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MEMORIES

IN

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DRESS

Written and Illustrated

By Yancel Valladares

Preface

In this book, I will be discussing the times where certain events had influenced my way of dressing. This is not to say I will be only discussing the fabric of a dress, and how it made me feel, but also by describing my dress through body modifications. Each chapter is based off of different occasions that occurred in my life and how I prepared myself in detail before the day of the occasion and on the same day. Readers could expect to learn that depending on certain occasions, the way you dress can be altered. By reading this book, others can have the chance to learn what the definition of dress truly has meant. Dress can be the way a person carries themselves and expresses themselves through how they add or take off things from their body.

Foreword

Reading the experiences that my sister has gone through has made me realize how important fashion is in the world and not just fashion, but how important grooming habits are. I've never realize how meticulously we put together our outfits, as well as our grooming, have it so that we can be presentable in the world or in our events depending what the event is. When going about our days, there's always a mental plan of how we want to work that day, and what we have to do to achieve it regardless of what we're doing whether it's a casual event, a daily thing or a formal event. For example, getting ready for work can be completely different from getting ready for school, but there are certain rituals that we do every day to maintain those. Although we think they were doing these things consciously, the matter of a fact is that we do it subconsciously. We go about these motions, not realizing we're playing into the part of the fashion world.

Reading again my sister's experiences, and how she analyzes our events together, made me realize how I try to convey myself to the world, without even realizing it point blank. As a queer Latine person, whenever I'm in other queer spaces, I try my best to present myself as queer. I know there isn't really a look for all queer people, meaning we don't all have a cookie-cutter look, but there's a certain aesthetic that a piece is to us, and I try to fit that aesthetic so that I can show my camaraderie in my community. That usually means piercings, tattoos, short haircuts, or buzzed haircuts or unique haircuts, boots, vintage, clothing, or alternative clothing, etc.. My queer aesthetic is vastly in contrast to my stay at home aesthetic, where I'm more looking for versatility and practicality and comfortability. Being home all the time, and away from my community, when things get dirty, pretty quickly, I tend to just use sweatpants and T-

shirts that I know I can easily swap out and also threw my hair up into something that'll just get my hair out the way. Reading these experiences of my sister really makes me proud to know that she's learning so many things about the fashion world that many other people would find superficial. She showed me that the fashion world is actually much more broader than just fashion, shows and textiles, but more so expression and art.

Sam Valladares

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Chapter 1 – My First Communion

On a warm Sunday morning in May 2006, I received my first Holy Communion. My elementary school (known as Holy Child Jesus School at that time), was connected to the Roman Catholic Church across the street from it. Because it was Catholic school, all students took a religion class and was taught on the faith and the sacraments. The entire second grade would also be receiving this sacrament along with me that day. Since this took place on Sunday in May, it coincidentally took place on Mother's Day that year. My mother had invited family members to come to the church to see me receive my first communion, but to also celebrate a special mass for Mother's Day with her mother and grandmother.

Since this event was viewed as receiving something holy, wearing white was very important. The dress was made of satin, tulle, and lace. The dress felt somewhat uncomfortable because of these uses of fabrics. On the top part of the dress, a design was made of jewels. Around the bottom of the dress, a technique was used on the tulle to give it a wavy look. I accompanied the dress with a white crown veil, white stockings, and small white pumped heels. I also chose to use a matching pearl necklace set with earrings and a bracelet, and a small white purse as *adornment*.

That morning, I woke up, brushed my teeth, showered, and got dressed to look presentable in church that day. After my mother helped me by putting on my dress, she then proceeded to take out the curlers from my hair. To achieve the look of having tight curls but not wanting to rush in the morning, she had left the curlers in my hair the night before. The next Saturday, my parents invited family and friends to celebrate at a hall. Since my mother knew how much of a girly-girl I was, she offered to take me to get my nails done with her in

preparation for the party. At that age, she thought getting a French manicure was the most appropriate option for me. Since she knew that I would most likely be running around and playing, she wanted my hair to be put up in a ponytail, but with my hair still being curled to make sure I looked elegant but comfortable.

I remember both days very well and how I had different emotions on each day. On the actual day of receiving my first communion, I was very tired and hungry for breakfast as it was an early mass. I also remember having a feeling of disappointment because I had thought the party was on the same day. This meant that when the day of the party did come, I was joyful and excited. The people I love were also showering me with compliments and how much they felt proud of me which gave me a sense of happiness.



Chapter 2 – The Wizard of Oz School Play

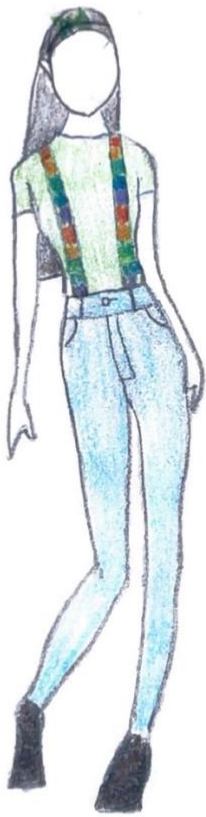
The fourth grade was a very memorable school year. A brand-new teacher had just joined our school and was open the doors of creativity like the school had never seen before. For the first time ever, the school would be putting on play. Mrs. Secreti, who had proposed for this play to happen, had the idea of the play being set on The Wizard of Oz. As her fourth graders, we would all take the roles as the munchkins.

