

Mimp

002
REVOLUTION
WINTER 2016



revolution.

A complete or radical change; a turning or spinning motion of an object; sparked by a single idea.

Interpreting the theme of “revolution” has been significantly difficult. There are so many ways in which I can approach this idea because there are many personal and dictionary definitions of the word, which call into question my understanding of the very idea of the word. So I started mind mapping on the subway (naturally).

The first feeling I associate with this word is hope. It pulls forth into my brain the memories and instances when I let my life so fully revolve around another person, and thought there would be no way to move on once they were gone. My life used to revolve around gymnastics and dance. Dance makes me think of my ongoing body journey and about how I feel when I move — I can only describe it as powerful! When I think of powerful movement, I think of an organized group of individuals standing up for what they believe in. Which brings me back to this idea of hope for a better future, where minorities including women are equal and where people always try their hardest to be genuine and kind.

On the cover we had the opportunity to work with McKenzie and Niamh, who are not only accomplished young women but who stand up for what they believe in. A special thanks to all of the other women in this issue who inspire us to spark a revolution within ourselves. Many of us started university this year and putting together this issue was challenging but worth it. I want to thank my team and our readers for always having my back.

Love always,

Andrey Klobucar
Editor-In-Chief



PHOTO BY MONICA THI

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PHOTO BY: MASON NOTEBOOM



**WINTER ISSUE 002 | REVOLUTION
FEATURING NIAMH WILSON + MCKENZIE SMALL**

mimp magazine is an independently published online and biannual print magazine. We are dedicated to young women who don't have a specific style but are very specific people. We are for girls who know what they want and do not stop until they get it! Our goal is to create an empowering environment for girls and young women everywhere by defying media standards. We're a tight knit family of girl bosses and are always accepting submissions.

to find out more about how to submit your work visit www.mimpmag.com

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Mimp: To behave; especially to speak or eat in an affected-over precise or fussy manner.

Left to right: Niamh Wilson, Mckenzie Small



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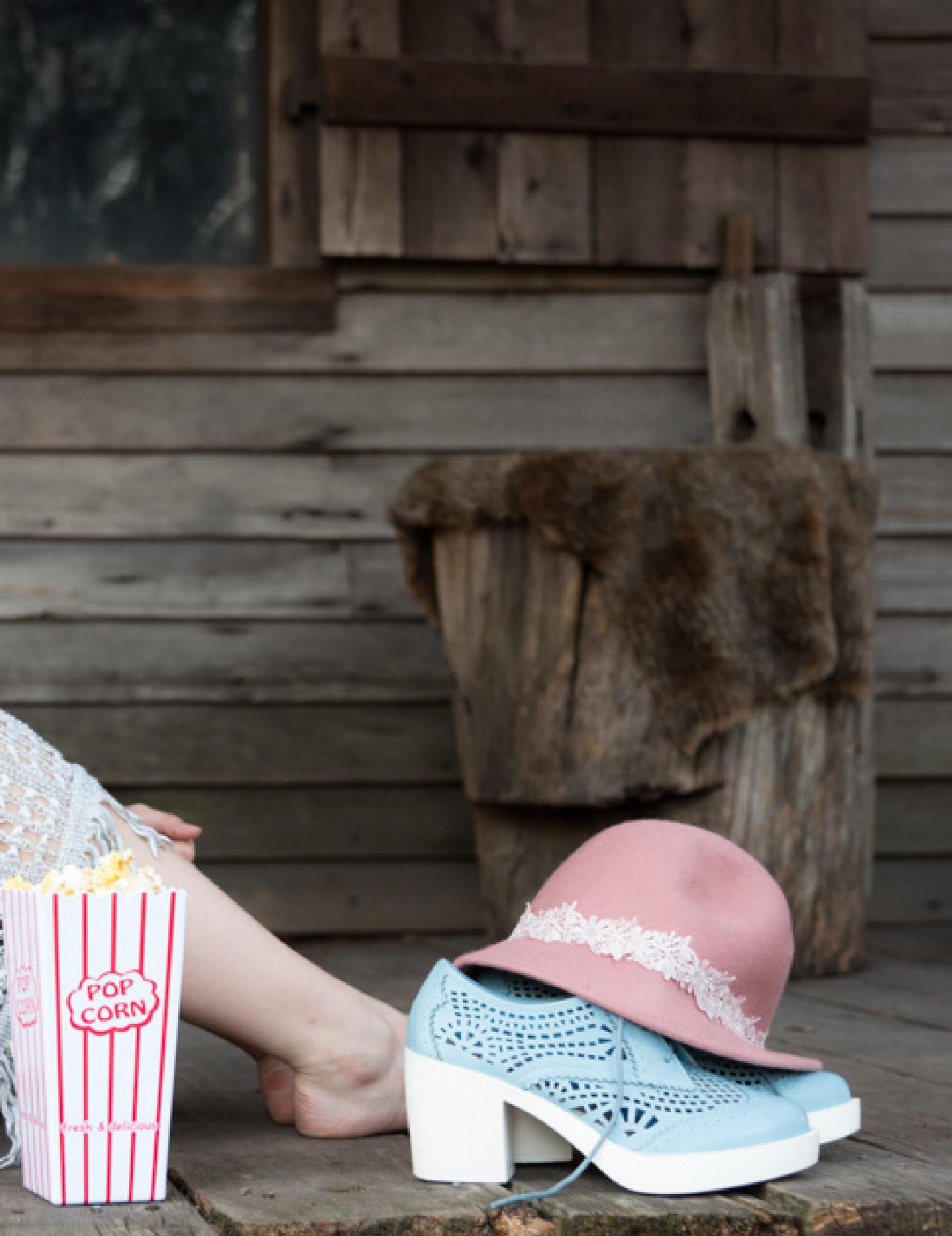
Cash or check?

