

I'M NOT MAD, I THROW FITS.



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Written and illustrated by Sandra Nicolas

Prologue

Throw old Photographs of my wardrobe I found myself at a juncture of personal transformation. I have been to many places and dressed for many occasions, as time passes, I can keep my memories by living through my clothes and remembering the significance of that moment. Having weathered challenging periods marked by strained relationships and detachment from loved ones, I embraced the opportunity for renewal. Even when there is a dark reality to an image, I can remember all the goods that come with it. From being eighteen, away from home for the first time, or settling into my own apartment and reconnecting with my sister, Rosemichelle, became a pivotal point. Setting the stage for a memorable visual journey capturing moments of reconnection and newfound strength.

The subsequent chapters of this dress book unravel stories woven around significant dresses and the emotional landscapes they traverse. From the exploration of newfound love, self-discovery, educational milestones, and celebratory escapades in Las Vegas, each chapter encapsulates a unique narrative. These dresses, more than mere garments, become vessels of memories, encapsulating moments of growth, resilience, and the intricate tapestry of human connection. Through the lens of these dresses, the reader is invited to traverse the personal odyssey of the narrator, finding solace, inspiration, and perhaps a mirror reflecting their own journey in the richly textured fabric of life.

Foreword

Embarking on a heartfelt journey of self-discovery, Sandra takes us through a transformative phase marked by personal trials and the exciting start of a new life chapter. Picture this: a carefully chosen black and brown-themed family photo shoot, not just a bunch of pictures but a heartfelt symbol of patched-up relationships and a commitment to a brighter future. And oh, that special dress? It's more than just fabric; it's a visual embodiment of the unbreakable bond with the amazing elder sister, Rosemichelle. It's like a warm hug, reminding us that, despite all the ups and downs, some connections are steadfast and beautiful.

Now, let's dive into the author's self-discovery journey, a candid tale set against the backdrop of the new year in 2022. Imagine a dress that goes beyond threads and buttons, carrying the weight of emotions and symbolizing a newfound connection with someone named Precious. The author opens, sharing vulnerabilities and anxieties, turning that dress into a tangible reminder of a pivotal moment in self-discovery and the sweet beginning of a meaningful relationship. As each chapter unfolds, it's not just about educational milestones or personal growth; it's a celebration of life's special moments. These dresses? They're not just hanging in the closet; they're unique lenses into the author's life, weaving a story of resilience, growth, and the intricate beauty of human connections. They're like cherished symbols of a life well-lived, filled with warmth, growth, and the magic of shared moments.

Tania Darbouze

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Senior Prom

2017 Senior year was very eventful, one of the most memorable events would be senior prom. After 4 years of completing 42 credits, it was time to say goodbye with a grand ball. Imagine spending a whole year planning for one day to wear a very special dress, find the perfect shoes, and who might be my prince charming for the night. I remember being obsessed with this Middle Eastern designer who makes these beautiful gowns. They were so shiny the dress would light up in the video while the curvy model showed off the dress and swung the waist train around effortlessly. These dresses were ordered only and very pricey, I knew my dad would never spend thousands of dollars on this dress for me, so I had to get creative. Turns out I would be continuing to sponsor my senior year while making two hundred dollars a week from a part-time after-school teacher gig, I got at the beginning of the school year. The most affordable route I could take was to customize the dress within my budget; after trials and tribulation, I found an African seamstress to make the dress.

I found a beautiful glitter floral lace pattern in this fabric store in Manhattan alongside the nude/cream stretchy lining fabric to make the dress. The glitter in the fabric was very unstable, it got everywhere and was falling off which worried me if by prom night will it be as glamorous as I pictured. When I picked up the dress and tried it on for the first time, I remember being a little disappointed in the execution based on what we talked about. I asked him to alter it and make the changes, it was important to me, and I got exactly what I asked for. The dress is a straight long shape naked blush gown with a deep V-cut front line with a waist train touching the floor even with heels on.

The night before prom my sister did my hair. She braided six corn-rolls as flat as she could to prevent bumps when she sewed in the tracks of black straight hair on my head. She parted my hair sideways leaving a 3x4 of my real hair to be pressed down and straightened to cover the tracks with the illusion of my hair blending with the extensions. On the day of prom, my friend and I had scheduled our makeup appointment together at NOVA makeup studio. I sat for an hour and a half while the makeup artist modifies my features by first prepping my skin with moisturizer and makeup primer. She color-corrected my skin with concealer, foundation, and bronzer; for my eyeshadow, she created a golden smokey eye to match my dress and added dark red lips to complete the look. Once I got home, I cleaned my skin by taking my second shower for the day, scrubbing, and removing any left dirt or hair I might have missed hours before. I laddered myself with lotion to keep my skin moisturized and smooth for the night; sprayed perfume and body glitter all over my arms and neck. I launch both my feet over the dress to pull myself into it and after wrapping the detachable waist train on. I remember my sister strapping on my pink heels for me as it was hard to bend over in this big tight dress.

Whenever I'm cleaning out my closet and storm upon this dress it brings me so much joy. It makes me proud of the very first of many things I worked hard to give to myself. It was my first time stepping into a luxury feeling and wanting every night to be like prom night. Prom night was the very first time I felt seen, beautiful, and sexy; Prom night is my origins story.