We were encouraged to make the costumes at home with some guidance on how they should look. Neon shirts were recommended with jeans or skirts. One of the mothers of the students decided to chip in by creating rainbow suspenders for everyone. I decided to wear lime green neon shirt with jeans. This type of outfit was very comfortable to be in. The accessories I used was a hairband that had bow on it with the same color as my shirt. I also wore black sneakers that had glitter on them.

When I got home from after school that day, I remember putting all my stuff down in a hurry to get ready for the play that was going to take place later that evening. I made sure to take a shower as soon as I got settled in at home so I can feel refreshed from the school day. Afterwards, my family and I made sure to eat dinner so we would not have stomach growls interrupting the play. After I ate, I made sure to brush my teeth to have fresh breath and a camera-ready smile. When I was done with this, I got dressed and decided to flat iron my hair so that it could look pin straight. *Cosmetics* applied was some light *make-up* such as blush and lip gloss.

The play had made me felt nervous but excited throughout the whole day. I recall being so nervous the night before leading up to the play because I wanted to make sure I had

everything ready so that the next day would run smoother. This is because I knew that I had a whole school day ahead, after school, and then the play, which meant there was going to be a little gap for me at home to make sure I had everything ready including my lines. In doing this, it helped me become less nervous so that all I had to think about the day of the play was my schoolwork and my lines. I was eager for my parents to see me in a play based on a classic film that we as a family have always loved.



Chapter 3 – A Mets Themed Wedding

When I was ten years old, I had the opportunity to be a bridesmaid for the very first time. This unforgettable ceremony took place in early September 20th, 2009, at the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, followed by a beautiful reception at Chateau Briand Caterers. The wedding was for my aunt and her husband, who adore the Mets. Their whole wedding was themed over the Mets from the colors to the dresses, flowers, and even a Mets logo ice sculpture at the reception. The Mets had meant something to both personally making it one of the things they bonded over the most.

I remember it like yesterday when all the bridesmaids had to meet up in the city to get our dresses altered. Depending on who was older and who was younger in the bridesmaids, the shape of the dresses varied. For instance, the younger girls such as my sister, my cousins and I were given A-line dresses with spaghetti straps. The older women, like another aunt who was the Maid of Honor, my mother, and my cousin were given mermaid dresses that were sleeveless. All dress were made of silk fabric and in the colors of royal blue with an orange sash around the waist to represent the Mets colors. The men were also dressed in black tuxedos with blue ties. As the men wore orange corsages, we held orange bouquets. This dress was very uncomfortable throughout the ceremony in the day and the reception at night.

I recall waking up very early because there were so many things to do before the ceremony started. First off, my mother, my sister and I went to the beauty salon to get our hair done. My aunt wanted the younger girls to have an up-do while the older women could do whatever they liked with their hair. Since I was not given permission to wear *make-up* yet, *cosmetics* allowed were some lip-glosses to make my face stand out in some way. I also felt the

need to wear silver dangling earrings with a diamond necklace and bracelet to tie my outfit all together.

This wedding had brought a sense of happiness back to both sides of the family. Both the groom and the bride had lost their fathers. It was beautiful to see both sides of the family become united by the celebration of two people love. I felt very content knowing that the man who I had been calling uncle for years before he married my aunt, was finally becoming my true uncle, and that his nieces that are around my age would be my new cousins. Since it was my first time being a bridesmaid, I did not know what to expect, but at the same time I did not feel nervous at all. There was sense of tranquility throughout the whole day which is why I believe it was so memorable.



Chapter 4 – Eighth Grade Dance Competition

In May of 2012, a selected few of students were chosen to participate in a dance competition. This competition would include 8th graders from all over New York City. As a special elective course, 8th graders of Holy Child Jesus school were given a ballroom dance class. In the class, one learned how to dance Salsa, Merengue, Tango, Swing, and the Fox Trot. At the end of the course, the instructors chose a pair for each category to participate in the competition. My partner and I were chosen to dance the swing. The competition would be held in an elementary school in Manhattan.

Our instructors thought it would be best to purchase the same outfits to have an *appearance* of cohesion and neatness in the group. My group was given pink, which meant we had to include the color somewhere in our *clothing*. As the boys wore a white shirt, pink bow tie, and black shoes and pants, the girls wore a pink tank top and a black dress accompanied with black shoes. The pink tank top was made of cotton, but it also included clear sequins. This would give me an uncomfortable feeling around the arms when I would be dancing. The shirt had to be *inserted* and tucked in before putting on the dress. The black dress was a *pre-shaped* dress that had an a-line silhouette, and a flowy drape. Since it was made of cotton material, this made the dress feel very comfortable. The dress was also backless, which meant that the top part of the dress had to be *wrapped* and tied around the neck. To complete the look, my feet were *inserted* into black leather flat shoes. *Ornamentation* worn that day, such as jewelry, was kept simple by *wrapping* around a simple necklace around the neck and by *inserting* a pair of stud earrings in the holes of each ear. The choice of having simple jewelry was decided so to refrain from any type of distractions.

