

## **Birthday Reminiscence**

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## **Prologue:**

I always known that my birthday was a day that I needed to celebrate no matter what I was going through in life. My birthday was always an important day to me, so looking back and reminiscing on my birthday outfits and how they made me feel made me realize that I need to keep this up and never dismiss my birthday as another day. Here's the life of a birthday fanatic named Tamiah Assevero.

## **Foreword:**

Tamiah is one of a kind. She follows her own path even when she's staying on top of trends. She doesn't need to follow the crowd and even when she does, she stands out. You gravitate towards her and feel like you know her all your life. Her sense of style is something different, unique. She's a mystery that you want to explore and discover. Tamiah definitely keeps you on your toes when it comes to her. Unpredictable I would say! You never know what to expect from her. I have known Tamiah for ten years now and I can say that she is definitely someone you can look up to and follow without having to worry about being led astray. Her style is just this tip of the iceberg of who Tamiah Assevero is.

Love, Your Best Friend,

Dias is Drummond

**Acknowledgment:**

I would like to thank my mom for always making sure I had an unforgettable birthday and for always putting the effort to make each year special for me. You are the reason why I look forward to my day every year!

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## **Chapter #1: Faith, Trust, and Pixie Dust**

Sun is shining, the air is crisp, and it's my birthday! I was having a party to celebrate the last year of being single digits. This day was all about prepping for the festivities and enjoying them. My tinker bell themed party was scheduled for 6pm at my building's community center. My mom, Clara, stepdad, Wendall, my brothers, Michael, Terrance, Jared, and Kristian, and my sister Cheyenne was helping set up for the big day. My mom got the cake at 12pm and we all started decorating around 3pm. Once 5pm hit, we all started to get ready as the decorations and everything were set up the way it was supposed to, and the party started!

At 5pm, we all went upstairs so we can start getting ready. I wore a white half off the shoulder top that was *reshaped* loosely on my 9-year-old body. I stepped into my rainbow tutu that was *reshaped* to hug my waist and poof out. I *inserted* white open toe sandals onto my feet and *inserted* blue fairy wings to match the theme of my party. Since my theme was tinker bell, I wanted to bring it to life by becoming a fairy myself. I bought this outfit from Marshalls and purchased the wings from party city.

Some body modifications I did for this is that my hair was brushed up and *inserted* into a ponytail. I inserted a pair of stud earrings into my ear and *inserted* a blue furry crown onto my head. I *clipped* on a necklace that was *suspended* mid chest and *inserted* bracelets onto my wrist to add accessories to my look. I didn't do much body modifications for this birthday since I was young and didn't do a lot to my appearance on special occasions.

This day was a highlight because I was able to dress up as my favorite character and everyone showed out for me. Birthdays were always special to me because everyone always made sure to make it special. I loved that I was able to bring my favorite character to life and

enjoy it with all my friends and family. I always felt good when it came to my birthday events because I know I'm going to have fun.





## **Chapter #2:** Too Fast Too Furious

“A test? On my birthday?!” This was my reality on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, since my birthday fell on a school day, and we had a state test. I ended up passing this test, but I didn’t like the fact that I had to take a test on my 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. I still had a good day because after school my mom, Clara, picked me up from school along with my younger brother, Kristian, to go to the movies at *Bay Plaza Mall*. We had a date to see *Fast Five* at 6pm at *Bay Plaza Mall* movie theater and afterwards we went out to eat at *Red Lobster* where the workers sung me happy birthday and brought out a chocolate cake with vanilla ice cream.

This birthday I chose to go all out because I was going to school. I chose to wear a floral pink and green dress with white sneakers. The dress was *reshaped* to be tight fitting around the waist and flow out past the waist. The dress was *suspended* up to my thighs. I had a belt that *wrapped* around my waist that had a little flower on it. I *inserted* my white sneakers that was *reshaped* to fit my shoe size which brought the outfit together. I had on low top dress sneakers so that it went better with my dress.

Some body modifications I did was *inserted* a pair of dangling earrings into my ear. I *inserted* my hair into a low and loose ponytail and *inserted* the blue crown I wore the previous year. I *clipped* on a nice diamond necklace onto my neck that *suspended* to my chest while also *inserting* bracelets to my wrist. The dress spoke volumes, so I kept the accessories to a minimum since I didn’t want to overpower the entire outfit.