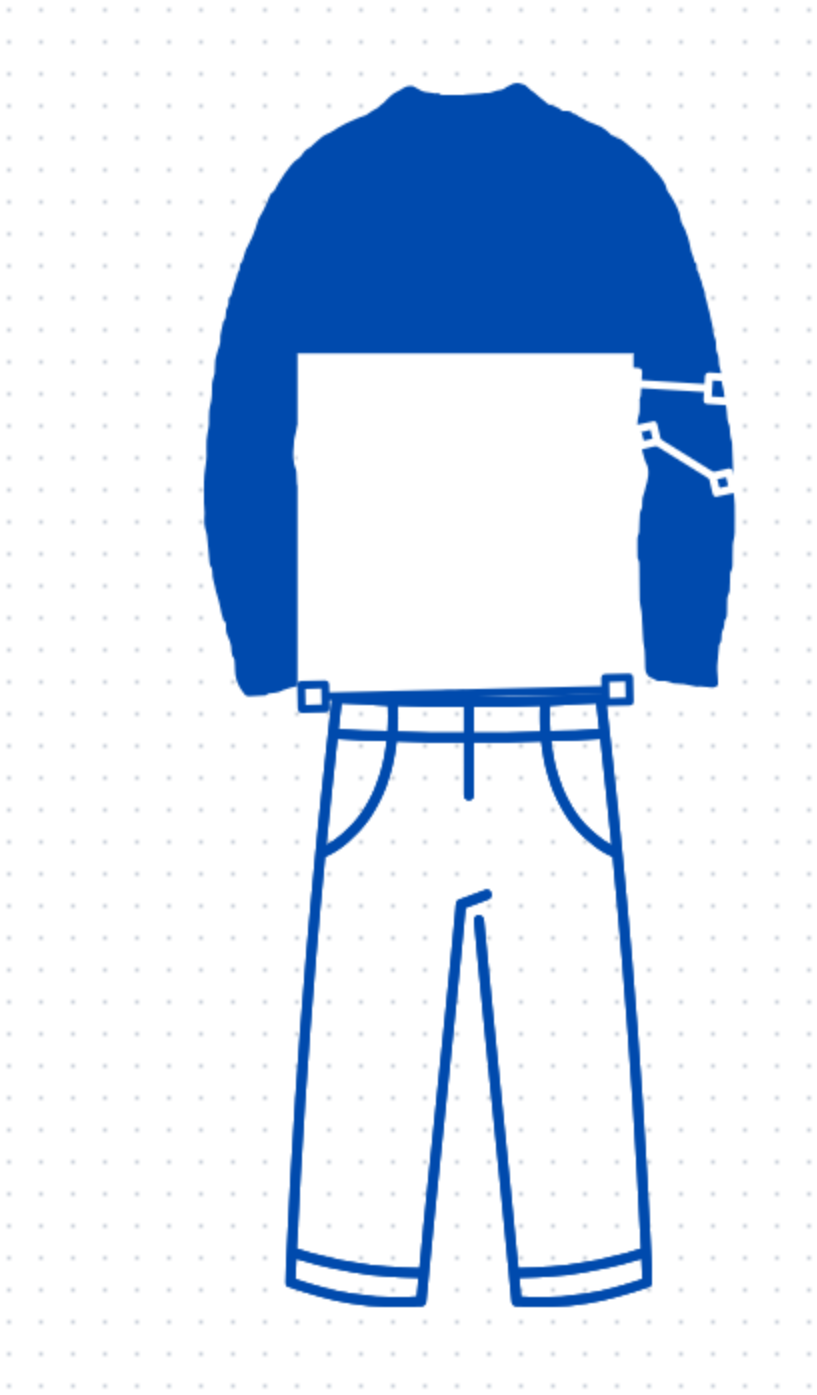
First day of college

Summer of 2017, I left home for the first time to step into my young adult years as a new freshman at the College of Staten Island. After working all summer to afford my moving fees and dorming supplies, the first day of college was here. I have always wanted to go to college but more importantly, I always wanted to stay on campus. Me and my best friend since elementary school had decided to roommate together in a double twin bedroom in an apartment-style dorm. To be honest I was mainly more excited for move-in day than the first day of classes, we had one week of freshman activities before classes started. We would explore campus, look for which building our classes were and most of all know where the parties were.

On the first day of classes I was missing some materials and my sister had come in the morning to take me shopping before my first classes at two-thirty pm. We went to Burlington where we got my school bag and comfortable sneakers. My school bag was an all-black nylon backpack we adjustable straps and I picked grey and pink bottom foam sneakers. I wore this new blue top half and white bottom half sweatshirt with two blue stripes on the arm. I paired it with two-tone black and dark blue-toned jeans to match.