Dancing often requires one to be in another person's personal space. To keep the dancing a pleasant experience, one might include certain *body modifications*. Prior to the competition, I brushed my *teeth* which led to fresh cleansed *breath*. After taking a shower, my *skin* felt hydrated and refreshed. My washed *hair* helped take out grease, the shampoo to leave a scented perfume enclosed in my hair, and the conditioner to leave my hair with volume. Hairstyling was also added to give one a sense of *adornment*. All the girls styled their hair the same way in which the hair had to be in a tight ponytail. For my hair to be *adhered*, I used mouse to keep my hair in one place. *Cosmetics* such as makeup was used when I put black eyeliner on my bottom waterline. An eyelash curler and black mascara were both used to have a look of long curled eyelashes. *Nails* on the body were given a manicure and pedicure to obtain smooth, clean, round, and painted nails.

I recall feeling excited, nervous, but also honored to be included in this team. I remember the day all the girls from the team came together with some of their mothers to go shopping at Queens Center Mall for our outfits like if it was yesterday. I remember the mothers agreeing that it would be a smart idea to find something we could incorporate later in our wardrobe instead of purchasing a dress that we could only use one time that would later sit in our closets for years. After the competition, I remember choosing to wear the pink tank top for other occasions, and when I would wear it, I would remember the excitement and preparation that went into purchasing it. I would also wonder if the other girls of the team kept the shirt, and if they did, I would wonder if they would immediately go back to that day when we were all shopping, but also, they day we competed in the dance competition.



Chapter 5 – My Sister’s Sweet Sixteen

On April 21, 2013, my family and I had the privilege of celebrating my sister Sam’s sweet sixteen. We celebrated the occasion at Jericho Terrace located in Mineola, New York. Since my sister has always loved the aesthetic of the roaring 20s, she decided to have it as the theme for her party. All guests were to attend in suitable attire that would resemble the *appearance* of the 1920s. As her sister, and as a member of her court, I made it a priority to be dressed appropriately.

Although the male members in her court all dressed up in the same tuxedos, the women in the court all had different dresses. All that truly mattered was that the *clothing* would stay within the colors of white, black beige and gold. My dress had a *column shaped* silhouette since it resembled a flapper dress, with embroidered beads that went around the dress with a pattern, and feathers on the bottom. The dress was made up of silk and polyester which made the dress comfortable to be in. The dress had straps and a zipper on the back which meant arms had to be *inserted* through them first so that the dress could be *zipped* up. I also decided to wear gold silk gloves which needed to be *inserted* into each arm and each finger. To give off the *appearance* of being taller, my feet were also *inserted* into beige high heels covered in rhinestones. Ways *ornamentation* was used was with wearing pearl jewelry. A pearl bracelet was *wrapped* and *clipped* around my wrist, while a long pearl necklace was hung around my neck. Pearl earrings were also *inserted* through the holes of each ear.

Prior to the party, there was a lot of preparation done in terms of *body modifications*. Getting my *hair* styled that day would be an example of *adornment* added to my body. In preparation for my hair to be done, it had to be prepped correctly. Washing my hair beforehand

with shampoo, conditioner, and treatment would leave my hair clean, smooth and volumized. Heat from a curling iron was then used to leave my hair in long curls. For these curls to last, the hairstylist rolled up each curl and then *clipped* them on my scalp for them to stay in place. I also used gold headband with a flower in a way to add *adornment* to the hairstyle. When I got home, taking a shower would help my *skin* feel refreshed and scented before the party. I also brushed my *teeth*, to leave them clean and white before the party. After this, lotion was *rubbed* into the *skin* to achieve smoothness and hydration. Perfume was also *sprayed* onto the *skin* to have a delightful smell. The use of *cosmetics* was applied to the face. While red lipstick was used to make lips stand out, black liquid eyeliner was used to make the eyes look tinier, and lashes were *curled* to give off the illusion of long lashes before applying mascara. Although the *nails* on my fingers wouldn't be seen because of my gloves, wearing opened toed high heels would show the toes which motivated me to get a pedicure. The pedicure would leave my feet feeling smooth, while my *nails* would be filed in a square shaped and then painted. A party always involves food, drinks, and a lot of conversation. To make sure my *breath* would remain fresh throughout the party, I made sure to chew gum.

My sister's sweet sixteen was memorable event for many personal reasons. It gave my family an opportunity to reunite and celebrate a person we dearly loved. In my own personal experience, I appreciate my sister having such a creative theme because of the uniqueness that came into the planning. I remember the stress and excitement that everyone who participated in the planning felt. The dress I wore is still hung to this day in my closet, and I every time I get a glimpse of it, I remember how ecstatic I was to dress up that day and pretend as if we were living in the 1920s.