A classicly vintage photo series by Karina Alejandra | Modeled by Brooke Wood









POP CORN

fresh & delicious



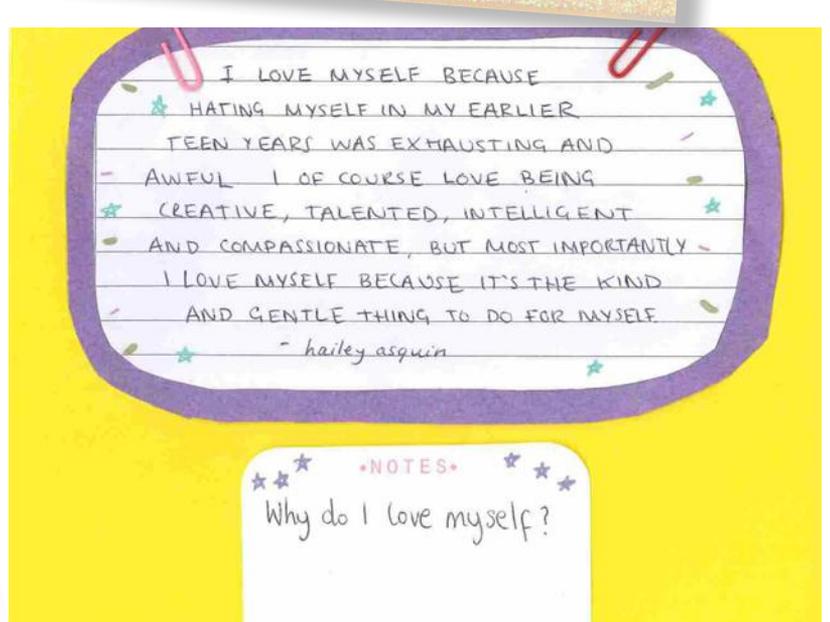
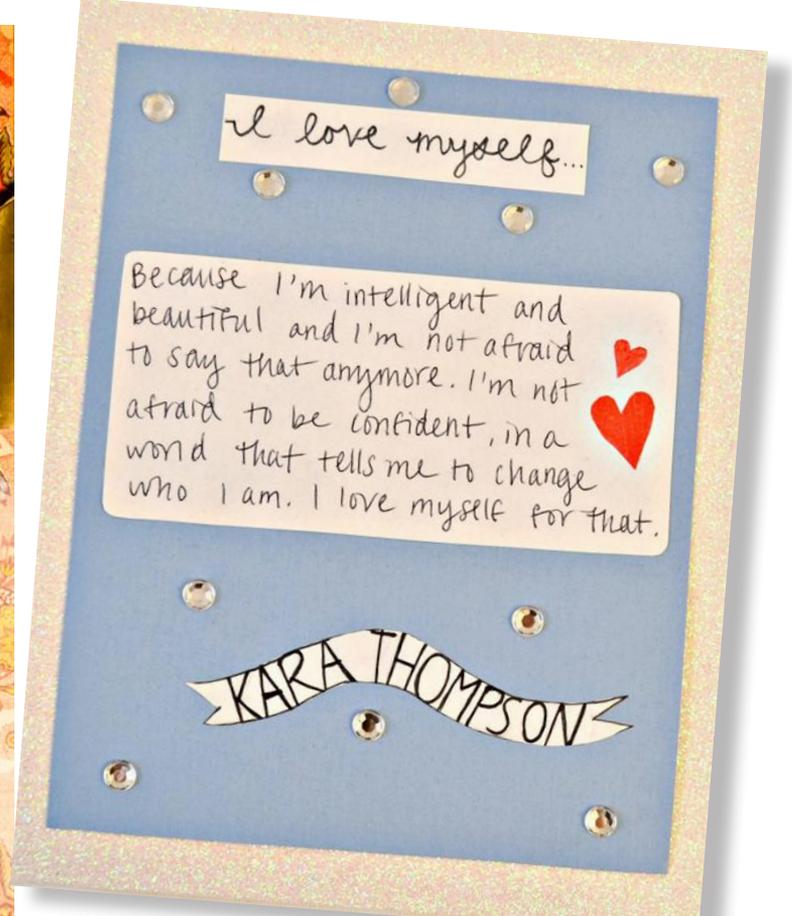
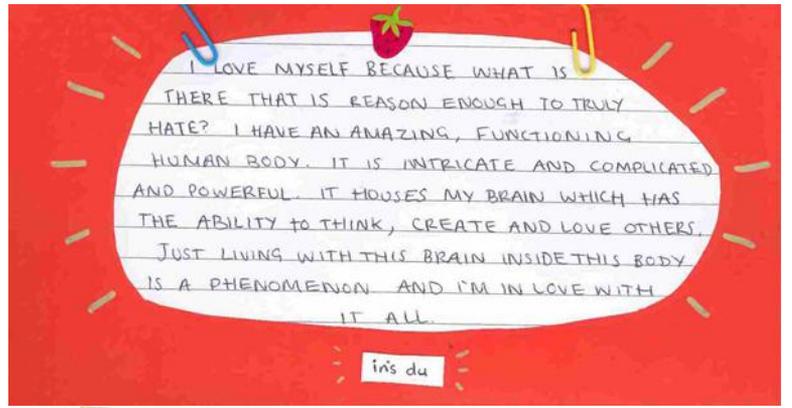
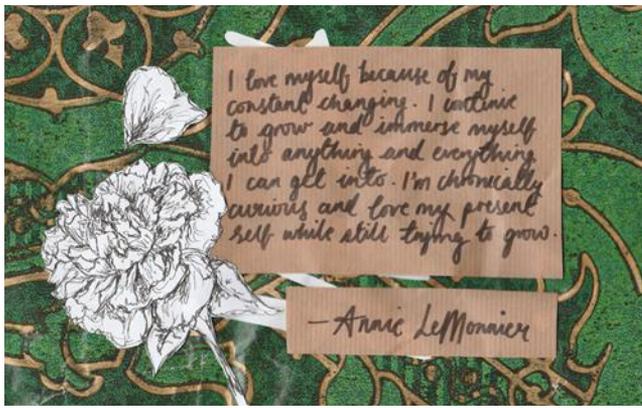
skin

A PHOTO SERIES BY SARAH BAUMAN



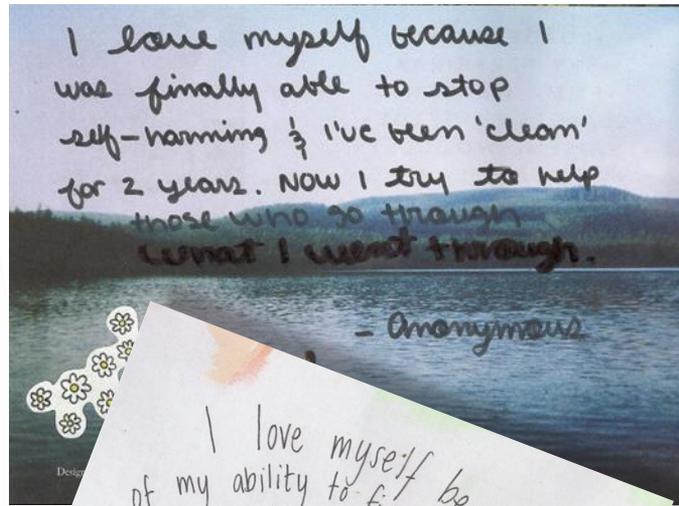






To be quite frankly with you, I have never thought about this question until I stumbled upon this interesting project. My name is Lok Tung and I am a 15 year old teenage girl from Hong Kong. I've always been very insecure with my body and how people view me. However, recently I've learnt how to accept myself and love myself for who I am. I am very proud of my self growth and I just want to type this to remind myself how far I've come. I love myself because I am content with myself without needing other people's approval. I love myself because I am able to voice out my opinions and stand up for myself. I love myself because even I am very emotional whether it comes to listening to a sad song, watching a touching movie in the theatres or even reading a depressing book, I let myself cry as long as I need (even it's embarrassing doing so in public), I understand that it's okay to be upset and I let myself do what needs to be done.

- Lok Tung



- Anonymous

I love myself because of my ability to find beauty in things around me. For highs and lows and being able to experience the 'highs' for finding enjoyment in simple things and peace in the sky and in the words that I read and that are spoken around me.

- Wynnter Millsaps

Self Love Revolution

Say GOODBYE
 I LOVE THE FACT
 THAT ANYONE WHO
 TRIES TO STOP ME
 BECOMES MY MOTIVATION
 TO PROVE THEM WRONG.
 I AM NOT AFRAID TO BE MYSELF
 AND EMBRACE WHO THAT PERSON
 IS.

- CAROLYN RODRIGUEZ

Have a good summer!



I love myself because I am confident. I am happy with my inner and outer beauty and I learned to show it off and be proud.

- AMANPA ABUASI





THAT'S CHIC

ON BEING INDEPENDANT, MOVING OUT AND CREATING A SUCCESSFUL BRAND:
AN INTERVIEW WITH RACHEL NGUYEN OF THATSCHIC

WORDS BY HEATHER TAYLOR-SINGH | PHOTO BY: ALEX KENEALY

Rachel Nguyen is the brassy hair coloured gal behind the brand, That's Chic. She discusses the behind-the-scenes of turning her blog into a business and what her definition of success is.

Currently residing in sunny Los Angeles, California, the 26-year-old created her blog, That's Chic, during her junior year of high school. Going to college for business, while her blog grew with the industry. The name has become synonymous with Rachel, and the now brand, has allowed her to extend herself across platforms such as Youtube and Instagram. Talk about a #girlboss.

However, whether it's the bi-annual 31 Days of That'sChic, or making a DIY denim jacket via AG Jeans, even on vacation, it's hard to find time to relax. "I've been editing non-stop, and only taken breaks to watch Stranger Things." She informs me. "Any trips, it's all work. I never check out of my blog."

While in college, Rachel graduated with a business degree under her belt, which didn't satisfy her at-the-time needs. "I felt it was what I had to do." Now, she would reconsider it, as it suits her needs for her business. "Shit, I want to do accounting. But that's perspective." She thinks aloud.