This birthday wasn’t an important birthday to me, but I always made sure that people knew it was my birthday. I loved the attention I got so I always made it obvious that it was my day. I haven’t worn a dress on my birthday since I was little, so I loved that I chose to wear a dress and that dress in particular because it’s not something that you wear on the daily basis. This

birthday was fun. but it wasn't special for me since I had better experiences. I did appreciate it, nevertheless.



### **Chapter #3:** It's Just a Phase

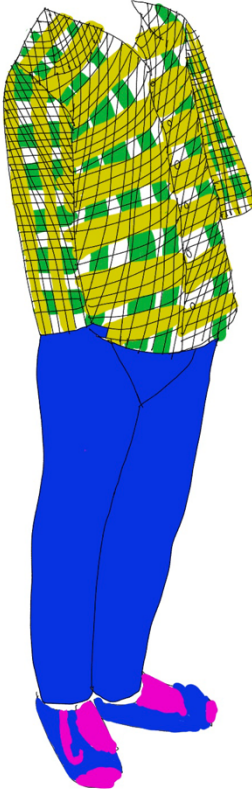
The biggest Marvel movie just got released on my birthday! One thing I always loved about my birthday is that I always had a big movie come out on it and it became a tradition to go see it for my birthday. My family and I went to go see Iron Man 3 for my 12<sup>th</sup> birthday on Saturday, May 3rd at *Bay Plaza Mall* movie theater at 11am. We then went to *Applebees* to eat after the movies where the employees sung happy birthday to me.

For this birthday, I went through a tomboy phase, so I didn't want to wear anything girly. I wore a blue and green flannel that was *preshaped* to fit loosely on my body. I also wore blue cargo pants that were *preshaped* to fit baggy on my body as well. I just bought blue and pink Nike sneakers that was *preshaped* to my shoe size and decided that I wanted to wear it for my birthday, so I *inserted* it onto my feet. I kept my outfit simple since this was a casual outing with my family on my birthday, but I made sure to add accessories, so it was known that it was my birthday.

Some body modifications that I did was that I *straightened* my hair with a flat iron so that it was flat and free of frizz. I *inserted* a blue bow into my hair while also *inserting* a birthday girl button onto my flannel shirt that I bought from Claire's. I also *inserted* a pair of stud earrings into my ear and *clipped* on a necklace onto my neck that was *suspended* to my chest. I didn't do much body modifications since I was still young and wasn't allowed to do much besides my hair and accessories.

This birthday wasn't an important birthday to me, but I always made sure that people knew it was my birthday. This birthday was fun, but it wasn't special for me since I had better experiences. I like the simple birthdays where it would just be me and my family since it's not

much preparation that needs to be done for it and I can keep my outfit simple. I didn't have to dress up and be extravagant since we weren't doing nothing big for that year.



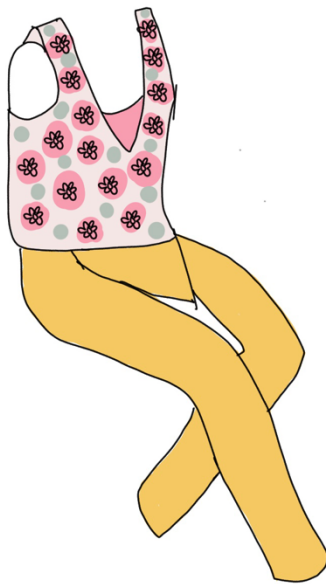
#### **Chapter #4:** Boy band Phase

Birthday party again! My 13<sup>th</sup> birthday was the mark of being a teenager, so I had a party to celebrate it. I had a One Direction Birthday party at my house that started at 4pm. I invited people from my school and my family was there to celebrate with me. I held my party on the Saturday of that week since it wasn't a school day, and it was easier for more people to come out. First things first though, getting ready!

I chose to dress up as my favorite band members girlfriend. I wore a floral blouse that was *reshaped* to fit loosely on my body. I also wore a pink cami top under my blouse that was *reshaped* to fit tight on my body. It tied the look together than if I wore the blouse as a crop top. I wore yellow jeans that was *reshaped* to hug my body since it was skinny jeans. It showed off the little figure I was developing. I *inserted* white sandals onto my foot that was *reshaped* to my shoe size to bring the look together.