Chapter 6 – First Teen Night

On a warm summer's night in 2015, my friend Margaret and I attended what would be my first teen night. This meant that teens under the age of 18 could go to a lounge and party and dance with their friends. This event took place in a lounge that was located on Queens Boulevard in Sunnyside, Queens. Since this had been my first time, I had my friend who had more experience in attending these parties how I should go dressed. She had recommended to go comfortably because I would most likely be hot and exhausted by the time the party was over.

As the event came closer, I finally had decided on the *clothing* I wanted to wear. I remember I wanted to have the *appearance* of being comfortable but also wanting to stay fashionable with what was trending at the time. The top I chose to wear was a beige, rib-knit crop top made of cotton. To wear this crop top correctly, my head had to be *inserted* through the round neckline and then my arms could be *inserted* through the holes of the shirt since it did not have sleeves. The bottom I chose to wear were denim ripped skinny jeans. Both legs had to be *inserted* in into the jeans especially with patience to not get my foot stuck in the ripped part of the pants. To complete the outfit, I *inserted* both of my feet into beige suede flats that contained tiny holes around the shoes that served as a design of tiny flowers. The only *ornamentation* worn that day was two gold small earring that had to be *inserted* through the ears.

Before getting ready for the night out, I used mouthwash and brushed my teeth to remove any food from meals throughout the day, and because of this, my *breath* and *teeth* felt fresher, cleaner, and shinier. After this, I showered to remove any dirt and sweat from moving around all day, which left my *skin* cleaner and revitalized. Body cream, oil and perfume were all applied to the *skin* afterwards to achieve the *appearance* of hydrated, smooth, and fragrant *skin*. *Nails* were

buffed and filed down to have the *appearance* of a clean look and feel to my hands. To incorporate some adornment to myself, I decided to do flat iron my hair. My *hair* is naturally wavy, but after applying heat to it, my hair became pin straight. Even though I wanted my hair to be straight that night, I also did not want it in my face or getting that tangled so I decided to put it up in a high ponytail. The baby hairs around my forehead and neck were *adhered* to the rest of my hair by using hairspray.

This event was one of the most memorable events of the year 2015 for me. I remember this day so well because it was the first time I started to feel like a true teenage girl. Coming from a household with strict parents, this is the age where I was being allowed more freedom, if it was done respectfully and appropriately. Having picked out an outfit that was both acceptable for my age and the night out let me feel a little more independent. I believe I also recall this event so well because the outfit I wore was truly the trend going on at the time and every time I remember the outfit, or a specific part of the outfit such as the crop top, I remember what I was doing at the age, the music I enjoyed listening to and the friends I was surrounded by.



Chapter 7 – Junior Tea Party

At St. John's Preparatory high school, the junior class gets an opportunity to have tear together as a whole every year. The meeting is always held in the school's library after school until around 5pm. At this gathering, students will have a chance to sit at tables with the friends while enjoying music, poetry reading and dancing. Aside from the tea, there were other light refreshments such as cookies and sandwiches. Students who wanted to attend the tea party were informed that they needed to come dressed up to school, rather than coming to school dressed in their uniform.

When I was preparing for how I would go dressed, I wanted to make sure I was going to feel as comfortable as possible since I would be in that dress for almost the whole day. The jumper I chose to wear was *pre-shaped* and was made of brown suede. Since the tea party took place during the Wintertime, I decided to include tights with my jumper. Although it resembled a dress, the bottom had shorts which meant that each leg had to be *inserted* into two different holes. To finish putting on this outfit, I had to *insert* my arms through long bell sleeves and then I had to *enclose* the outfit by using a button that was *attached* at the back of the neckline. I chose to finish the look by wearing brown ankle boots to match the jumper, by *inserting* diamond earrings through the holes of both of my ears, and by *clipping* a necklace around my neck and a watch around my wrist.

Upon waking up that morning, I knew I was going to have a long day ahead of me. I was going to be at school from 8:15am through 2:25pm, and then stay a couple of hours more because of the tea party. I made sure to brush my teeth and to take a shower that morning to maintain a pleasant *odor* throughout the day. This left the *surface* of my teeth to feel smooth, and my skin to feel hydrated. I chose to straighten my hair using a flat iron which also made the

texture of my hair to feel as smooth as silk. I teased parts of my hair afterwards to add *volume* to my hairstyle. After doing my hair, I chose to put on some light makeup. This consisted of foundation, highlight and contour, blush, and lip stain. I also used an eyelash curler and mascara to increase the *volume* of my eyelashes.

I remember this day being full of many memories and feelings. My friends and I felt as if this event made us feel important because it was only meant for juniors. I also recall all the preparation I did before hand with going shopping to make sure I had something new and appropriate to wear. The jumper, the fabric used, and the color of the jumper were all trending to my age group during that time. I had fallen in love with the jumper so much that I had worn it to a family gathering and other events afterwards.



Chapter 8 – Senior Prom

On May 6, 2016, I had the privilege of celebrating my high school senior prom. It took place at The Pierre Hotel in Manhattan. Before attending this event there would be a lot of preparation that went into how I would look and dress and how my group of friends and I would be arriving at prom. My group of friends and I had thought if we could all meet up Little Bay Park in Bayside, we could all take a limousine together into Manhattan and it would leave us at The Pierre Hotel. Although the event would be held in the evening, there had been a lot of errands I had to run in the daytime.