The blog has given Rachel opportunities to meet "really rad people." Rachel was hired at the company Shoedazzle, because someone saw her blog. From her blog platform, Rachel has moved over to Youtube, speaking to over 50 000 viewers about many topics, including her favourite Korean skincare!

Rachel believes she's on her way to success, "but I'm not there yet." While maintaining her success, she finds that she is happy too. "I don't think it's hard, I have a stream of extra dopamine." She says laughing. "We all have the opportunity though, not just me."

As for what's next, nothing is set-in-stone. "Everyone always asks what's next, and I definitely love doing Youtube," she says. "I feel like I have a fresh start at doing anything."

Now this is one chic chick to follow.

BREAKING FREE

CONTENT CREATOR, BELLE SMITH, DISCUSSES HOW TO BE OK WITH EXPRESSING AND ACCEPTING YOURSELF IN A SOCIETY OF SHAMED ABNORMALITY.

WORDS BY HEATHER TAYLOR-SINGH | PHOTO BY: BELLE LEIGH SMITH

19-year-old Belle Smith has gained around 20,000 subscribers since her debut on Youtube in 2013. Her mainly fashion and beauty based channel has content that exudes confidence and stability in who she is; dancing around her room, sporting so many facial expressions it's hard to count. To much surprise, Belle was not always this way.

Originally born Victoria, Belle had her name legally changed. "I forced my parents to re-name me." she says. She named herself after the female protagonist of Beauty and the Beast.

When she was young, Belle considered herself different, "but not in a good quiet, determined, artistic-person way." She recalls. Similar to most children, Belle wasn't comfortable in her own skin. In her mid-teens, she moved to Finland due to her father's job.

"In my sophomore year," Belle recalls, she discovered her interest in film and fashion. "That's when I started expressing myself." She says. Just a few weeks later, her Youtube channel was born.

When Belle moved back to Chicago in her late-teens, she realized there was a distinct change in the culture. "People in the suburbs are close-minded and in a bubble," she

describes. "But in Europe, it wasn't cliquey and there was no right-or-wrong society." Belle knew she didn't want to fall into that, so she used her Youtube channel as a creative outlet.

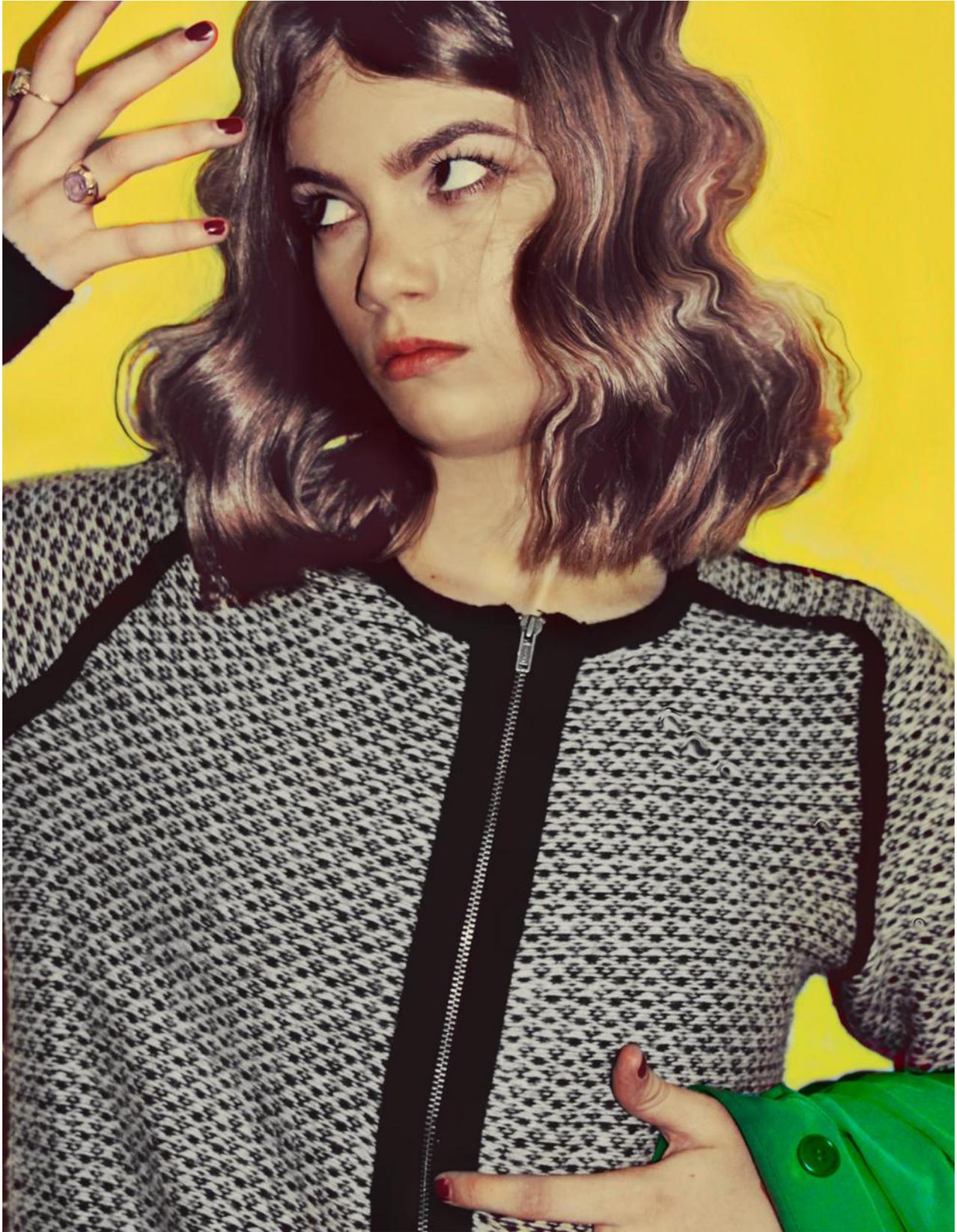
Over these past 3 years Belle has had over 600,000 views from people who love her creativity and expression.

Belle acknowledges that expressing yourself is not easy. However, it's about when you finally grasp that mindset of pleasing yourself, and not others. "I think it's the best way to live. As long as I'm expressing myself." Currently, Belle is expressing herself through her major of film at a liberal arts university in Chicago.

Although Belle is no expert on self-expression, she does what works for her...**"You have to take a deep breath, and take a lot of risks,"** she advises, "That's what I did!"

And thus far, it seems to have worked for her.

Find Belle on her Youtube channel [beautyandthebelle12](#), and on Instagram [@belleleighsmith](#)



OFF BEAT

AN INTERVIEW WITH CAMILLE JOHNSON

BY BRIANNE ALLEN



BRIANNE: How would you describe your personal style?

Camille: Well, if I said it was offbeat, that would be kind of expected because of my username. I would say it changes a lot, so I've been through pretty much all of the different styles. It's usually what you'd expect from a typical style and then just a little bit different. It gets tweaked to whatever mood or phase I'm in.

B: So you have 3 channels - Offbeatlook, OffbeatEnergy, and OffbeatCook, which do you most like making videos for?

C: It's fun to make videos for all of them. Obviously, the most people watch my main channel OffbeatLook, but I've been really getting into cooking. I really enjoy food and making food so those [videos] are fun to make, but I don't know if I could pick one favorite.

B: Do you have a favorite video that you've made so far?

C: I think my Nicki Minaj transformation one. That one kinda put me on the map as far as YouTube, but it was also just fun to make because everyone would always tell me that I looked like Nicki Minaj. I was like, "Okay, going all

out!" It was fun.

B: Why did you decide to become a YouTuber?

C: Well, I started about 6 years ago on a different channel and it was when girls that did beauty were first emerging on YouTube - like Michelle Phan and all the really old ones. My sister discovered some and she showed them to me. We would watch beauty videos like all day and I'd come from school and just watch them. My obsession with the beauty community was ridiculous. I started, like, trying things that I hadn't tried and getting more into it and eventually I was just like, "That looks so fun. I want to start making videos." So I finally ended up saving up for a camera — a really bad camera — and learned how to edit on Windows Movie Maker, which is the worst editing software there is. It was just a slow progression from being obsessed with other people who do it to, like, slowly getting into it myself.