I woke up on the first day of school and brushed my teeth, cleaned my face by washing it with cleanser, wiped toner all over my face, ears, and neck; then moisturized for locking in hydration in my skin. I then hopped in the shower to scrub my body with my blue loofa and St. Eves body scrub. After I was done, I moisturized my body with coconut body lotion, sprayed my Victoria Secret perfume, and put on a large T-shirt to make breakfast. Before my first class of the day, which was Algebra, I began by wearing my black cotton bralette and launching one foot after the other in my tight blue jeans. I hopped and hopped around so my jeans could be fully pulled up my waist and I buttoned it in place. I insert one arm each in my sweatshirt pulling it over my head and dragging it down to cover up my stomach and letting the sweatshirt drape over my jeans. I pulled out a pair of my new black socks and grabbed my shoes to place them by the door so I could put them on when I was ready to leave.

I am emotionally attached to this outfit because it takes me back to my innocence and me getting out of my comfort zone. First time being away from home, starting an exciting chapter I have been patiently waiting for. With this outfit, I can recall the taste of Dolphin Cove pesto pasta I was obsessed with.



19th birthday 90's themed party

After Completing my freshman year of college, I moved back home after staying on campus at the College of Staten Island. When I moved back home, I decided to start working full time as a teacher's Assistant at Bumblebees R Us and enjoy the most of my summer. I completely renovated my room and wardrobe, I bought myself a brand new royal blue full-size bed with large diamond rhinestones on the headboard, a vanity/desk, a large Roku TV, and a brand-new HP computer for the new school year. I started to thrift and be more experimental with my style and getting out of my comfort zone. I was excited about taking a great leap into pursuing my dream in fashion knowing I will be attending City Tech in the fall of 2019. I was ending my "teen" era and as the last 90s babies what better way to celebrate than to throw a 90s theme party.

I was financially responsible for my party, so I had to buy my outfit with a certain budget. I went to Forever 21 online and bought ripped boyfriend shorts, a white tee with "Honey" written in bold red letters on it, and a multi-color windbreaker. The shipping for my order was taking long, and because I was worried it wouldn't show up on time, I re-routed to be shipped to the Forever 21 located in Kings Plaza.

I spent all night making my own wig, I had brought three bundles of Yaki textured hair with a four-by-four closure to match. In the morning I corn-rolled my hair down to create a flat surface for the wig to be placed in the head, I then threaded the wig parameters around own head to keep it in place when I get styled. I went to the Dominican hair salon for a blowout to straighten out the Yaki texture. I went to NYX in Kings Plaza Mall to do my makeup, I asked for pink shade eyeshadow with white eyeliner to brighten my eyes more. After picking up my outfit I came home to finish getting ready, I placed my hair up in a bun so it wouldn't get wet when I shower. I moisturized my body and kept my skin soft and shiny, I put on my socks, stepped into my oversized shorts, placed my T-shirt over my head placed one arm in the leaves one by one, continued with putting my jacket on, and lastly stepped into my shoes one foot at a time.

Emotional Attachment- Curating this party and outfit for myself opened my love for styling. In high school, I focused on wearing the same things my older siblings or what my peers were wearing. I envied too much what other kids were wearing knowing well I couldn't afford them. I used to look down on myself and never express my love for fashion, this time I was the CEO and wouldn't let anyone influence my decision about the party. I was able to have fun with my outfit, change my outfit, add any accessories that I wanted. I was the fashionista I envisioned myself to become.



American Citizenship ceremony

I migrated to the United States with my family in 2008 at just 8 years old. It was a major culture shock, and I wasn't very comfortable with the new environment. Years have passed, and I've made friends here, created memories, and lost as much as I have gained. America became my home just like Haiti was once my home, becoming an American Citizen was the last stamp I needed to settle in. It took me almost two years to finish this process, it took a lot of emails, paperwork, and time. I received my citizenship for free through a program that helped my sister get hers before me. The day I received my scheduled ceremony appointment, I scheduled my time off because that is something I was not planning on missing after waiting all this time.

It was October 14, 2020, I had to drive two hours to Long Island for my ceremony and citizenship certificate. I wore my new white Air Force 1 with lime green Nike check and orange rear lining and toe box. I paired together my blue light-washed jeans with large white butterfly heat-printed designs and neon green cotton bodysuit. I added black silver buckled belts, a long-tailored blazer with black thin vertical lines and a leafy green bag to match with no jewelry to accessories.

I woke up the day of my ceremony excited to be sworn an American citizen. I took a nice long shower, scrubbed my body down with a loofa, and St. Eves Coconut body scrub, and moisturized with CeraVe. I removed plaques from my teeth by brushing with charcoal-whitening toothpaste, my face routine consisted of CeraVe face wash moisturizer and sunscreen to protect my skin barrier. I put on a black bra to keep the proper symmetry of my figure then added my first layer of clothing which was the bodysuit. I then put on my jeans and belt, resting my bag and blazer on the bed because I wanted to do my hair before finishing getting dressed. I detangled my hair with a wide tooth comb to prevent hurting my scalp. I then brushed sections of my hair while adding eco-styling gel to tame it down for two back buns. I parted my hair in the middle and added baby hairs as a design to enhance my hairline.

My emotional attachment to this outfit speaks for itself, it is a reminder of completing a significant form. After two years of waiting and studying for the 100-question Citizenship test, I was finally being rewarded for what I worked hard for. With this outfit, I wanted to execute a fun and sophisticated side of young Sandra.



