

Untucked with..

Mauricio Visage

Glamorous



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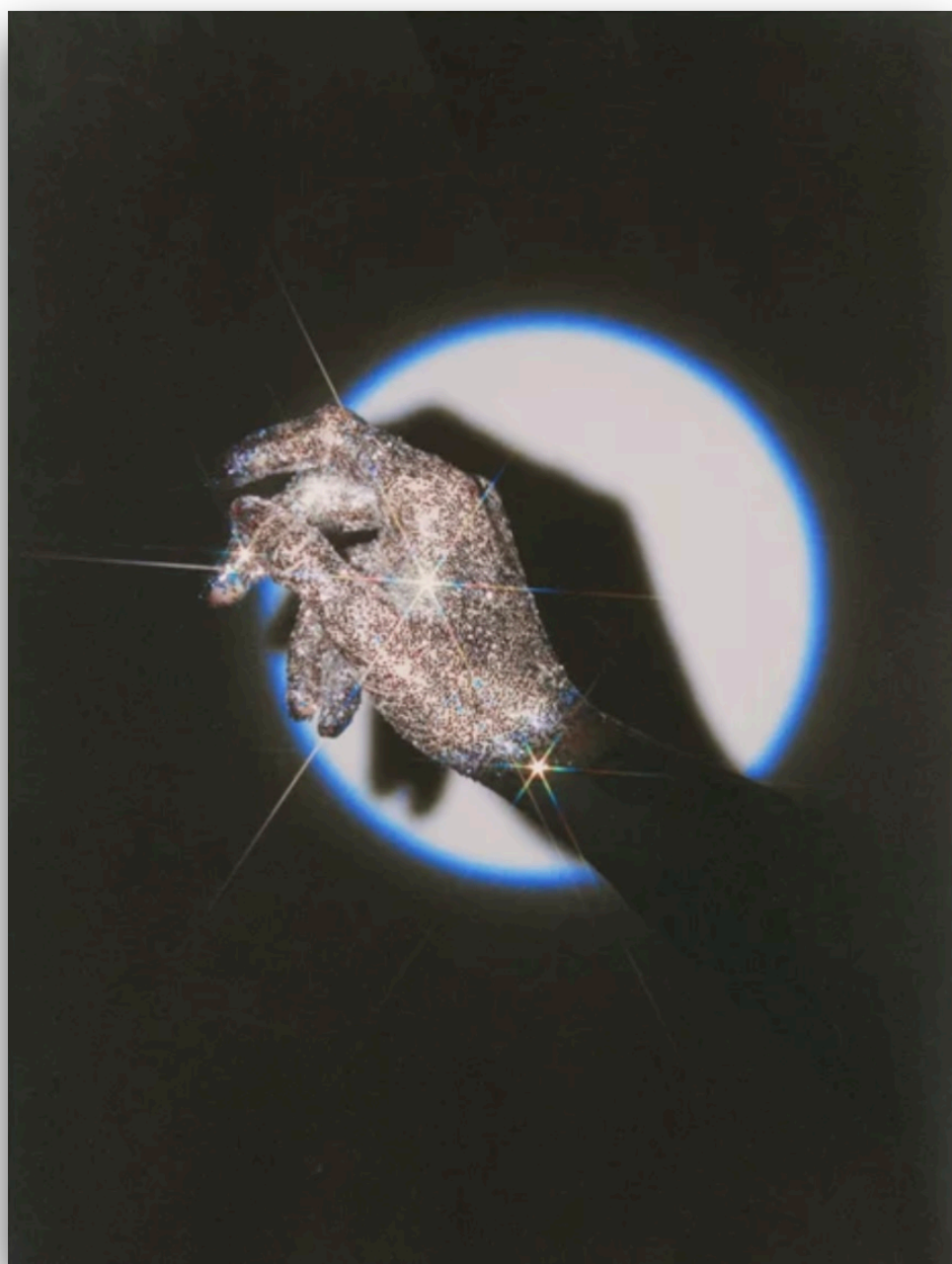
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The conception of this narrative arose unexpectedly. I found myself in a state of ennui, fixated on a computer screen during the early hours of the morning whilst fulfilling my professional duties. Engaged in military training of utmost confidentiality in California, my responsibilities entailed a high-level classified security clearance. The usage of phones was strictly prohibited within this context. It was during this period of tedium that I commenced introspecting upon my existence and meticulously transcribing my ruminations. The subsequent events that unfolded would etch their mark in herstory.