B: Do you, as a woman of color, think your experience on YouTube differs from someone who isn't marginalized in any way?

C: I think nowadays it's easier to gain viewers. I think YouTube is different than other aspects of life where minorities can get popular and a following. If you think of, like, Michelle Phan, Nighahiga, Superwoman — all these people are getting really big. It's exciting to see that other people of color can do that. Since I am a woman of color and I have darker skin and curly hair, other people like me look for that. A lot of my followers look a lot like me and I think that's pretty cool. You can find people just like you online, or they could find you.

B: When I was younger I wanted to dye my hair more than anything and my mom was like "Um who do you think you are?" My friends and people around me - everyone was saying that they didn't think black girls could do that. Growing up you were the first person I saw that dyed their hair and I just thought that was so cool.

C: Wow, thank you, that's so inspiring! When I wanted to dye my hair I was in the same boat as you. My mom thought my hair was going to fall out and that no one with curly hair like yours can do that. I looked online for tutorials for me and there were zero. Absolutely none. I was just like, "Okay. I'm just gonna try what the white people do to their hair and hope that it works. It was a real trial and error and it took me years to get it down. I'm just glad other people can find resources now."

B: I feel there are two sides of what people of color are expected to make. Either you're going to make content like the content you make, that black girls who want to dye their hair can find, or lend your voice to the social issues that might affect you. It's such a balance you have

to find as a creator and I think you've got it down!

C: Thank you!

B: What has been a highlight of your career so far?

C: Definitely moving to New York. That's the most exciting part so far. I dropped out of school after this past semester, so I've done two years. I was almost done, I could've finished in a year, but I just really didn't want to be stuck. It kind of feels like that when you're in college - you have all of these classes. You have clubs. You have to eat and sleep and all of this stuff that takes all day. I didn't have time for YouTube and so I really wanted to [drop out]. So I was like, "Okay. Dropping out and moving to New York. Worst case scenario: I can just pick up where I left off in school." But so far it's been really awesome and I get to meet cool people like you and the whole experience has been pretty exciting.

B: You mentioned that your style evolves a lot - would you say you've had a cringy phase?

C: Oh my gosh yes! I can't even say this with a straight face. When I was in middle school I was experimenting with the emo and scene stuff. I wanted to dye my hair but my mom wouldn't let me so I had clip in extension for streaks. It was all straight hair so I'd have to straighten my hair and it would never be as straight as the streaks. [I wore] too much eyeliner. It was bad.

B: What is your favorite hair color so far?

C: I don't know if I could pick a favorite. I think rainbow might've been. That one was really fun but it was horrible for upkeep. It was fun for a short amount of time.

B: What are your future goals?

C: I have a whole list! I want to write a book, probably more than one. I want to do one called 'Offbeat Book' and it would be about beauty and fashion. But I also want to do an 'Offbeat Cookbook' and eventually get enough recipes to have gluten free and dairy free ones to fill up a whole book. American stuff, Jamaican stuff— just like any type of food you can make without gluten and dairy. Those are what I'm allergic to and I've found a lot of other people are, so it would be a good niche and just [be] stuff that I enjoy making. Other than that, I want to start my own hair dye company. I've used so many other companies' hair dye, so I know exactly what I and other people look for. I know the bad qualities I find in hair dye that I could fix on my own. That would be really exciting!

JAZZY



JEANS

AN INTERVIEW WITH CHLOE Zohner

WORDS BY HEATHER TAYLOR--SINGH
PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH KLEIN

We chatted with Chloe Zohner, owner of an upcycling jean brand, about the ins-and-outs of starting up her company, and why with a hefty price tag of over \$100 per piece, this might be at the top of your wish list.



Chloe, owner of La Quixote (pronounced: Lah-key-oh-tee), has become a new favourite of the DIY scene, after opening her online shop less than a year ago. Her bejeweled denim has gained the likes of content creators such as Sammi Quinn, and definitely ours.

Ever since she was young, Chloe has been really interested in collecting and creating. Having a business was a way of “putting the things that inspire me into a different medium.”

The idea of La Quixote stemmed from working “a lot of jobs in fashion or retail.” Chloe had recently dropped out of college, and needed a source of income. After one job too many, Chloe felt that “being creative for someone else got a little draining,” and she didn’t want to wait anymore — she wanted to be creative for herself.

La Quixote is almost a one-woman show. “It’s mostly me,” Chloe says. She does everything, from sourcing the vintage denim to running the website. She does have a small production team that she used recently for the chandelier jeans.. “I wanted the jeans to be in as perfect quality as possible, and last for years.” Chloe cites her dad and his girlfriend, as well as her boyfriend, who help with the ideas and sourcing of denim.

At over \$100 a pair, Chloe assures us that the denim is worth every penny. She buys jeans that are in great condition, and gets the exact trim





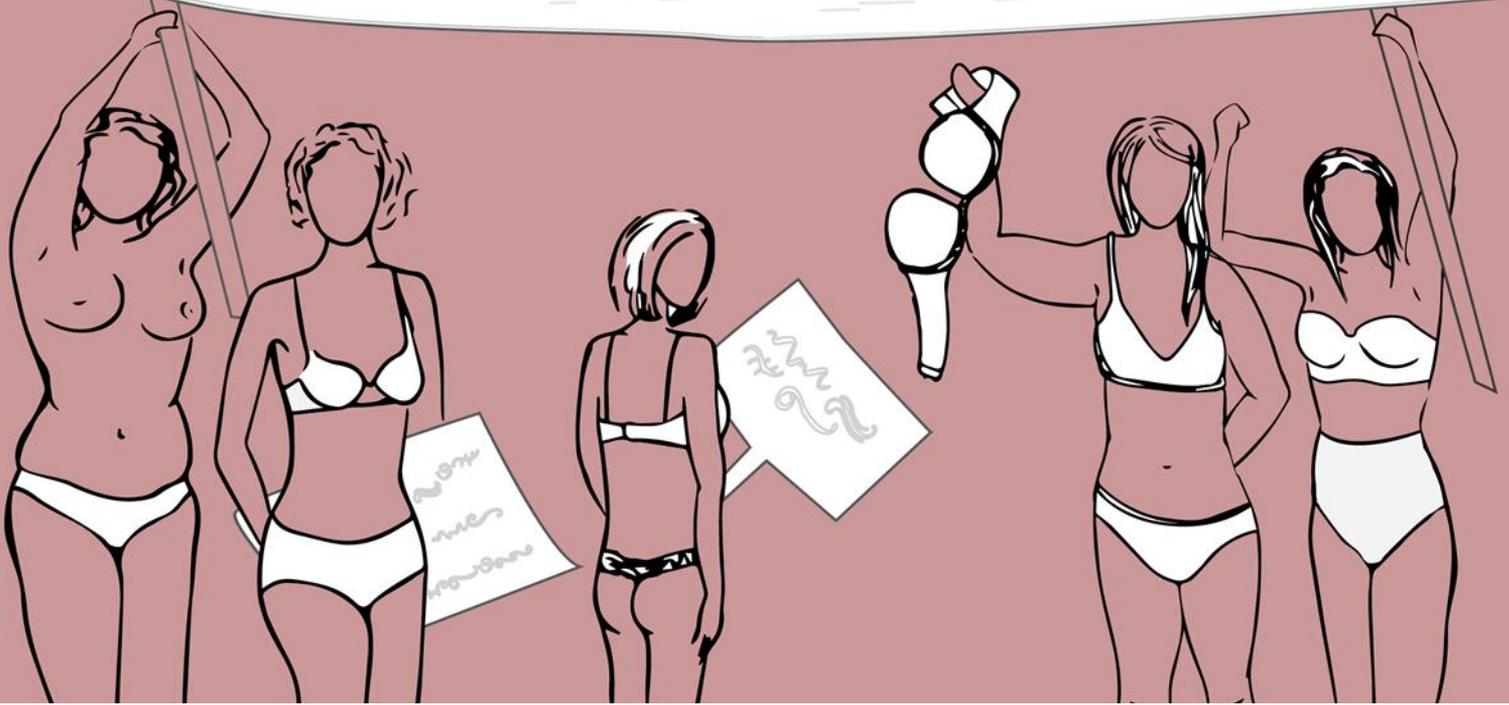
she wants: "I am so picky about the way they reflect in light and how danceable they are and how they pair with the exact wash of denim I'm dealing with." The cost of the jeans comes from paying the production team and giving Chloe a cut for all the time she puts into the denim. "I have to be honest and do what I think is fair," she explains. "I really couldn't do it any other way."