Some body modifications were shaving to remove the hair from under my arm so that it was smooth. I *inserted* two pairs of studded earrings to both of my holes on my ears since I had a second ear piercing at this time. I curled my hair and *clipped* pins into my hair so that I had a curly up do for my party. I *clipped* on a necklace that was *suspended* to my chest and *inserted* bracelets onto my wrist to bring all the accessories and the outfit together.

This birthday outfit was memorable because it made me realize how much I love themes. I like being able to dress up as someone that I love and bring that person to life whether they are real or not. I ended up wearing this outfit a few more times since I loved it so much until I ended up losing the floral blouse. This birthday was semi casual so I made sure to stick with that and all my guests did the same.



## **Chapter #5:** Simple but effective

It was a sunny day with clear blue skies. Spring was coming early in the year of 2015! I had a day of activities planned. My mom, Clara, stepdad, Wendall, 4 brothers, Michael, Terrance, Jared, and Kristian, and sister, Chyenne were all coming with me to my activities that day. First thing we did was go to the movies to go see *Avengers: Age of Ultron* at 1pm at *Bay Plaza AMC Theaters*. After the movie, we had a reservation at *Dave and Busters* where my friend and cousin both came to spend my birthday with me. This day was a casual day since I wasn't doing anything fancy or special.

Before doing any of my festivities, I first had to get dressed for the day. I wore a sleeveless Peach Jersey top that was *preshaped* loosely fit onto my body. I then put on a pair a white *preshaped* tight fitting ripped skinny jeans that hugged my figure. I bought this outfit from a place called 10 Spot which sells a lot of streetwear which I prefer to be my style. It was a very simple outfit but with my hair and accessories, it helped make my outfit scream birthday.

For my birthday, I had to make my body look presentable along with the outfits. Firstly, I *waxed* and *threaded* my eyebrows so that it was perfectly arched. I *adhered* acrylic nails to my fingernails in orange to match my outfit. I *shaved* the hair from my under arms so they were smooth. I *curled* my hair and *curled* my bangs and pinned it up the day before so that my hair could be curly for the day. I *inserted* studded earrings in my ear, but you couldn't see it because my hair was down and out. I *clipped* on a birthday girl pin on my shirt so that people would know that it was my birthday. I also *inserted preshaped* white sneakers on to match and complete the outfit.

This outfit wasn't as glamorous as my other birthday outfits, but I believe that's why it stood out to me. I tried a new hair style because that year I decided that I wanted to cut out bangs

and my mom allowed me to do it. This was the only year I had bangs, so I made sure that I made it memorable. This simple outfit made me feel good about myself and since it was my birthday, I felt that it matched the occasion and the age I was turning.





## **Chapter #6:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Place of all birthdays

Sunrise, Florida in the year 2016. The temperature was 86 degrees with a chance of rain at 3pm. This was my first birthday in 13 years that I was able to spend it with my dad, Wayne, who lives in Florida. It was forecasted that it was going to rain for a few hours but only rained for a couple minutes. First order of the day was getting pampered and after I went out to eat at IHop for breakfast at 12pm. I got my toes and nails done after getting IHop at 2pm. Afterwards, I went to Olive Garden with my dad, Wayne, Stepmom, Rachel, and little brother, Cliff at 7pm where the staff sang happy birthday to me. This was another casual outing since there wasn't anything planned for the day, and we just let the day flow as we found different things to do.

The outfit of the day for that day was a black sleeveless birthday girl top that was *presheped* and loosely fit my body. I also wore a pair of acid washed *presheped* tight fitting short jean shorts that hugged my figure. I bought the top from a website that sold Birthday Girl kits that came with jewelry, the shirt, a birthday girl button and a crown headband. This was a simple birthday outfit but even though it wasn't fancy or stood out, it got the job done and made it known that it was my birthday, especially since I added all the accessories the shirt came with.