21st Birthday Lingerie Party

2020 was a very unexpected year for everyone worldwide, COVID-19 spread quickly, and everything was shut down except for essential places. For months everyone was in quarantine, the only thing I did after the shutdown was go to work at Amazon Fulfillment Center from Sunday to Wednesday from six pm to five am. Sometimes, me and my friends would host small game nights at their apartment in Jersey City. I was planning on going to Las Vegas for my birthday in the middle of June, but due to travel restrictions, I had to come up with other plans. I decided to throw a small girl-only lingerie gathering for twenty-one birthdays. I was only responsible for picking my outfits, my sister Rosemichelle said she would take care of everything else.

I wanted to stand out for my lingerie party, but I had to find something unique while staying on theme. Because what I wanted was to go to Vegas, I thought why not bring Vegas to me, so I decided to go with a burlesque-type outfit. I searched high and low but eventually found a royal blue Brocade Showgirl Saloon custom. I wore a royal blue corset with a ribbon neck strap, and silver corset pins to attach to the left and the right side of the garment. There were diamond rhinestones all over the corset with tiny clear bead strings in the front, along with a voluminous feather train. I paired it with black stockings and royal blue thong panties to match. I simply accessories with a silver/gold cross necklace and silver double twisted hoop earrings, for my feet I wore a diamond anklet and clear pointy strapless heels with a silver round pendant on the heels.

I was very excited the morning of my birthday, I had gotten my wig installed in Brooklyn the day before. My hair stylist parted my hair sideways to the right and hot iron curled to pin it to maintain its shape once I took it out the next day. I modify my body by taking a deep clean shower where I shave the hair off my face, legs, armpits, and arms; I exfoliate right after to remove dirt and dead skin from my body. My makeup stylist came to my house to do my makeup, she applied different layers of moisturizers, and primer to have a proper clear canvas to apply foundation and concealer. She created a Suttle brown with gold tone cut crease makeup which elongates my almond-shaped eyes.

Emotional Attachment- I have been waiting to turn twenty-one since I was eighteen years old. After my freshman year of college, most of my remaining friends were years older than me, of course, I wasn't of legal age to go into the club. I always told how much I looked like my older sister, I used that to my advantage and would use her ID, now that I'm of legal age I don't have to. My party was so much fun, my friends put effort into their outfits, and we played so many games like Drunk Tic Tac Toe, For the Girls, and Twister. I will also be forever grateful to my sister for taking her time and effort to decorate and make my birthday very special, she knew how much it meant to me.



Miami Girls Trip 2020

I came home at seven am from working at Amazon fulfillment center overnight feeling bored with life, was talking to my sister Rosemichelle telling her I wanted to a trip. She told me she's been feeling the same, and we should plan something affordable. We had to be quarantined for six months during COVID-19, once most of the restriction was lifted, all me and my friends wanted to do was be outside. Spring break was coming up, it was only right to get out of New York City, so we decided to take a seven-day trip to Miami, Florida. It was 10 of us girls excited to take on Miami, after going to the beach, clubs, restaurants, and doing excursions we planned a nice dinner to enjoy our last night.

My dinner outfit was the last outfit I missed for my vacation. While shopping through Jamaica Ave, I went into this small boutique hoping to find something I liked. I luckily found this dress that caught my eye. For dinner, I wore a lace see-through yellow body con dress, a mustard tone dress with cow-like brown patches all over from front to back. The front of the dress had large cuts that separated the top and bottom leaving my stomach exposed.

After a long day on the beach, we came back to the hotel to go to dinner for our last night in Miami. my skin was very sticky from salt water, I removed dirt and sand off my body with a hotel shower rag. Right after showering, I began to use the flat iron to straighten out my hair, I went over with the flat iron three times because I wanted my hair to be as flat as possible. I kept my makeup simple by filling in and arching my brows with a black brow pencil from NYX. I further modify my face by adding moisturizer and primer to then apply a light coverage foundation. I changed the shape of my face with couture giving the illusion of a sculpted face and smaller nose. I stepped into my dress feet first, double knotted the waist string on the back. I sat on the bed to properly strap in my black heels making sure with were the same height to give the illusion of a taller feature.

Emotional Attachment- Miami was my very first girl's trip getaway and I had a great time. I was with my sister Rosemichelle, my cousin Lude and my three close friends at the time Amber, Manney and Deandra. The other girls were either my sister's friends or my cousin's friends and they were super fun to hang out with too. Miami allowed me to be loose and try new things, I went Lazer tag and go-karting for the first time. We challenged and dared each other, went skinny dipping, and got drunk every night. It was great to be young and dumb with my friends, having the best spring break I can tell my nieces and nephews when they grow up.



22nd birthday in Bahamas

I was determined to take a vacation for my twenty-second birthday since I couldn't go for the twenty-first because of the pandemic. After going through my bucket list of places I want to visit, I decided on Nassau, Bahamas. I was with my sister in my room, and called up my friends Manney and Amber, to tell them I had decided on the Bahamas and was going to book the tickets. The roundtrip ticket was \$300 on JetBlue Airlines, I booked for myself, and my sister and my friends did the same, we shouted and celebrated on the phone. For months I anxiously waited to leave for Nassau, Bahamas. I put so much effort into planning my outfits and excursions because I was determined to make this trip the vacation of a lifetime.