So far, the response to the denim has been overwhelming — "I've had people reach out to me, and tell me I've inspired them," Chloe says. Although she's tried to get into social media, Chloe says it's just not her. "I just feel so insincere sitting behind a screen, like 'buy this!'" She didn't give specifics, but stay tuned because Chloe has

been working on some interesting things to do with changing how she presents the brand. "It makes me so incredibly happy to be creating," she says, "And it's an added bonus that people are into it too."

For a look at everything she has to offer, visit Chloe's website at www.laquixote.com/shop

BRA REVOLUTION



The evolution of lingerie as we know it today.

WORDS BY: SARAH MARIOTTI
ART BY: JULIA MARIOTTI

The History of the Bra at a Glance

In 1907, American Vogue published the word “bras-siere,” and was the first to do so. Four years later it was certified in the Oxford English Dictionary. Years of bra evolution were initiated from this – along with a whole new world of branding and expressing. From then, new bra designs came to be, including backless styles, changes in the corset trend, and classic bras with cup sizes.

Back in 1968, feminists tried (although were unable to due to police authorities) burning their bras as a symbol of female empowerment. Decades later, the

feminist community has come a long way – we do not need to destroy our lingerie in order to prove liberated. Rather, females turn to bras and underwear as expressive garments. Behold, society has begun to accept female expression, and protesting the bra is not necessary.

Lingerie as a Token of our Femininity

Lingerie, as an option of course, is representative of our strength as women. I see it as a special way that we can dress for ourselves. Whether you choose to go with a frilly lace bra, a sport style bra, or no bra at all, the symbol of strength placed in the female lingerie



industry empowers women all over the world. It allows us to own and take control over our femininity. Often times, we as women are told to dress in certain ways to please society, to please the male gaze, to ignore our self identity, or to repress our sexuality - and I do not see how there is room for us to be passive when it comes to our female identity.

Lingerie is what allows us to be special for ourselves. We can be us, authentically, with any style we choose, or the size we wear. Different brands of lingerie are inflicting positive change in the lingerie industry, and in the world of feminism. Something that is overly striking to me about the lingerie industry, is how companies are using diversity in women as the inspiration for their designs. Specifically, the expansion of the definition of nude is something I admire a lot.

Leadership in Lingerie's New-Age

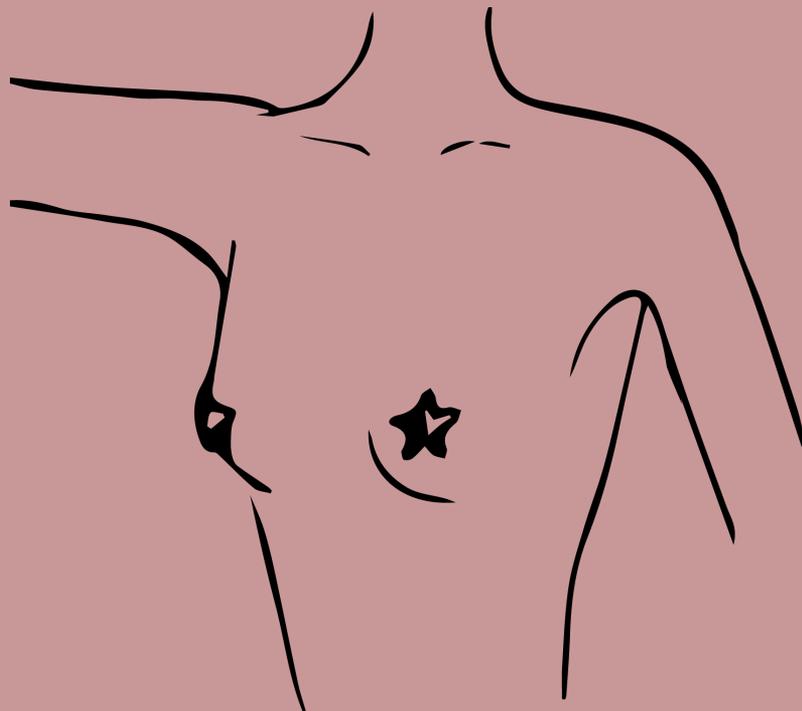
Naja is a brand that carries seven different shades of nude. Overall, Naja is putting its greatest efforts into helping all women. Their products are made by single mothers and women heads-of-households. As well, these ladies are paid above market wages, receive health benefits, and are given paid child education. This is something that gets me all excited on the inside. This company in itself proves just how much the bra is made for the female soul, and how important women are - ah, women are so special.

THINX focuses on undies for women, and on breaking the period taboo. The biggest stand-out in this brand is the function of their underwear. It enforces in another way, how today, lingerie is more focused on helping women be women. THINX underwear is built to assist anyone who gets a period - it is designed to protect

from leaks and keep dry. They have designed many styles for: different flows, activities, and comforts... even a gender neutral style! What is most riveting, is that with a purchase of THINX panties, the company pays to send a reusable pack of AFRipads to a girl in the developing world. Women helping women!

Neon Moon is a lingerie company that is sweat-shop-free, objectification-free, photoshop-free, and sexualization-free. The company itself is a feminist, and it really wants to share self love, in a way that means expressing yourself, and loving your natural body. I adore this angle in the lingerie industry. I think more intentions like this are needed in the world - to spread positive energy to the female nation, and as well, to every other human.

More and more lingerie brands are starting to promote female empowerment and make a strong move towards feminism. They are battling the past and the way bras were used to: restrain the female body, abide to what men wanted, and give in to what was expected. Women are women for themselves first, and with the help from teams like these, we will continue to evolve our stigma on lingerie, and the stigma on women. A woman should wear bras and undies to her own prerogative. Anything that is made for us, is OUR choice.



How to Stop Wearing Makeup

WORDS BY: HAILEY ASQUIN

ART BY: LAURA ENDY

For a long time, makeup played a huge role in my life. From the moment I started wearing makeup in grade nine, I felt incredibly grown up, as if I had been initiated into an exclusive “girl club”, and I thought that I would get the attention from boys that I wanted so badly. However, insecurities pushed through my foundation, making me constantly worry if I was “ugly” or if my makeup was smudged — or if I was being judged.

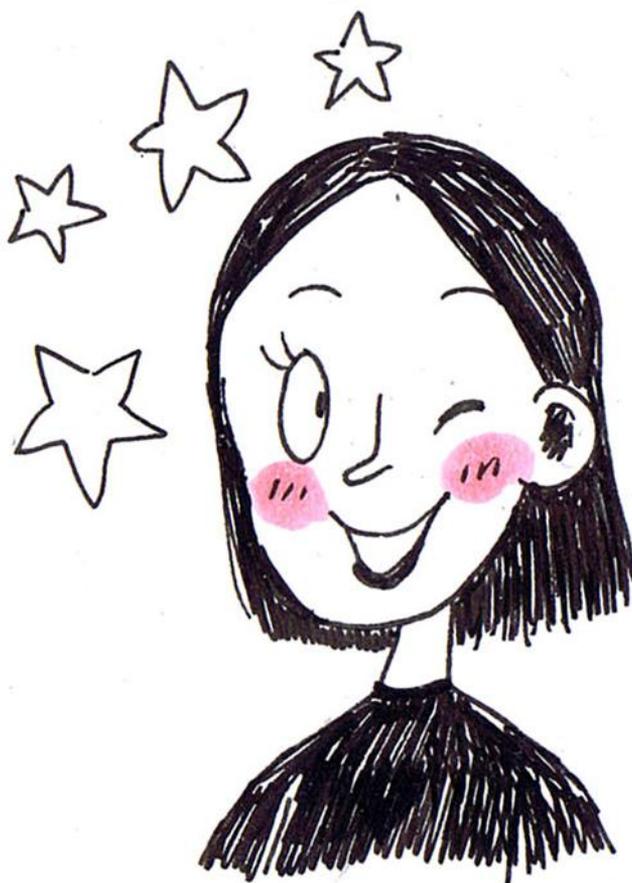
Two years ago, I had a terrible experience with birth control that caused my relatively clear skin to break out in cystic acne. Without help from makeup, I probably wouldn't have left the house for 4 months. There can also be a ton of social pressure especially in high school, to wear makeup, that can be hard to escape unless you have bulletproof self confidence. (Editor's note: Which is extremely rare in teenage girls, including myself who struggled to accept my acne). This article is in no way me saying you aren't allowed makeup. If you need it to get by or you just really love it, then by all means, rock on girl. But if you feel like you'd like to wear less, then this is the article for you.