When the time came to choose a dress, I wanted to make sure it had a taste of elegance but that the dress would have something incorporated in that would stand out. The dress I chose was body fitting but also in an a-line shaped silhouette. The top of the dress was a see-through corset, and the bottom of the dress had tulle that draped around the dress to make an illusion of an a-line silhouette. All throughout the dress were beads diamond beads and sequins that were embroidered into the dress. When putting on the dress, I had to *insert* my legs into the dress first, and then I could *enclose* the dress with the zipper that was *attached* in the back. After I put on my dress, I *inserted* earrings through the holes of my ears, and then I *inserted* my feet through high heels to give off the appearance that I was taller.

The errands I had to do during the day had helped me tremendously as they were my hair and make-up appointments. I chose to have them done by somebody else in order not feel as stressed out that day. First, I had gone to the hair salon where I asked if I could have my hair curled. After curling each section of my hair, the hairstylist rolled up each part of my hair into bobby pins that when it was time to get ready, I could just release the bobby pins from my hair and the curls would still have *volume*. The hairstylist also added a lot of hairspray to my hair so

that it would last longer, but it also added a softer and shiner *texture* to my hair. After this appointment, I ran to my make-up appointment which was at Mac. The make-up artist added a lot of primers to my face so that the *texture* of my face could look smooth and soft. When it was time for me to make the decision to add false eyelashes, I chose not to. Instead, the make-up artist allowed me to curl my own lashes so that they could still have some *volume*. After this appointment, it was time to go home and start getting ready. I had already made sure to brush my teeth and to take a shower before leaving to the appointments since I did not want my face or hair getting wet in any way after they were done. I added more deodorant to my underarms to remain *odorless* throughout the night. I drenched my skin in body lotion so that my skin's *texture* could be smooth. After I was done with this, I sprayed perfume around all my body to have an elegant smell.

This night was a night to remember, as everyone always remembers their high school senior prom. I recall feeling stressed out at one point during the preparation of prom because there was a concern that girls would be wearing the same dress. For this not to happen, a girl in our class decided to make an Instagram account where every girl had to direct message her their dress, and she would post it on the page without saying who had purchased it. This would inform the other girls of the senior class that that dress had already been purchased and chosen by another girl giving them an opportunity to look for another that wouldn't be repeated. Oddly enough, I found myself in what was an awkward predicament where I had chosen a dress and another girl had the same dress as me but in a different color. When I was told this by the girl who ran the page, I wanted to know if the other person felt comfortable sharing their identity because I felt like if it was a good friend that we could work it out amongst ourselves rather than it being someone I truly did not get along with. The other person was ok with giving me their

identity and sure enough it was a very good and sweet friend of mine. We concluded that it truly did not bother us at all because the dresses were in different colors, and it was us rather than another person. After this, there was nothing to be stressed out about which made the event so much nicer and memorable.



Chapter 9 – High School Graduation

The day that I was waiting for had finally come on June 4, 2016. It was the day my high school graduation, and the weather could not have been more perfect. It was a bright and sunny day to host a graduation ceremony at St. John's University. All the hard work and dedication I had put into my education for four years was going to present itself to me in one document – a high school diploma. I was going to be able to share this day around my fellow classmates and with my loved ones.

Like all graduation ceremonies, students were given a cap and gown. Under the gown, one usually chooses a nice outfit to wear for celebrating after the ceremony. I chose to wear a *pre-shaped* white dress that had many different color flowers all over it. The dress had spaghetti straps *attached* for arms to go through while leaving the back exposed. The dress was made of polyester satin which was very comfortable to wear. There was a small zipper in the back of the dress to help with the *enclosure* of wearing the dress. The earrings I chose for the day were diamond studs that had to be *inserted* into the holes of my ears, while a simple gold necklace I chose to wear had to be *wrapped* and clipped around my neck. To finish the look, I *inserted* my feet into light pink high heels.

That morning before the ceremony I made sure to wake up extra early so that I could have time to do my hair and make-up. When I awoke, I brushed my teeth so it's *surface* could be smooth while at the same time refreshing my breath so there would be no *odor*. After this I took a shower to wake myself up, but to also freshen up my body *odor* before the event. After this I made sure to put cream on my face and body so that my skin's *texture* could look and feel smooth. After I was done with taking care of my skin routine, I applied my make-up where I added *volume* to my eyelashes by using false eyelashes with an eyelash curler. After this I curled

my hair with a curling wand that would help my hair look *volumized* and shorter at the same time.

I remember this day being filled with so many emotions and memories. I remember going shopping by myself to look for the dress and accessories I would wear that day. I recall telling myself to make sure to find something that I would be comfortable wearing for a couple of hours since I knew that the ceremony wouldn't be that long, but that my family and I were going to go up to a restaurant called Don Coqui in City Island to celebrate. I knew that I did not want to have on jewelry that felt heavy and uncomfortable which is why I chose the studs and simple necklace. I also knew that I would be standing for a while before the ceremony started and that my feet would hurt, so it was best to pick out a pair of heels that were not too high.