The theme I had for the Bahamas was different hues of Green, I bought this beautiful snot green dress with tornado-like lime green circle swirls designs. The thick knitted dress had a medium size strap, the dress was long enough to cover my knees and calves while maintaining its shape as it draped off my body. For my birthday my friends gifted me a matching set of jewelry, it was a Swarovski crystal blue iconic swan rhodium plated pendant necklace and earrings to match.

For my Birthday I went Parasailing and spent time on the beach, after we headed back to the hotel to clean up for an outing in the Bahamas. I took a shower to remove dirt and sand off my skin, I exfoliated since I was in the hot sun most of the day. I did not want to clog up my skin with more products, that day I only moisturized my face and rubbed body oil over to not be ashy. I placed the dress over my head so it could drape down to my body, I inserted my silver six-strap sandals on my feet and was out the door.

Emotional Attachment – This was my very first birthday trip and I made unforgettable memories. My full week at Nassau, Bahamas was a dream, everyone I crossed paths with had amazing energy. The civilians were some of the nicest people I have ever met, any time they found out it was my birthday I would give free things. I received a baby blue beach hat with black embroidered “Beach Please”, and a lot of free shots, even one a bartender dedicated to me. Bahamian Hospitality is unmatched, I stayed at two resorts while there, the first one was RUI, where I made a lifelong friend with this local name Swiggah.