But for me, it got to the point that makeup felt like a mask I had to put on everyday and one I was scared or embarrassed to be seen without. Even after my skin settled down, I still felt attached to the way I could alter how I looked so simply. I decided, however, that I wanted to be in love with the way my face was in it's most natural form, and not the way my face could look with products.

If you feel like you want to change things up or that you are in the mood for less and don't know where to start, then keep reading my friend.

The first step I think is to look at yourself in the mirror without makeup. A lot. Get used to the way you look naturally. Remember that your natural features are what make you special and unique. Your knee jerk reaction may be to criticize, but try your best to look at yourself like you'd look at your best friend. Would you criticize them so harshly; would you tell them such mean things? No? Then try your best to not tell yourself that. I know — easier said than done. But when you start treating yourself with kindness things get a lot easier.

The idea of “flawlessness” is really pervasive in beauty right now, but the idea of perfection can be incredibly destructive if we let it get the best of us. It's understandable that you might want to look extra nice for a special event or something, but looking “perfect” can also become an obsession. Remember, you are a living breathing human being, not a china doll. Every-



body has pores. Everyone gets acne. These things that we see as huge glaring flaws are likely not even noticeable to others.

“I think the shift for me was when I stopped viewing my features as flaws that deviated from conventional standards of beauty and decided to appreciate what I have” -Megan

For your skin:

It's not a magical cure all, but wearing less or no makeup can be better for your skin. Makeup can clog your pores, and some, often cheaper drugstore varieties, can have ingredients in them that are irritants. It's sort of a catch 22: you may want to use products to cover acne, but then those products can also cause acne. You can of course minimize this by researching products that won't clog pores, by always washing your face, and using clean brushes. But, while this is in no way conclusive proof, I've noticed that since I've stopped wearing makeup, my skin has definitely improved.

Baby steps:

Going from wearing a full face of makeup to no makeup can be quite jarring. You can start by switching out your liquid foundation for lighter coverage, from a tinted moisturizer or a powdered foundation. While expensive, I love the Bare Minerals powder foundation, because it blurred out my acne scars just a little bit, without being really heavy or sticky.

While some people love contouring, it does mean that you are trying to change the apparent shape of your features. While it is borderline wizardry how much people can change their appearances with careful highlighting and contouring, remember that it's not necessary. You can be beautiful in your own way, and you don't have to change the shape of your face to fit a mold of conventional beauty. Some people having cheekbones doesn't make other people's round cheeks any less pretty.

moisturizing lotion is also lovely!)

Salicylic acid and benzoyl peroxide are common for acne spot treatment, but I'd also recommend trying a sulfur based spot treatment. I find it a little gentler and it can dry out pimples pretty quick.

Also, even though it's the most boring beauty trick ever, listen to your mother and wear a moisturizer with sunscreen. Every day. Even in the winter. It will protect your face from UV rays which damage your skin, and stop it from healing things like acne scars.

Having Fun with Makeup:

Ideally I think makeup should be a fun thing you can experiment with. If I'm getting dressed up for a party, the finishing touch is a dramatic swipe of lipstick, and an almost unreasonable amount



It's also just fine if you want to wear less makeup but need a little bit to feel confident. A giant zit can happen to anyone, and if a dab of concealer is going to make you feel confident that day, go for it! If you need to fill in your eyebrows or add a swipe of mascara to feel like a million bucks, go for it!

"I can't live without my eyebrows! But everything else I take off sometimes, Especially in the summer!! I find they help make the other features of my face be more present, and I just feel really not confident when they aren't tinted or dyed,"

Looking after your skin:

Even though you don't have makeup on, remember to wash your face every morning and evening. There's still plenty of dirt, pollution from the air, grease and dirt from your hands and natural oils on your skin that collect throughout the day.. Use a gentle face wash rather than a heavy duty scrub one so as not to cause redness or irritate your skin. If your skin feels tight after you wash it, try switching to a gentler cleanser. I currently use Cerave face wash, which is heaven for my sensitive skin. (Their

of shimmer on my eyelids. But the shift from my old relationship with makeup is it's no longer required for me to feel good about myself. Instead, it's a fun accessory rather than trying to hide so called "flaws."

On respecting other girls' choices: The bottom line is, young women are magical and lovely and special whether they choose to wear makeup or not. If you're a no makeup gal like myself, that doesn't mean you're pitted against girls who do wear makeup. Support your girls and promote what makes them feel confident and happy (The real enemy here is that horrid "take her swimming on the first date" meme). Be kind to yourself and others, and respect everyone's choice.



revolutionary makeup

How to make classic makeup looks be a bit unconventional.

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY: SARAH MARIOTTI

This season we are deep into the search for ways to show off who we are. The makeup we use, or lack thereof, is a statement of ourselves. It is how we can have fun, make ourselves feel unique, and express our freedom. If you are a makeup-loving kind of girl, sometimes everyday makeup looks get to be a bit humdrum. We want to step up to our full potential as ourselves, but there is no way to achieve that if we aren't pushing comfort zones.

Now, it's time to exhaust your boundaries, revolve around yourself for some time, and overthrow other's opinions. You don't need to be told how to garnish your look, whether it be for a party night or for everyday wear.

Here are some unique and unconventional looks we love using this season.

1. The sleepy girl fairy lid.

Dust your entire eyelid with reddish or soft pink powder... and don't hold back. A lot of us are comfortable with the classic smokey eye, or just touching a natural colour to the corners of our eyes. Experiment and freshen things up. Place the first dab of the brush on the centre of the lid, and then diffuse it out to the entire surface. Lightly add additional powder along the line of your bottom lashes.

2. Unicorn brows.

With this look, you can choose to be subtle or you can fire out a potent purple. Dust a powdered purply-pink (though who ever said unicorns have to be pink or purple?!) hue over top your eyebrows. Even expand the colours to the outside edges. With a clear eyebrow mascara, brush your brows into place, and close your eyes. Finally, throw loose glitter atop your brows! Concentrate the glitter on the starting point of each eyebrow.

3. Priss lip.

Here is where you will really show the world you are a #Girl-Boss. Choose your most favourite dark lipstick. We used Diva by MAC. Swipe it all over your pout, and once more you get to quickly (close your mouth and) throw glitter all over. Using a bold blue looks so effervescent, yet prissy at the same time.

4. Gemstone Freckles. OR Ruby Stone freckles.

Summer is long gone - and so are any potential sightings of new freckles. So why not create some yourself? You can buy sticky face-decals, or use an eyelash glue and sequence. Place any colours, shapes, and sizes of rhinestones along the apples of your cheek, all the way up your cheek bone. If it looks like a unicorn threw up on your face, you did it right.



a lovely day for an uprising.

Niamh Wilson and Mckenzie Small on growing up in the entertainment industry, competition and being true to yourself.