Chapter 10 – Themed Birthday Celebration

In the Summer of 2017, we had planned to go a Cuban themed birthday party for family member's boyfriend at the time. I remember feeling so excited because in that Summer I had begun to get into the fashion style and trends of the 1950s. I wanted to do everything I can to go with the theme of the party by doing my hair in a particular hairstyle that would have been done in that decade. I also wanted my dress to have a look and feel of a girl walking down the streets of Havana. On June 24 of that same year, we celebrated this birthday in the spacious front yard of my grandmother's house.

The dress I chose to wear was *pre-shaped* and made of cotton fabric which made the dress extremely comfortable to wear. The color of the dress was dark purple, and the same design of flowers was *wrapped* around the entire dress. This dress did not have any zippers *attached* to it which meant that it was easier to put on, and it was sleeveless. The dress fit me so tightly that it *adhered* to my body. The shoes I decided to wear were white sandals, but first my feet had to be *inserted* and then I had to *enclose* the sandals by using a tiny belt on *attached* to the straps of the shoes. The earrings I chose to *insert* through my ears were pink roses that would match my dress perfectly.

When I had to begin getting dressed for the party, I truly wanted to make sure that I would look exactly like a girl who came out of the 1950s. I was not sure how I was going to pull off this look, but I knew I wanted to give it a try. For my skin to feel smooth and hydrated, and for the *surface design* of my skin, I added body lotion and body oil. I also wore deodorant and perfume to have a pleasant *odor* throughout the party that would be held outside. When applying make-up, I first added primer before adding foundation so that the *texture* of my skin could look smooth. I then decided to add liquid eyeliner on the top of my eyelids to make my eyes look

smaller. Then I applied mascara to my eyelashes for *volume*. After this it was time to do my hair that I was so anxious about. I decided to wear my hair pinned up in curls to achieve a look of a poodle updo which was trending in the 1950s. After doing this to my hair, I sprayed a lot of hairspray for *texture* and a long last-lasting hairstyle.

I have always enjoyed themed parties since it gives me an opportunity to dress in a way that I usually wouldn't dress. In this occasion, I was extremely excited because I've always admired the fashion trends of the 1950s and I've always loved incorporating some of the fashion trends in my every looks. I enjoyed putting every thought into the details of my entire outfit. I knew that there were places I could have gone to shop where vintage dresses are sold, but I wanted to experience of using a piece of clothing I already owned and making the look work out. The dress was such a comfortable and tropical looking dress that I've brought it with me on vacations.



Chapter 11 – My Parent’s 25th Wedding Anniversary

On February 28th, 2017, my parents celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. Although they did not get to have a big celebration in that same month, they would get to celebrate in a special way on July 8th, 2017, which happened to also be on my father’s birthday. That summer my family had decided that it would be a good idea to rent out a house for a weekend in New Jersey so that we can all spend time with each other. What my parents did not know is that there would be a surprise celebration for the anniversary on one of the nights that we were staying there. This had been the second time my family had arranged a summer family reunion which helped a lot in my parents not expecting this trip to have anything special about it. Since this was a surprise, we had to let my parents know to bring a white outfit for a family photo. What they did not know was that only my parents, my sister and I would be the ones wearing white as a resemblance of their matrimony, but my entire family would be wearing silver resembling their 25th anniversary.

I chose to wear a white romper that was *pre-shaped* and made of polyester fabric. Although this romper was sleeveless, there was a choker necklace that was *attached* to the back of the dress. To put this romper on, I had to *insert* both of my legs first through the holes of the shorts on the romper, and then I had to use the zipper that was *attached* to the back of the romper to *enclose* it. I chose to match my shoes by wearing white sandals that involved straps being *wrapped* around my ankles. Since the romper had a choke necklace *attached* to it, I did not feel that there was a point in wearing a necklace. However, I wore diamond earrings that were *inserted* through each of the holes in my ears and a gold watch that was wrapped around my wrist.

Since my family and I had been doing outdoor activities earlier in the day, I chose to take another shower before the surprise party to remove outside *odor* from my body and to freshen up. The *texture* of skin after showering and then by applying body oil to my skin was then hydrated and smooth. I wanted to apply light make-up, but I made sure to add some mascara to add *volume* into my eyelashes. Since I knew that the summer heat would mess up my hair, I decided to leave my hair in its natural state, but I teased some parts of my hair to add *volume* as well. After this I added hairspray for *texture* and *surface design* for my hair to look nice in pictures that might have been taken afterwards.

I remember feeling very anxious this day for many reasons. My family wanted to ensure this would be a memorable and special night for my parents. It became almost impossible to keep this secret from them, but I knew I had to because it was something they both deserved. While looking for this jumper, I wanted to make sure that it was elegant enough for the occasion, but that I could wear it another time later in the summer. To this day, I still have the jumper hanging in my closet and every time I see it, I remember the night when I celebrated the 25 years of my parent's love.