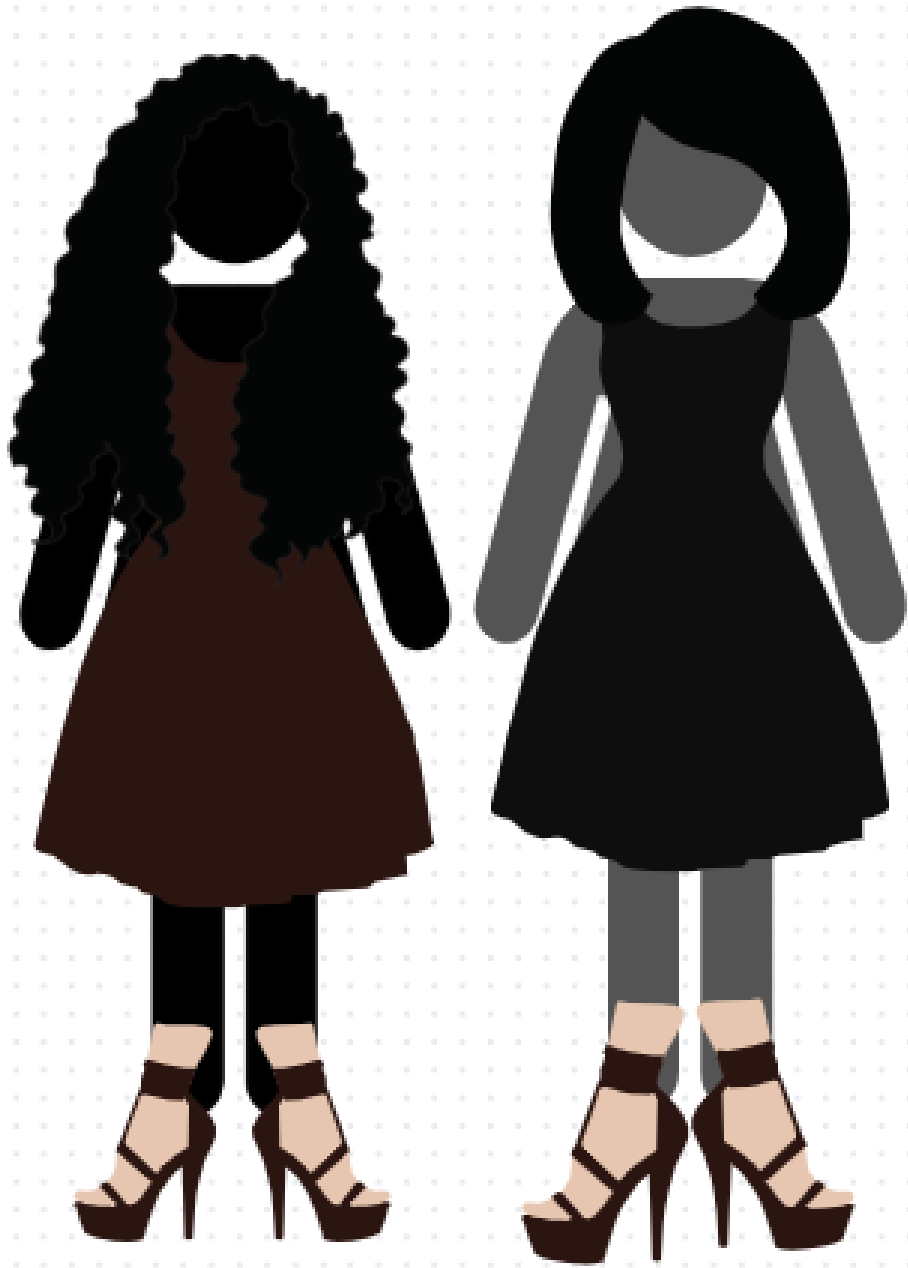
Sister Holiday photoshoot

2021 was ending, and I couldn't be happier about it. I had a hard year and was ready to start a new chapter. I was going through a rough patch in my life, I had stopped communicating with my father and sister and detached myself from my friends after multiple incidents. I just moved into my own apartment and started rekindling my relationship with my sister, when she told me her plans for the holidays. She was very adamant about doing a photoshoot with me, her, and my nephew Dion; she wanted the theme to be black and brown. I know of this Photographer ShotbyPM, who takes amazing pictures, so we decided to book him a week and a half before Christmas.

With the theme being black and white for the holiday photoshoot, I wore a cotton brown dress while my sister wore a similar black dress. It was a long-sleeved maxi body con dress with a large round open back. We kept the styling simple, I wore nude-tone strap heels, and she wore dark wooden brown strap backless heels.

I got my hair done by my hair stylist, she styled my twenty-four-inch water curl wig half up and half down. The day of the photoshoot we went to Kings Plaza Mall to get our makeup done by a small beauty boutique. She enhances our features while keeping our natural beauty intact, I wore a small pearl stud earring to bring softness and shine to my face.

Emotional Attachment- All my life my older sister Rosemichelle has been my best friend, she has always taken the role as young mom to me. During the time when we weren't seeing eye to eye, it was very lonely and hard. Out of the four sisters I have, me and her have always been the closest, we are two years apart and have experienced similar things in our childhood, we've always been a sanctuary to each other. I love this picture of us holding each other's hands, it defines our relationship and is a reminder of whatever happens we go through it together. Even though our time apart was very awakening for me, no matter how much I have grown I will always need and have my older sister.



First date with a woman

During the new year of 2022, I was doing a lot of self-reflection especially when it came to my sexuality. One of my new year goals was to figure out my dating goals, I made a Hinge account with little to no expectations. I received a like from a girl named Precious, she was very attractive in my eyes, so I decided to like her back. We started to get to know each other on the app then eventually liked each other enough and started communicating off the app.

Weeks later we planned on meeting in the city since she lived at school in Jersey, I caught COVID and had to quarantine for two weeks and we couldn't see each other. We remained at the same level of communication and kept FaceTime until we could see each other in person. After my quarantine and testing negative for COVID-19, I drove two hours to Rutgers University to pick her up for our date at American Dream Mall in Jersey.

For our date I wore my all-pink Barbie pink Guess boots with a silver pendant, ripped Levis jeans with black denim spots to not show skin that makes my butt sit up firmly, and an Asymmetrical salmon pink top to match the boots. I added a cropped denim jacket with strings of pearls attached separately on both sides. I accessories with my brown Louis Vuitton handbag, a silver teacup pendant necklace, and a small pearl stud for earrings.

For my date I didn't want to modify my features too much. I wanted to wear a light makeup look, so I took my time to shave my face to remove hair follicles for a smooth surface. I moisturized my skin, added primer for makeup to last, and slowly and lightly applied layers of foundation, I then added a small amount of concealer to brighten up my under eyes, nose bridge, chin, and forehead. I applied a dark brown shade eye shadow to create depth within my eyes, and a short wing liner. I wore my Dior perfume to enhance my natural scent, I lined my lips with a natural tone lip line and added lip gloss to prevent dry lips.

Emotional Attachment- This being my first time emotionally connecting with a woman was very special for me. I had a lot of fear and anxiety about not being sure if was into women, even when I'm dating men I don't really know where I stand. The first date was amazing, I think she can tell how nervous I was even after talking for more than a month, so she tried her best to make me feel comfortable, there wasn't any pressure from her. She was also very affectionate, which is one of my love languages, she complimented me, took pictures of me, held my hand while walking, and gave me lots of hugs. The date lasted 12 hours, after the mall we went back to her campus. She showed me her lab classrooms where she practices her dental techniques, we explored and talked until there was no more night left and I had to go home.



Associates Degree Graduation

It has always been my goal to further my education, I am the type of person who is willing to work for everything in life. My college career has always been a roller coaster, on many occasions I had to full time to support myself during school. I had to take many semesters off, if not due to financial hardships or medical reasons something always tried to block my path. At first, I was very quiet about me graduating, I kept it from most of my friends and family. I didn't want any mishaps and must explain to anyone, but that fear slowly went away as the time marched closer. I wasn't very proud of my associate degree because that wasn't the end goal and felt like it took me too long to get it. I then must remind myself to celebrate every accomplishment, big or small.

I wanted to look sophisticated and professional for my graduation. I thrifted this yellow pantsuit set at one of my favorite thrift stores in Brooklyn. I wanted a monochromatic look, so I kept my outfits one tone of bright mustard yellow, the pantsuit was sun yellow with a black zig-zag design all over, and I paired it with a lace bralette and covered pointy Jessica Simpson strap yellow heels. It was important for me to showcase my country proudly; I wore a Haitian flag stole suspended around my neck, placed my cap on my head by using hair pins to keep it in place, and wrapped myself in my gown.