PHOTOGRAPHER: ANDREYA KLOBUCAR
CREATIVE DIRECTOR: MONICA THI
CLOTHING BY: ELIZA FAULKNER (ELIZAFALKNER.COM)
STYLING + ACCESORIES BY: ABBEY DONNELLY

(Niamh) Dress: Eliza Faulkner
Black turtleneck: Hudsons Bay
Shoes: Cos
(Mckenzie) Top: Vee top in white
and Denim culottes: Eliza Faulkner
Beige turtleneck: H&M



Vee top in yellow, denim skirt: Eliza Faulkner
White turtleneck: Forever 21





It's a beautiful fall day on Toronto's lakeshore for walking the rocky beach and climbing dinosaurs and two very different girls, with two very different career paths, are making a lasting impression on the creative industry.

Looking stunning and very fashion forward (wearing, Eliza Faulkner, one of our favourite Canadian designers), Niamh Wilson and Mckenzie Small talk to the Mimp Mag team, between photos, about what it's like to grow up as young women in the entertainment industry.

Despite meeting for the first time, Niamh and Mckenzie, both bubbly and confident, bond instantly on set, chatting away like old friends and admiring their outfits.

19-year-old, Niamh Wilson, began her acting career when she was four years old and took up dance classes in her time between working. She developed a passion for dance and choreography and now dances almost every day.

Niamh gained wide recognition from her role as "Jack" on *Degrassi*, a popular Canadian teen drama. "It was an honour to be part of a Canadian television legacy" she says. "I've picked up so many skills from the people I've been able to work with and I'm continually

blown away by how lucky I am that my life turned out the way it did."

According to 17-year-old, Mckenzie Small, her late break into the music and television industry is kind of "a funny story". She started to consider a career in music more seriously at the age of 14, when Beyoncé (Beyoncé!) shared Mckenzie's cover of "Pretty Hurts" on her facebook page. Shortly after that, Mckenzie auditioned and received a main role on *Backstage*, a new popular Disney/Family Channel drama about teens attending an arts high school.

Niamh often finds herself pulling inspiration from entirely random places and experiences. "It could be my friends or colleagues or a movie, but it could also be a single lyric in a song or having a conversation with a little kid," she says.

Mckenzie's friends and family inspire her every day. She looks up to her sister who is a doctor and her *Backstage* co-stars who teach her something new every time they get together. "I value the importance of having people in your life that push you to be stronger and better versions of yourself"

Making time for her career, school and social life is all apart of a healthy balance Mckenzie's eyes. "if Emma Watson can film *Harry Potter* while finishing a degree





at Brown University, why can't anyone do the same right?" says Mckenzie.

Niamh struggled to manage college and her career because of how strict both schedules are (we can relate on a spiritual level). She will always put acting first, but also doesn't find herself needing to make a huge decision between one or the other. "My education is constant and it isn't optional for me; it's just something I have to do for myself. Over the years I've just had to find a way to make both of them work."

Although their paths to the spotlight were different, Niamh and Mckenzie both agree that their career comes with challenges. "Whether that's being a woman, being a person of colour, being "unconventionally" beautiful, being disabled; in general it is a tough industry to be a part of," Niamh says. "As a woman I find myself in a position of needing to conform to the industry's standards of popularity, looks and personality."

In a world where women still struggle to find equality in certain Mckenzie reminds us of the importance of finding equality within our own gender as she recalls that walking into an audition room is the opposite of a welcoming environment. We need to find equality from within. "We should encourage [women] to be the best they can be; even in competitive situations," Mckenzie says. "No good comes from discouragement."

Both Niamh and Mckenzie have experienced situations where they felt inadequate or undervalued and even inexperienced due to the very notion that they are young women in the entertainment industry. "There's some stigma about being a female actor that causes people to think that I am not intelligent because my industry is so based in looks," says Niamh.

But these two artists don't let that get them down. "Dealing with it was something internal for me. I had to recognize that if someone looks down to you because of your sex, it's their own ignorance," says Mckenzie. "It's important to realize that it's not you that's the issue and if you have an opinion to share, share it. Ignorance will always be prevalent in society as sad as it is and it's our job as women to change that."

Mckenzie's advice for young girls pursuing any career is to be true to yourself. "It's about the integrity of your character. No matter how hard things get, there's no such thing as working too hard because it will always pay off," She says. "Don't forget who you are along the way, and don't let the wrong people take advantage of you. You will always be strong and beautiful if you believe it so don't let anyone tell you otherwise."

"It can be really easy for people to pull you into their own

agendas," Niamh says, "but stick to your guns and never forget who you are."

Mckenzie loves to travel and being part of Family Channel and Backstage made her dream of 'travelling for work' a reality. She is working with her record label, Cardinal Point, to release an EP, early 2017. "I'm really excited to release more music" she says. After releasing her single and music video for "Caught Feelings" she received incredible support and feedback.

Niamh's favourite project to have worked on is a feature film entitled *The Young and Prodigious T.S. Spivet*. It was directed by Jean Pierre Jeunet and Niamh played Gracie, the feisty and intelligent beauty-pageant-crazed teenage daughter. "It was a beautiful movie and I miss working on it all the time," she says. "It had a very limited release, but when the occasional person tells me they've seen it or recognize me from it brings me so much joy."

Niamh is almost always in working on new things and wants to continue to act and create her own work in the future. "I hope to be doing the same thing I am doing now, but hopefully I am wiser, more experienced...Oh and living in a nicer neighbourhood of Toronto."





Dress: Vee Dress Eliza Faulkner
White turtleneck: Express
Earrings: Handmade
Socks: Topshop



Frenchy

Francesca Conte defies ballet stereotypes in the ballet world, one pointe shoe at a time.

**WORDS, STYLING AND CONCEPT: SARAH MARIOTTI
PHOTOS: ANDREYA KLOBUCAR**

Fourteen-year-old Francesca (Frenchy) Conte is on the rise to a ballet dancing career.

Starting out with ballet classes in Vaughan, Ontario at age two, Frenchy was immediately attached to the way movement felt. "Being able to do something I love every single day - that is amazing, and it's something that makes me feel good about myself when I do it," she said.

She trains throughout the year with her studio as a competitive dancer and ballet exam candidate, and now spends summers at ballet intensives. This summer she studied at the Bolshoi Ballet Academy Summer Intensive, which really put her dreams in full force.

Being taught the entire summer of 2016 by teachers who only speak Russian, and only being able to communicate with them through designated translators, Frenchy really reached a barrier in her training. There is no time or room to stop training when a difficult wall comes up between her and her dream. As her mom says, if it comes easy it likely won't last. Frenchy's mom is her best friend, whom she confides in for everything. At any point in time, her mom is there with the more encouragement than she can get from anyone in the world.

Making it as a ballerina is really difficult for ladies. There is far more competition than there is for men, and it is harder to fit the required body criteria. This is one thing that Frenchy is challenged with, but a norm she is determined to break. While most ballerinas have very elegant, long legs, her beautiful legs hold a defined muscular structure. Her legs can do just

as much as any other talented dancer, and look equally beautiful doing so.

Frenchy achieves so much by being perfectly true to herself and her body. When Frenchy is dancing, she has a completely unique personality and passion alive on the stage with her. These are the things that are worth a tremendous amount more than the look of your body. To focus only on dancers who fit a specific body type is to limit all other beautiful girls and options. It immediately narrows the world of ballet to only share a handful of dancers with the world.

Frenchy knows she has something special to bring to the stage: "Definitely not thinking about where my body is going and just feeling my body and where it wants to go [helps]. I'll let it move... That's how I make my dancing different."

ABT Principal Dancer Misty Copeland is Frenchy's idol. She expresses that Copeland has had a very positive impact on her outlook in life, and in the industry. "[Misty Copeland showed] me that it's okay to not be the typical ballerina - and gave me the confidence to go out there knowing that I'm not the typical ballerina shape... to go out and be me and be proud of the ballet dancer I am. I know that being different is okay because of her."

Frenchy exemplifies a very mature mindset at such a young age. She takes the lessons taught to her in the studio and brings light to them in her everyday life. "Even if you are not full of confidence about something, go in looking confident."

