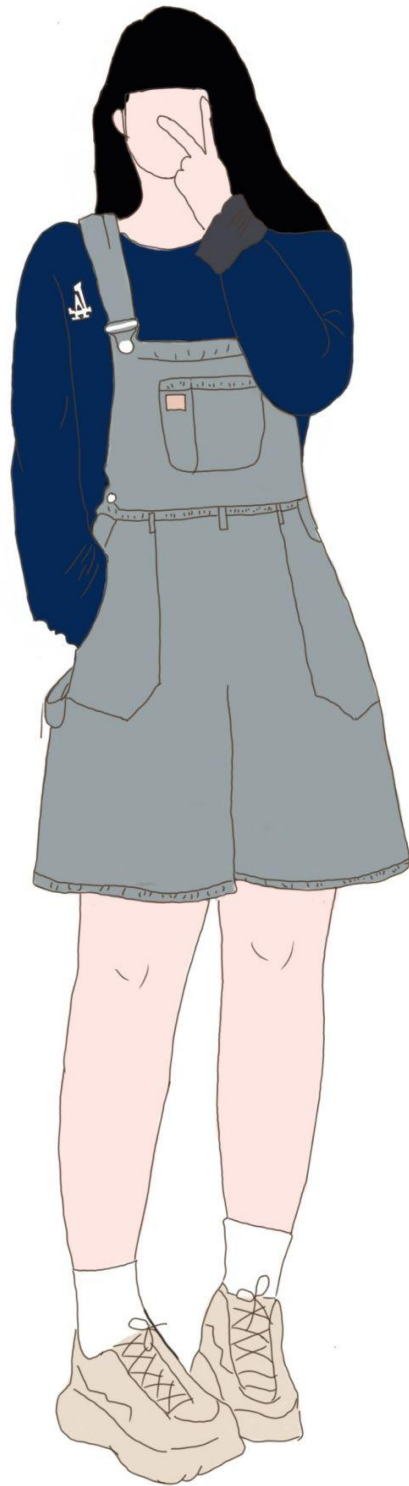
Chapter 13: Washington D.C.

When I was a child, my father once said, "It is better to travel thousands of miles than to read thousands of books." Dad always thought that it was not enough apart from learning the knowledge from books. He felt I needed to go out to other cities and experience different customs and customs in other countries to meet the things I would like. I can learn something, not in books, such as traditional culture, traditional art, understanding history, etc. So after I graduated high school as an adult, I organized a graduation trip. Our five best friends (Lin, Winnie; Fang, Mary; Chen Stephanie; Xiong, Jackson) leave their parents' protection and start their own "adventure." We voted to go to Washington D.C., the place to learn more about American history.

The day of departure was July 1, 2019. The weather was fine, the sun was bright, and there were few clouds. The wind blowing across our face is warm, not too hot. We chose a good day. Before that, Lin, Winnie, and I had planned for this trip for two months. We had to cooperate with everyone's schedule and decided that we would spend this trip in Washington D.C. for three days and two nights. Since the time we chose is the peak tourist season, we need to book the homestay in advance. We choose a homestay because we believe that we can directly experience the lifestyles of different people and places at homestays. After two weeks of screening, we finally decided on a homestay that we were satisfied with and bought the bus ticket, just waiting for the arrival of July 1.

After two months, I finally waited until July 1, when I put on a small backpack and pulled a suitcase full of daily necessities and clothes. Put on denim suspenders, long thin sleeves, and we're off. The denim suspenders I'm wearing have a straightforward design. The primary color is blue-gray, and a small pocket on the chest can hold things. The long thin sleeves are a dark blue top with a straightforward and small "LA" stitching pattern on the front of the cloth.

The fabric used in this suit is also effortless. The thin long-sleeved top is made of pure cotton, so it will not be very stuffy and will not feel hot even in summer. And the texture is very soft to the touch, and it is very comfortable to wear. The air conditioner on the bus is solid. Wearing these clothes can also help me block the air-conditioning wind that is too cold. On the other hand, Bib shorts are thin denim fabrics that are airy and just right for summer because it will take 4 hours to get to our destination - Washington D.C. by bus. So *I didn't dress myself up too much, no makeup. Still, I went to the barbershop to get a perm, curled my hair, and cut it a little bit shorter to be able to take pictures beautifully in the next few days. And bangs.*



Chapter 14: College!!

After four years of high school in New York, I have become accustomed to the American learning environment and habits. But University is still an area that I have never been exposed to before. Becoming a college student is another stage in my life, and University is a blank picture. We need to use our wisdom and hands to paint our colorful youth. I entered the campus for the next four years, New York City College Of Technology (300 Jay St, Brooklyn, NY 11201), with a vision for the future.