Chapter 12 – Hispanic Day Parade

On October 14, 2018, I had the privilege of being a part of the Hispanic Day Parade. Every year, my aunt's business advertises their float in the parade, and she allows my cousins, my sister and me to participate in any type of way. Every year she rotates between us to choose a queen for her float. On this particular year, it was my turn to be chosen as the queen. This meant that the dress I chose to wear had to long and elegant, and that I would have to choose a dress that looked as if I was attending a gala.

The dress I chose was a long *pre-shaped* mermaid dress. It was made of black velvet fabric, with some parts of the long sleeves and hips made of see-through material. The dress also included a deep v-neck with a blue glitter design *wrapped* all around the dress. In the back of the dress, a zipper was *attached to enclose* the dress. To wear this dress, first I had to *insert* my legs into the dress, and then I had to *insert* my arms through the long sleeves of the dress. After this, the only jewelry I chose to wear were long black earring that had to be *inserted* into the holes of my ears. I then chose to wear heels that were low since my dress was long and nobody would be able to see them.

That morning when I was getting ready at home, I wanted to make sure I looked and felt confident throughout the whole day as I knew I would be working with new people and that there would be many pictures being taken. After I showered that morning, I added lotion to my skin to add hydration and smoothness to the *texture* of my skin. I then applied deodorant and perfume on my body to have pleasant *odor* throughout the day. After this I had to prepare my skin for all the make-up I was going to put on my face. I used primer to minimize the pores on my face so that the *texture* of my skin could look smoother. When I was finishing my make-up, I added false eyelash with a little bit of mascara to add *volume* to my eyelashes. Since I had long

dark hair at the time, I thought adding curls and hairspray to my hair would give it *volume* that would last the whole day.

My family and I have always been involved in the Hispanic Day Parade and we always knew what to expect of that day. We knew that it consisted of waking up very early in the morning, and to spend hours in a parked float preparing for out it to leave and join the parade until the afternoon. Even though I knew all of this, I still remember feeling a little anxious that day because I knew I was going to be the face of the float and I wanted to make sure I did not forget anything. I also remember taking comfort in the dress because it was long and had long sleeves which kept me warm throughout the morning. I love how this dress was dark but had royal blue glitter that matches the Honduran flag. Although I loved this dress so much, this event has been the first and last time I have worn it.



Chapter 13 – My 21st Birthday

On December 12, 2019, I turned 21 years old and celebrated it by surrounding myself with what one of the things I love so much – music. I attended a concert from the Reggaeton artist Anuel AA at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn. I attended the concert with two of my high school friends, Ana, and Margaret, and with my aunt Vicky. I could still remember how excited I was that he was going to have a concert on my exact birth date and especially for my 21st birthday. One always remembers how they celebrate this age, and I was privileged to celebrate it with my loved ones with an artist I really liked.

The dress I chose to wear at the concert was *pre-shaped* and was made of blue velvet fabric. It had spaghetti strapped sleeves that arms had to be *inserted* in. *Attached* to the back of the dress was a zipper that ran from my lower back to my upper back. The dress also *adhered* to my body as it was a form-fitting dress. The shoes I chose to wear had leopard print on them and straps that had to be *wrapped* around my ankle and some of my calves. The earrings I chose to wear, also leopard print which had to be *inserted* through the holes of my ears and clipped in the back for them not to fall off.

Since I had class earlier that day, I went home and rested for a couple of hours. When it was time to start getting ready for the concert, I chose to brush my teeth once again to remove an *odor* to refresh my breath. After this, I took a shower to freshen up and add fragrance to my body *odor*. Once I got out of the shower, I added lotion around my body especially my legs and arms to add a smooth *texture* to my skin. When applying make-up, I chose to go with a natural look, but I chose to add *volume* into my eyes by applying mascara to my eyelashes. Since I had washed my hair in the shower, the shampoo and conditioner cleansed my hair removing any dirt of grease that was present, and by adding shine, *volume*, and *texture* to my hair afterwards. To

give my hair a wet, curly, and natural look, I used mouse to scrunch up my hair which also added *volume* to my hairstyle.

At first, I was not sure how to go dressed to this concert. I wanted to stand out and dress in fancy way because I knew it was a special night to me, but I also knew it was a concert where I would be standing, and I wanted to make sure I was comfortable. I finally had concluded that I should dress up as much as I could for the concert because it was a birthday one should always remember. I loved how the dress made me confident but how it also made me feel a sense of maturity now that I was 21 years old. Although, I do regret choosing to wear heels as my feet were too sore by the end of the night that I could barely walk to my car that parked only across the street.



Chapter 14 – My Niece’s Gender Reveal

On April 16, 2022, my sister and her fiancé hosted a gender reveal party for their second child that was on her way. It was celebrated in the front yard of my grandmother’s house as her house has always been a place to throw the outdoor parties because of the space she has. On this day, guests were encouraged to come dressed however they liked. However, guests wore blue or pink depending on if they thought the baby was going to be a girl or boy. The only person that was strictly excluded from participating in this was myself since I was the only one who knew the gender and therefore wearing a certain color would give it away.