On June second, 2022 I was finally going to walk the stage, I got up and went to the gym early morning to start off my day strong. Hoped in the shower as soon as I got home to remove dirt, sweat, and germs from my skin. I started doing my makeup after slathering body oil on my body to keep it shiny and smooth. I began by drawing in my browns and making them darker and defined, I pat brown shadow all over my eyelids. I then sprayed my angled eye brush with a setting spray to dip in silver glitter shadow to make an underline wing under my eyes while also highlighting my under-brows with the same shadow. This gave the illusion of sparkly siren eyes; I overdrew my lips to make them look more fuller and smaller.

Emotional Attachment- Graduation with my associate degree gave me the confidence I need to go full-on for my bachelor's with no breaks. Even though this goal was for me, I knew it made my dad very proud. Being the first generation to have a college degree in my family is important, I want my nieces and nephews to come to me for guidance and support. I wanted to show myself how vital it is to keep up with my dreams no matter the barriers are thrown at me. I am now and will forever be proud of my associate's degree, since then it has opened so many opportunities for me.



23rd birthday photoshoot

Turning twenty-three years old was very scary for me, but I was happy to turn a new leaf. I recently broke off an unfulfilling relationship with a man, left a very toxic two years job environment at Amazon Fulfillment center. For the first time in my life, I was determined to take care of mental health, and body dysmorphia. I was working as an operations manager full time, finishing my associate degree in business of Fashion, and keeping up with my fitness goals by going to the gym six times a week. At my lowest weight I was 109 pounds in April 2022, with discipline and determination I bulked up to 126. For the first time in a long time I felt very beautiful and my relationship with body was beginning to be healthy.

For my birthday photoshoot I was focused on showing love and appreciation to my body. I thrifted these white denim jeans at a thrift store in Brooklyn. The jeans were a straight cut Zara jeans DIY by the previous owner, they added black and grey squares in the pants' leg and back pocket creating a unique texture to the pants. I paired the jeans with a cropped wife-beater and white thong panties.

I woke up early in the morning to shower, I waxed my armpits to remove hair for smooth and even-toned underarms. After I got my makeup done by my makeup stylist, I wanted a natural makeup look and butter-glossed lips. After I came back home to back up my bags, I took a pair of scissors and freestyle cut the wife beater to only allow my nipples to be covered so it can do my under boobs. I bought black and grey fabric paint so I could retrace the squares to enhance the colors of the design. Again, due to simplicity, I did not have accessories other than pulling my thong up my waist to give an illusion of an hourglass shape.

Emotional Attachment This was the first time my body was captured at a bigger weight; I have been skinny my whole life and I'll be extra small forever. I am a naturally petite woman, when I was little my parents did everything in their power to help me gain weight, my dad would send the bulk of Ensure drinks from America to Haiti just for me. All the women in my family are naturally curvy, my mom used to stuff my clothes whenever I was going out to appear bigger. As much as she wasn't aware of this it made me insecure throughout my whole life. This picture healed so many parts of me and is a constant reminder to keep going to the gym and work for the body I want.



Sister birthday trip in Vegas

My sister Rosemichelle isn't the type to celebrate her birthday, after forcing her constantly she decided to take a vacation. For her twenty-sixth birthday, we decided to take a quick 4-day trip to Sin City AKA Las Vegas, Nevada. We planned for months, and she invited 3 of her friends alongside me and her to take over Vegas. We went to the top 3 famous nightclubs, Tao night club, marquee night club, and Drais night club. We Explored the Vegas strip and had too many Fat Tuesday drinks, we also went ATV riding through the Valley of Fire.

On the day of my sister's birthday we were going to Marquee nightclub, I wore this beautiful I AM GIA baby blue dress. featuring an adjustable halter necktie adorned with true-tie neck straps, has a plunging cowl neckline, shoulder sleeves with layered, and a wrap detailing on the skirt, showcasing a multi-layered design.

The dress Silhouettes speaks for itself; I did not want to overshadow it by overly styling. Even with my makeup, I pat a light coverage foundation on, conceal my under eyes, and set it with ELF translucent powder to smooth the liquids on my skin. I added a dark blue liner under my eyes for a pop of color. I added a bright highlighter to my cheekbones to elevate my face, I also glued a diamond-shaped rhinestone on the right side of my cheeks for fun. I accessorized my outfit by adding on a diamond necklace and a reverse long necklace to show off the open back of the dress. I continue the simplicity by pairing the dress with my vintage thrifted back handbag and thrifted strap thick wedge heels.

Emotional Attachment- I was very happy to see my sister celebrate her birthday and take the time to show up for herself. Even with Vegas being a short trip we had such a great time, we had Thai food there was the first and it did not disappoint. With the help of her friends, I surprised her by decorating the hotel room with roses, black and silver balloons, Moet, bedazzled birthday girl wine glass, and a birthday sash. Vegas was so memorable because every night my outfits were 10/10, and my makeup and shoes fits the aesthetic I was going for.