University is an excellent place to meet people and friends. After graduating from University, we need to do social work. We need friends to help us complete our work at work or friends to introduce us to work. And I'm already familiar with the living/studying environment in New York, and I'm no longer nervous or shy when I go to a new environment. I'm afraid to communicate with other people. So on the first day of school, I took the initiative to exchange contact information with my classmates. Making friends with them will be more helpful for my future campus life/after graduation. Making more friends is also very beneficial for me to learn English. So I got to know good friends (Zhao, Yinghe) who have the same major as me in this school. Because our majors are the same, our courses are also similar, making us friends faster. To make a good impression on new acquaintances in college, I got up at six and picked myself a set of clothes that I thought college students would wear. *Bring my earphones. It will make my commute to school less boring and paint delicate makeup for myself, daily brown eye shadow, brown, pink lipstick, light blush, and turn my long hair into a ball head. Pack my bag and start my new "adventure."*

On this day, I wore a dark green thin long sleeve, which was a dark green diamond pattern design stitched over a light green top. It's a simple design with just plain fabric stitching and a name tag with the word "Fashion" on the chest. In comparison, the collar and

sleeves are black. And I also wore a pair of black sweatpants with a couple of brown martin boots. This collocation can reflect my liveliness.

There are two fabric types for the long sleeves. The light green one is cotton, while the dark green diamond pattern is knitted. Although it is a knitted fabric, it is not rough, it feels soft and comfortable and it is not too stuffy. On the other hand, the sweatpants are a blend of flannel and cotton, which is warm and not stuffy and very comfortable to wear. The sole of Martin boots is very hard, and it is very tiring to walk for a long time. My first day of college life also caused my feet to hurt and suffer because of Martin boots.



Chapter 15: Twenty One!!

The 21-year-old is a new start in life. There is still a long life in the future, waiting for me to go on the journey. No matter how bumpy the road in the future is, no matter how hot the sun is, no matter how violent the wind and rain, no matter whether there is an end. I will run on the road of chasing my dream. It's a big day, so my friends (Lin, Winnie; Fang, Mary; Chen Stephanie; Chen, Jiaen) and I made an appointment to celebrate together. But because the epidemic is not very stable, we decided to have a "carnival" at Stephanie's house. Since we all have our jobs and studies, we can't celebrate my birthday. We celebrated when we were all free (March 20th, 2021).

Age 21 is another vital stage in life, being able to drink legally. I once heard a legend that the cork of the first red wine at the age of 21 would bring me good luck. On March 20th, I used my ID to buy the first bottle of red wine in my life. I also kept the cork of the first bottle of red wine and made it into an ornament for my good luck. At Stephanie's house that day, they put up a birthday wall for me with "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" and balloons. In addition to buying red wine, we also bought fried chicken and sushi for takeaway. We ate, drank, and played at Stephanie's house. We were delighted and enjoyed gathering time with friends. We cherish every gathering. So *I did makeup, brown-red lipstick, pink blush, and red eyeshadow. And they all wore birthday hats. I had a crown and a pink wedding Sash. To match my skirt, I carried a white chain bag.*

That day I wore a dress I bought for my 21st birthday, a solid black skirt. It is a Hepburn-style design, and some people may think that black is miserable and sad. But for me, wearing a black dress at the age of 21 represents the unknown and mystery of the future and represents nobility and stability. The clothes do not have too many designs, only some buttons are used as embellishments, and a hollow design on the chest will look very sexy. And there is a chain link made of gold rope woven in the open. The fabric of the skirt is

chiffon, which is soft to the touch and has a touch of yarn. It accompanies me to step into another stage of life. There will be different styles of clothing to accompany me through various stages of life in the days to come.



About The Author

Michelle is a junior at New York City College of Technology, where she majors in Business and Fashion Technology. She immigrated to New York with her family in 2015. She lived in New York for seven years, during which she has been in contact with Fashion-related things. For example, she participated in the school's fashion club for four years. She participated in the high school's Fashion Show in her final year. She is 22 years old this year, and according to her, she has been in Fashion for nearly 18 years. Because she often followed her grandma to make clothes since she was a child, she likes embroidery and Weaving very much because of her grandma's influence. She determined to make a brand of her own when she grew up and integrate Chinese culture into Western culture. Because of this, she chose to major in Business and Fashion Technology. In this book, Michelle shares with readers the clothes and stories that have meant so much to her from her youth to the present, which she considers "witnesses" of her life.