In choosing an outfit, I wanted to make sure I would feel as comfortable as possible since the party would be held outside but the weather was still chilly. I chose to wear a t-shirt that was *pre-shaped* that said “keeper of the gender”. The bottoms I chose to wear were a pair of ripped jeans that were also *pre-shaped*. To get dressed, I had to *insert* both of my legs into each hole of the pair of pants. As for the shirt, I had to put the shirt over my head and then *insert* my arms through the holes of the short sleeves. Since the shirt was made of cotton and the jeans were of denim, the entire outfit felt very comfortable to wear. The shoes I chose to wear were white sneakers, which meant feet had to be *inserted* in the shoes first and then tied. I chose to wear simple jewelry to this party which consisted of white pearl earrings that had to be *inserted* through the hole of my ears, and gold rings that were *wrapped* around some of my fingers.

The body modifications that were done this day were no different than those done on other days. As I always do whenever I wake up, I brush my teeth which leaves the *texture* of teeth to be smooth, and the *odor* of my breath to smell fresh and clean. After this I took a shower which resulted in my skin’s *texture* to feel clean and smooth. The body soap I used in the shower

made provided fragrance and a cleanse to my skin which reduced any chance of bad *odor*. I only chose to wear some make-up this day such as blush, mascara, and lip-gloss which all contributed to a *surface design* on my face. As for my hairstyle, I chose to straighten it with a straightening iron and by protecting it before hand with heat protectant which left the *texture* of hair silky smooth.

This party was a memorable day for my sister, her fiancé, and for our entire family. It felt like such an honor to be the only one to know the gender of the baby, but it was so hard to keep such a secret for so long. Many had tried to trick me into telling them the gender which became very hard as the party's date came closer. When I was deciding what to wear, I wanted to make sure to wear something as creative as possible. I love how the shirt said exactly how I was feeling throughout all the time that I had to keep it a secret as it felt like such a privilege that nobody else got to have. I have kept the shirt as a memory of this occasion, and every time I run into it in my closet, I remember the joyous day my entire family found out that my sister was expecting a baby girl.



Chapter 15 – Mac Saturn Concert

On February 4, 2023, I attended a show in the Manhattan from a band I enjoy to listen to. This show was held at a venue called Racket in Chelsea. I went with one of my best friends, Amanda, whom I've known since high school. The band, Mac Saturn, was scheduled to start their set at 8pm while their opening band, Billy Tibbals Band, started at 7pm. Since my friend had gotten out of work at 7pm, we had agreed that I would meet up with her at her job and then we would take an Uber from her job to the venue afterwards. For about two weeks me and her would talk about the outfits we were going to wear. As the date of the show came closer, I became more excited to see them perform live.

I chose an outfit that I thought would go perfectly with the band's aesthetic. For a top, I wore a red halter crop top. The top had to go over my head, and then I would have to *insert* my head in a criss crossed part neck so that I could also *insert* my arms through the top. For the bottoms I chose to wear flare jeans that were bootcut bell bottoms. In order to put these pants on, each leg had to be *inserted* through each hole of the pants. Since I decided to wear these type of pants, I thought it would only make sense to wear high heeled boots. For these particular boots, each foot had to be *inserted* first. Then, since there was a zipper *attached* to the side of the boots, I zippered up my boots for *enclosure*. After this, there were also laces *attached* to the front of the boots, which then had to be *wrapped* and tied on each boot. Since this was going to a cold night, I was able to find the perfect jacket to go with my look. After my mother had lent me a fur coat that went up to my hips, I was able to look like as if I was in the 1970s. The coat could be *enclosed* by *wrapping* the buttons together that went along the coat. To finish the look, I wore thick gold hoop earrings that had to be *inserted* through the holes of my ears, and then clipped together in the back of my ear.

Earlier that day, I had an early morning session photoshoot. Luckily it was only for two hours, which meant that I could have some time to go home, rest and get ready for the show. Since I had felt like I needed to refresh myself from the shoot, I took a shower which reduced the chance of me having any bad *odor* during the show. After this I moisturized my skin which helped in changing the *texture* of skin and the winter day had made my skin dry. I made sure to put on lots of perfume and deodorant as well so that I could smell good throughout the whole night which also assisted in there being no room for bad *odor*. I had decided to quickly touch up the curls I had put in my hair earlier in the day by using a curling wand which had added a lot of *volume* in my hair. When I was applying my make-up, I used false lashes to give off the illusion that I had long *volumized* lashes.

This night out was a great way for me to start off my year. I have always had such appreciation for music and I was excited to see and hear a band that I repeatedly listen to. I was so inspired by their look that I wanted to make sure I matched with them through my outfit. I remember looking for my outfit and making sure that all of the details made sense. I was so precise on having my outfit look as if I was attending a rock concert in the 1970s.





Meet YANCEL

Hi there! My name is Yancel, and I'm a Business and Technology of Fashion student and a model. I adore the world of fashion and hope that one day I can launch my own clothing line. I love anything that is vintage such as old film, vinyl records and even taking pictures with a Polaroid. Spending time with my family is what I treasure the most in my life and I hope to make them proud with all I have been able to achieve this far, including this book.