Mauricio Visage
Visage Studio of Arts
Delusionspodcast.com



Prologue

This is a brief account of my journey into adulthood, where I grappled with my identity and aspirations. I found myself living a dual existence, conforming to societal expectations of masculinity while also embracing the LGBTQ+ community. Internally, I struggled with questions about my attraction to men and the lack of acceptance from society. Why must I conform to societal norms? I often pondered. To mask my true self, I sought solace in glamour, finding resonance in Brittany Spears' song 'Lucky' which seemed to reflect my own experiences. The allure of beauty and drag captivated me.

What is beauty? “the quality or group of qualities in a person or thing that gives pleasure to the senses or the mind”

What is glamour? “an exciting and often illusory and romantic attractiveness”

What is man? “An individual human”

What is drag? “Performance of exaggerated femininity, masculinity, or other forms of gender expression, usually for entertainment purposes”

Chapter 1

*I'm beautiful in my way, cause God makes no mistakes.
I'm on the right track baby I was born this way.*

If an individual is defined as a human being, who determined that being a man entails being masculine and held to a higher standard than women? This concept was perplexing to me as I grew up. I couldn't comprehend the idea of gender roles. I found myself drawn to beauty and glamorous things. But aren't men also supposed to appreciate beauty? The difference was that I aspired to embody that beauty. A part of me never truly felt like a man or a woman. I considered myself to be somewhere in between. Now, there is a term for that, it's called non-binary. I now openly acknowledge that I identify as non-binary. I present myself as male and prefer to use he/him pronouns.

Before I discovered my true identity, I was living my life according to others' expectations. My family insisted that I couldn't engage in activities associated with girls and that I had to conform to masculine behavior. In school, I excelled academically, which led the principal to enroll me in the health academy. This set me on a path to pursue a degree in health science and occupational therapy. I even gained admission to graduate school for a double masters degree, but I constantly changed my mind about my desired major.

Did I truly want my life to continue on the same trajectory? No. From an outsider's perspective, I seemed to have it all. I was well-educated, came from a wealthy family, wore designer labels, owned numerous gadgets, drove various cars, maintained a well-groomed appearance, was considered attractive, and was spoiled. My lifestyle appeared glamorous to many who lacked such privileges. However, I still felt different. I was unhappy. Something wasn't right. I battled with depression and desperately needed therapy and guidance.

I couldn't comprehend why I was attracted to men. I felt like a failure because I didn't engage in stereotypically "manly" activities. I didn't have a woman by my side, a ring on my finger, or children of my own. I also struggled with the conflict between my identity and the expectations imposed by my Christian upbringing. Over time, I have developed my own beliefs, separate from what the church dictates. I now understand that no sin is greater than another, and that the Lord created me exactly as He intended. There is nothing wrong with me. I was born this way, as Lady Gaga eloquently expressed.

I enlisted in the military on a spontaneous decision. I wanted to prove to myself that I was capable of accomplishing what all the other men were doing. Despite facing skepticism due to my sheltered upbringing, I became even more determined to succeed. Joining the service didn't change my inner feelings, but it did make me stronger as an individual. Seeking therapy allowed me to share my background and the therapist acknowledged my impressive qualities. I presented myself in the best possible manner. However, being in the military forced me to hide my true identity out of fear of professional repercussions. Therapy provided me with a much-needed outlet to reflect and find happiness amidst the challenges.

And that's when I discovered drag race, which resonated with me on a deep level. Seeing men embrace women's clothing, makeup, and hair made me realize that I had been denied the opportunity to explore these interests growing up. These individuals defied societal norms and many of them didn't identify strictly as men; some were trans or non-binary. Being exposed to this universe allowed me to appreciate the beauty and glamour that I had unknowingly yearned for. To immerse myself further, I started a podcast where I discuss RuPaul's Drag Race. It became a fantasy world where I found my true self. Although I don't physically participate in drag, I feel connected to the community and can freely express my queerness. I no longer have to hide who I am. Embracing my identity, I feel comfortable and confident, just like Beyoncé said in that song I played on repeat. Drag race has become my escape, much like it is for those who perform in it. Finally, I can appreciate the beauty within myself, shedding the toxic masculinity that once

plagued me. I feel glamorous, and I use that newfound expression to celebrate my true self. It transports me from reality to a fantasy world, one that I adore!



And that's the gist of it. I'm not one to openly express myself or delve into the details of my life. As I immerse myself further into the realm of podcasts, it's important for listeners to know the person behind the voice. I'm uncertain if anyone will read through all of this, but I felt compelled to share. So, that's my story. Stay fabulous, stunning, and above all... glamorous!



About the Author



Mauricio Visage - Educated and professional individual striving for excellence in all aspects of life. Passionate about continuous learning and personal growth. Join me on this journey of knowledge and success!