Before going to Florida, I did a few body modifications that I knew would be better if I did it before the trip. I *shaved* my legs and underarms so that my body would be smooth for the trip. I *threaded* my eyebrows, so they were *shaped* into a nice arch. My hair was *inserted* into burgundy extensions twists that fell midback; that my aunt did before my trip. While I was in Florida, I *adhered* acrylic nails onto my fingernails in a blue and had my toes painted to match. I already had earrings *inserted* into my ear from before and never took it out. I *clipped* on a black birthday girl pin on to my shirt and *inserted* the crown headband into my hair. I also *clipped* on a

Taurus necklace onto my neck that *suspended* mid chest while also *inserting preshaped* wedges on to complete the outfit.

This outfit was memorable to me because I was able to wear summer clothes for my day. It was exciting that I got to spend my birthday with my dad in Florida, so I didn't have to deal with the flip flopping of the weather on my birthday in New York. I enjoyed spending my 15<sup>th</sup> birthday with my dad and was happy I was able to do in the sunshine state so I can enjoy the weather without being cold or raining or without my allergies acting up terribly. I made sure to take advantage of the weather and dress in shorts so that I can properly enjoy Florida.



## **Chapter #7:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Of all Birthdays

The big day was finally here. May 6<sup>th</sup> of 2017. It was raining but it wasn't bad to the point of festivities stopping. At 6pm the party started in a venue in the Bronx and at 7pm the princess makes her entrance. I spent all day making sure my party was set up the way it was supposed to. This was dress up event, so I had to make sure that I looked up to par for my big day. I got my make up done at 4pm since it was going to take a while. Afterwards I got dressed and made my way to the venue at 7pm so that I can make my entrance for my Glow in the Dark Sweet 16.

My dress was custom made for my big day. I had a sweetheart strapless dress that *wrapped* and hugged around my waist and puffed out at the bottom. The dress fell a little above my knee. The dress was *layered* with cotton fabric and iridescent organza fabric to make my dress sparkle. It had white fabric underneath so that my dress can glow and fit my theme. I *inserted* *reshaped* LED light up sneakers as my walk-in shoes and later changed into Steve Madden pastel pink block heels that my dad *inserted* onto me as part of the ceremonial part of my birthday.

Some body modifications I made for this day was, I threaded my eyebrows so that they were *shaped* into a perfect arch. I *inserted* a weave into my hair that I dyed turquoise. I also *curled* the weave as well and pinned in it up until it was time to leave. When I took out the pins, the hair fell shoulder length. I shaved my legs and underarms so that my body was smooth. I sprayed bath and body works perfume so that I can smell good for the rest of the day. I *clipped* on a necklace around my neck that fit as a choker and my bracelet around my wrist. I *inserted* dangling earring for this occasion to my ear. I *adhered* acrylic nails in the colors white and pink in an ombre fashion that was shaped into a stiletto shape to match my dress.

This dress will always be memorable to me because this was a big event in my life. I never had a dress custom made so the process and the result were something I could never forget. I enjoyed my sweet 16 and the dress I had on sealed the deal. The dress was one of a kind to me and I made sure that everything I had on complemented the dress in a unique way. My hair was custom done by my mom which also matched my dress since my dress was a magnitude of different colors because of the iridescent fabric. This birthday falls 2<sup>nd</sup> place of all birthdays that I had so far with my dress topping all the outfits.



## **Chapter #8:** Almost There

Unfortunately, my day fell on a school day, so the festivities had to wait until after school. At 3pm school finally let out and I already changed into my birthday outfit. I waited until I left the building to change. That day was a casual birthday again since I didn't have anything planned aside from hanging out. I had a few friends meet me at my school in the Bronx so that we can hang out right after. Afterwards, I met up with my mom at 6pm and she took me to *Applebees* for my birthday as a mother daughter date.

I chose to wear a Navy blue floral 2-piece set from an online store called Shein. It had a tight-fitting crop top with mid sleeves that flowed out. The shirt was loosely fitted around my chest area which I didn't expect to happen as I thought it would be tight fitting. The shirt *wrapped* around my waist and tied in the back. The set also had shorts that fell mid-thigh. The shorts were loosely fitted and didn't cling to my figure like I expected it would. I *inserted* a silver birthday girl crown into my hair, and I *inserted my preshaped fresh* white sneakers that I bought just for this day.