Friend 30th birthday masquerade ball

My long-time friend Deanna was turning thirty years old, and she decided to throw a masquerade ball. She said the theme was to dress like a mini prom night.

I thrifted this Indian-styled gold dress five years ago in Jersey City but had nowhere to wear it until now. Because my weight had gone up and my body changed, I needed to get the dress fitted. The dress is all gold with small beads designed all over the dress and seams. I styled the dress with all gold jewelry; I paired it with a rose gold handbag and gold heels.

I modified the dress by tailoring it and getting it dry-cleaned and pressed professionally, I got my hair twisted from the African hair shop, then attached long curly pieces all over the hair.

I waited so long to wear this dress, but it was worth all the wait, I had never been to a masquerade ball before. I love celebrating my friend in this new chapter of her life. I really enjoyed wearing a mask, looking all beautiful and mysterious.



24th birthday Dinner celebration

This was my first time having a birthday dinner for my Birthday. I searched high and low for a dress and couldn't reach a decision. I am the type of person who looks for unique pieces and isn't afraid to spend a lot of money on my birthday outfit. I was going for a Pink theme this year, while searching I stopped upon this beautiful gown from Heiress Beverly Hills Dress. Me and my friends had dinner at Skinos NYC, a Mediterranean fine dining restaurant.

The dress was Pink High-Low Ruffle Draped Strapless, made from opulent fabric, The Asymmetric floor-length, two-tone dyed pattern with a tiered ruffle hem. I styled the dress with baby pink stockings and baby pink pointy-toe heels with pink bows on the back strap to match.

The focus was the gown, when it arrived it was a little loose on the top, I had to get it tailored to fit my body better. I was going for the Barbie look; I had my stylist toned a 613 blond wig for me. She styled my hair half up and half down and curled the down section as it drape down my shoulders. I am investing in my birthday outfits because I want to pass them down, I want them to be good quality for me to look back too and possibly have 27 dresses moment one day



24th birthday in Jamaica

For my 24th birthday I decided to take another birthday Vacation and this time I wanted to Explore the beautiful Island of Jamaica. This time, I turned it into a sister trip, we spent 5 nights at Hotel RUI Reggae and had the time of our lives. I mainly wanted to relax and enjoy my last week of freedom since school and my new job were waiting for me back home in New York City. After participating in hotel activities and numerous excursions, we wanted to relax and have a nice dinner at the hotel before leaving for our flight early morning.

At every gateway, there is always one outfit I am anxiously waiting to put on, and this was the outfit. I have been eyeing this dress from the Mango website for months knowing I will want it for Jamaica. The beautiful silk two-toned dress is the perfect classic/ timeless piece every girl needs in her closet. The Spaghetti strap dress catches your attention and has a split half top color a bright rouge tone, and the bottom section is maroon pink. I styled the dress with my gold strap short heels; I kept accessories simple with a gold necklace and bright red diamond pendant and gold bracelets to match.

After a long day of exploring Jamaica and getting extra dark, I made sure to exfoliate my skin properly to get rid of dirt from Ziplining, ATV, horseback riding, and climbing the Dunns River. In this trip I wore little to no makeup, I washed and moisturized my skin properly, and started getting dressed. The dress was a little see-through. I made sure to wear Nipple covers to maintain a little bit of modesty. I slip into the dress from the bottom up, I then grab each strap to go over my shoulder. I sat on the bed, stepped into my shoes, and wrapped the long shoe strap all around my legs. I decided to add a bold lip to the outfit, so I drew over my lip with a black liner and tapped red lipstick in sections to not apply on my lips.

I wanted this dress because I know I can wear it more than once in many ways. I can see myself still wearing this dress at thirty years old. I received so many compliments while wearing the dress. I haven't had much time to experience the possibilities, but I look forward to it.



Bibliography



Meet Sandra Nicolas, a vibrant student at New York City College of Technology, passionately navigating the world of fashion. Armed with an associate degree in business of fashion, Sandra is on a continuous learning journey, eagerly pursuing her bachelor's degree in the same field. Beyond her academic pursuits, Sandra's life is a colorful tapestry of fashion-related hobbies and interests. Not only does she take delight in styling herself with a keen eye for fashion, but she also generously extends her expertise to peers, offering valuable styling advice for various events.

What sets Sandra apart is her commitment to sustainability within the fashion industry. Currently engaged in rebranding her sustainable clothing resale business, Sandra endeavors to make a positive impact by selling clothes at half the market price. Her mission is clear: promote sustainability by extending the life cycle of each garment, thereby keeping them out of landfills and reducing the need for consumption from fast fashion. Beyond the realms of entrepreneurship, Sandra dedicates her time to community service. Volunteering at Collective Focus, a mutual aid resource hub in Brooklyn, she takes charge of the storefront, curating visual merchandise, organizing donated clothing, and distributing free clothes to the community. In addition to her academic pursuits and entrepreneurial spirit, Sandra's compassion shines through her role as a full-time Operations assistant, where she works devotedly with refugees as a humanitarian. Her multifaceted engagement reflects a genuine commitment to making a positive impact in both the fashion industry and the broader community.