I had to do my regular body modifications for my birthday. I waxed and threaded my eyebrows so that it was perfectly arched. I *adhered* acrylic nails to my fingernails in red with silver designs. I shaved the hair from under my arms and legs so that they were smooth. I *straightened* my hair with a flat iron which added length to my hair so that it fell a little passed my shoulders. I *inserted* studded earrings in my ear, but you couldn't see it because my hair was down and out. I *inserted* a choker necklace around my neck to add some jewelry into my birthday outfit.

This outfit isn't as memorable as the other outfits, but it is still something I remember because this was the first time, I wore this outfit since I bought it. I liked that it made me feel like

I was maturing since I was showing more skin than I usually did. I was turning 17 so I wanted to be a little mature when it came to my outfit. This birthday was a casual birthday since the previous I had a sweet 16 and didn't want to do anything extravagant for that year. This birthday was still memorable since I hung out with my friends which I haven't done for my previous birthdays.



## **Chapter 9:** Elegant 18

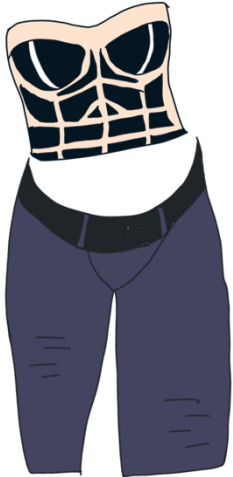
I'm finally legal! (Or so I thought). This was the year I was stepping into adulthood, and I was excited for it. I had to celebrate as needed. I had school on my birthday, but we had a calm day, so I didn't have to do much work. After school, my mom, Clara, stepdad, Wendall, and my 2 brothers, Kristian and Michael, and I went to *Olive Garden* at around 6pm to celebrate my day. The waiter wrote me a note wishing me a happy birthday and the employees sang happy birthday to me. Afterwards, I went to a party that started at 10pm since it was someone's after prom party.

My outfit for this milestone was a black and white strapless corset top that was *preshaped* to hug my body and show off my figure. I *clipped* the top onto my body so that it pushed up my chest and shown my hourglass figure. I also wore ripped jeans that was *preshaped* to fit tightly above the knee and flare out a little towards the ankle. I *inserted* a belt into the pants loops since it was slightly big around the waist area. I *inserted* white Fila sneakers onto my feet to go with my outfit that was *preshaped* to my shoe size.

Some body modifications were shaving under my arms to remove the hair from there so it can be smooth. I *adhered* make up to my face to bring out the glam side of me and the outfit. I *inserted* dangling earrings into my ears and *inserted* a silver birthday crown that I got from Icing. I *clipped* on a birthday girl button onto my shirt as well, so it was emphasized that it was my birthday. I threaded my eyebrows so that it was *shaped* into a perfect arch which tied my make up look together. I dyed my hair pink for my birthday that year and I straightened it with a flat iron so that it looked neat and presentable.

With me turning 18 and entering adulthood, I had to make sure my outfit showed that this was my year. I had to present myself as a woman and I feel like I was able to do that with this

outfit and with activities I chose to do. This milestone will also be memorable to me for the simple fact that it was my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.





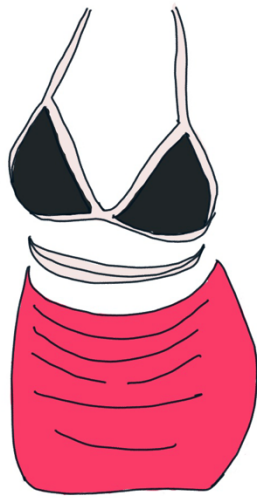
## **Chapter 10:** Covid Birthday

The world was on complete lock down in 2020, so there wasn't much I can do for my day. I unfortunately had a covid birthday just like everyone else. My mom, Clara, still made it special for me by having a zoom birthday. My zoom party started at 6pm and a lot of people showed up to celebrate my 19<sup>th</sup> birthday with me. I actually enjoyed my day even though I had to stay home.

My covid birthday outfit was a black and white bralette that I *wrapped* and tied around my body. It was *preshaped* to fit like a bra on my body and only covered that area so the rest of my stomach, chest, and torso was out. I also wore a red mini skirt that was *preshaped* to fit tightly on my body and show off my curves. I decided against wearing any shoes for my day because it didn't make sense if we were staying inside.

Some body modifications that I did was *inserted* hoop earrings into my ear along with studded earrings in my second hole. I *clipped* on my Taurus necklace onto my neck that *suspended* to my chest. I *inserted* a curly wig on to my head and added products so that the curls stood out. I also *adhered* make up onto my face because even though we weren't going anywhere, I wanted to complete my birthday look with a glam. I also *adhered* press on nails onto my actual nails so that my nails were done for my day.

Even though Covid stopped the world for a second, I didn't let that take away from my day and I also didn't let it take away the joy of actually getting ready and dolled up for your day. It was memorable because I couldn't do anything, but I made the best out of an unfortunate situation.



## **Chapter 11:** A New Decade

The world was still on complete lock down in 2021, so there wasn't much I can do for my day this year either. I was able to go out to eat though but I had to have limited amount of people with me. I was in Buffalo at the time attending school and we went to an *Italian Restaurant* with a reservation for 7pm. I had 6 guests arrive to celebrate my day with me which was my boyfriend, David, roommate, Kiara, and sorority sisters, Mary, Nicole, Casey, and Kim. The employees sang happy birthday to me here along with my party and I had a good time.

My birthday outfit was a black sequin 2-piece set. The top was *preshaped* to fit tightly and was *preshaped* into a crop top. The sleeves were long but slit open, so my arms were out. I also wore the skirt that *preshaped* to fit tightly on my body and show off my curves. It was styled in a *wrapped* design and stopped mid-thigh. I *inserted* black high heels with red bottoms at the bottom that were *preshaped* to fit my foot to bring the look together.

Some body modifications that I did was *inserted* hoop earrings into my ear along with studded earrings in my second hole. I *clipped* on a diamond necklace onto my neck that *suspended* to my chest. I *inserted* a ginger straight wig on to my head and *inserted* a crown along with a birthday girl button. I also *adhered* make up onto my face by a make-up artist who did a glam look for my day. I *adhered* acrylic nails onto my actual nails in the color ombre blue as well.

This outfit showed that I was growing up because I chose to wear heels with this outfit and the outfit screamed adult. I loved how the outfit looked on me and this is one of my favorite birthday looks because I didn't recognize myself when I saw the pictures of me from that day. My outfit and hair were the high light of my day and I'm glad I chose to wear that outfit for my day.



## **Chapter 12:** Officially Legal

I'm finally legal to drink! My day wasn't glamorous because I just came back from Mexico as my birthday celebration. My day was going to consist of going to the mall to collect my free gifts and discounts from different stores at 5pm at *Paramus Mall* in New Jersey. Then afterwards at 7pm, my mom, Clara, two brothers, Michael and Kristian, and ex-boyfriend, David went to a Mexican Restaurant called *On the Border*. It was a casual day for me since I celebrated in Mexico and didn't want to do anything too crazy for my actual birthday.

My birthday outfit was a purple Bratz style top that had purple fur cuffs. The top was *preshaped* to fit tightly and was *preshaped* into a crop top. The top *wrapped* and tied around my waist so my stomach was out. I also wore ripped jeans that were *preshaped* to fit tightly on my body but was loose towards the bottom of my legs. I *inserted* nude high heels that were *preshaped* to fit my shoe size to bring the look together.

Some body modifications that I did was *inserted* a pair of emerald pendant earrings into my ear along with studded earrings in my second hole. I *clipped* on an emerald pendant necklace onto my neck that *suspended* to my chest. I *inserted* an emerald pendant ring on finger to complete the accessory set I was wearing. I *inserted* Fulani Braids extensions to my hair to make it longer and to keep my hair protected while I went away. I had beads *inserted* at the bottom of each braid and a heart design on each side of my head. I *adhered* make up onto my face to give me that usual birthday glam I go for. I also *adhered* acrylic nails onto my actual nails in the color white with pink glitter under nails and *adhered* charms too since this was my birthday set and I wanted it to be extravagant.

This birthday out was casual to me, but I still loved it since I grew out of wanting to go big and beyond. I was stepping into a grown woman, and you can tell by the outfit I chose to

wear for my birthday. This birthday is memorable since this another milestone and the outfit spoke for itself even though it wasn't glamorous like I usually do.