It's tough as a teen artist - with school,



friends, family, and any other responsibilities - to persevere with your dreams. Frenchy constantly tries to stay inspired, and focuses on the things she cares most about in life.

She feeds off of the people around her for constant inspiration; whether they are more experienced or are working harder than her, she looks at each dancer with gratitude and admiration. This alone is what makes her a striking role model for any young lady.

“Don’t let anyone discourage you. Don’t let words hurt you - they’re just words. You need to work hard for yourself and love yourself and love what you’re doing. And if you think like that, that’s the most powerful thing ever. You are what you are, and what’s normal in someone, might be [or might not be] normal to someone else. You’re beautiful the way you are and keep on going and working hard” (Francesca Conte)







"Don't let anyone discourage you. Don't let words hurt you - they're just words. You need to work hard for yourself and love yourself and love what you're doing. And if you think like that, that's the most powerful thing ever. You are what you are, and what's normal in someone, might be [or might not be] normal to someone else. You're beautiful the way you are and keep on going and working hard" (Francesca Conte)



sarah skinner

INTERVIEW + PHOTO BY: NAHOMY ORTIZ

Welcome to another installment of Girls Who Make Art, where we feature awesome female-identified artists and content creators. This time we invite you to meet Sarah Skinner - Cleveland singer, songwriter and visionary. Sarah is 18 and in her last year of high school. Today we sat down with Sarah and talked about her music, future plans and female go-getters!

When did you start becoming interested in music or just the arts in general?

Sarah: As a kid, I was exposed to a lot of art. My dad, being a graphic designer, just constantly had different art supplies and was constantly being like, "Hey! You can do whatever you want to do. Be your own person." It was definitely the highlight of my childhood. I've always been interested in the world and what is hidden behind everything because I feel like a lot of people don't actually pay attention to what is actually there and are kinda on autopilot. With music, I started in fall 2015 and I basically wrote in my house, playing on my piano. I actually started with poetry and that kind of transpired into music. My progress — like right now from when I originally started — is just amazing. I would say I've always been an artist.

What type of music are you most likely to listen to or write?

Sarah: Honestly... I would say that my music is electric, alternative, soul, and R&B all into one. I don't have a specific genre that I could fit in. The type of music that I listen to is SZA, Willow Smith, Odesza, Flume; these are like my top favorites. My favorite singer/songwriter... I would say Gnash and Ed Sheeran—he's amazing! Honestly, every single artist that I come across I'm immediately interested in. I'm just like: What's your thought process like? What do you like? There's just so much to relate to.

In our exchange of messages you told me you were a visionary, could you explain to me a bit more about your vision?

Sarah: Well, my vision is for people to open their minds to things that they haven't before. Just unlocking certain parts of their mind, or their dream, and kind of hidden energy that people don't know is there. You have a dream and some people just give up on it because they think, "Oh I will never do this or that," and it's just like you can and you will! You have it in you. I just think art is beautiful and it definitely gets the message across. It's just universal, like a smile that's vvhwo I think of it. My vision ultimately for myself is to live off of my art and meet more amazing people and make this world a better place ultimately.

How do you incorporate your personality into the songs that you sing and write?

Sarah: I'm always trying to get a message across that I feel like we're not strangers. As much as we think that we don't relate to each other we are all very similar and connected and that's something that I want people to notice when they listen to my music. That I just want everyone to be connected by love, to be open and express themselves. I would say that regardless there's so much of my personality in my music.

Do you think your style of music is what you chose because of the way you grew up and your surroundings?

Sarah: My environment has a lot to do with it, for a lot of people your

environment really influences what you are doing and how you are thinking. I mean I can't really speak for 'if I lived in a different place' what my sound would sound like, but I will say that who I've been around and what I've done for myself, just experimenting and constantly listening to music, has all contributed to my sound and who I am. Honestly different elements and parts of the environment that I am in do contribute to what my sound sounds like for sure.

Could you share with us your favorite lyric that you've written?

Sarah: Probably, "Trippin' under your skin." Yeah, that's my favorite.

Do you think it makes it even harder for you to pursue music because you're a woman? Do you think that some people don't take you seriously?

Sarah: Yeah, I mean for myself because I feel like there's not a lot of Cleveland female artists coming up right now (from where I'm at I know a few). I would say it's a lot harder, especially in Cleveland, where we have this kind of hip hop, rap scene and trap scene, and there are really no roads paved for artists who are trying to be up and coming. We are all trying to create our own ways. It's just kind of how it is right now. But you do need to prove yourself for sure as women and I feel like that kind of correlates with a lot in life too as well. I love my girls!

What do you think or what would you have to say for all of the young women out there that keep putting their dreams off to the side until they graduate high school, when they could just start right now?

Sarah: As much as you want to be at Location B, you're at Location A for a reason. There are certain things that you need to do in order to get yourself to the next point. No matter what, the best time to start is right now. You have that dream, so manifest it —put it into action in the physical world. You have the idea in your head but ultimately you just need to find the drive and motivation to get to the next step.

Where do you see yourself after you graduate high school?

Sarah: Oh goodness! Well, I see myself working really hard and staying really focused. I see myself trying new things, going to new places and trying to better my music, like by buckling down on my sound and figuring out what direction I'm going. I feel like being out of high school and being on my own is definitely going to help a lot; there's going to be more of that space and influence for me to really want to continue with a positive attitude.

Last, but not least, what's your favorite part of being involved in the music community? And what's the hardest part?

Sarah: I'll say the hardest part is being your own enemy, because you are constantly trying to be better, constantly trying to outdo your last song or concert. I'm just really social and I always want to hear what people have to say, what they are thinking. For me, it's just kind of having to try to reserve time for myself. My favorite part is meeting people like you guys, amazing people, and seeing different people's outlooks in life through their music and understanding them, seeing how it all incorporates.

The Art Of The Resting Face



WORDS BY: HEATHER TAYLOR-SINGH
ART BY: TARA PRESNELL

Ladies, never apologize for your face.

Since middle school, every year, someone would ask: "Why do you always give everyone a dirty look?" It's one of those questions that puts a massive damper on the conversation. Suddenly I'm reclusive, simply because I don't know what to say. What am I supposed to say? It's just how my face is, and I can't just adjust it to please everyone. I think everyone has a resting face, and it's women who get criticized, because society says: women are "moody" all the time.

I think always is a convoluted word. I don't ALWAYS give everyone a dirty look. Fairly, I don't even know what a dirty look is. I'm not always smiling, so is anything other than that a dirty look? What's frustrating is that people think the expression is aimed at

them. I'm not denying that it doesn't happen, but just because I happen to look at you for two seconds doesn't mean I hate you; you were in my way-of-glance.

The fact of the matter is it makes me feel self-conscious about my facial expression, because I'm afraid that if I don't have at least a curl of my lip that I look angry, and that turns people off. I should not be shamed for the appearance of my expressive brows or my interpretive gaze. Most of the time, I'm deep in thought and not in control of how my face looks to others. After all, it's my resting face. It's the default expression my face goes to.

I nor any woman shouldn't have to apologize for our facial expression. To be frank, it's our faces and if you don't like what's plastered on it, I don't know what to tell you. Maybe our faces can describe it better.

Cozy ReTreat

Bake a brownie that doesn't make you feel like shit

By: Sarah Mariotti | Art by Grace Mazzucchi

Prep time
5 mins
Cook time
30 mins
Total time
35 mins

Gluten, Grain, and Dairy Free
Serves: 9

Ingredients:

1 cup mashed banana (about 2 bananas)
2 eggs
2 tsp. Vanilla extract
2 Tbsp. coconut milk or coconut water
½ cup dairy-free chocolate chips
1 cup cocoa powder
¼ cup honey
½ tsp. Baking soda

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 355 degrees F, and grease a 9x9 inch baking dish.
2. Place all ingredients in blender, except baking soda. Puree until smooth.
3. Pulse in baking soda and spread batter into prepared dish.
4. Bake for 25-30 minutes, or until the spaghetti poke test comes out clean.
5. Let cool for about 10 minutes before removing.

Recipe inspired by Raia at Delicious Obsessions!

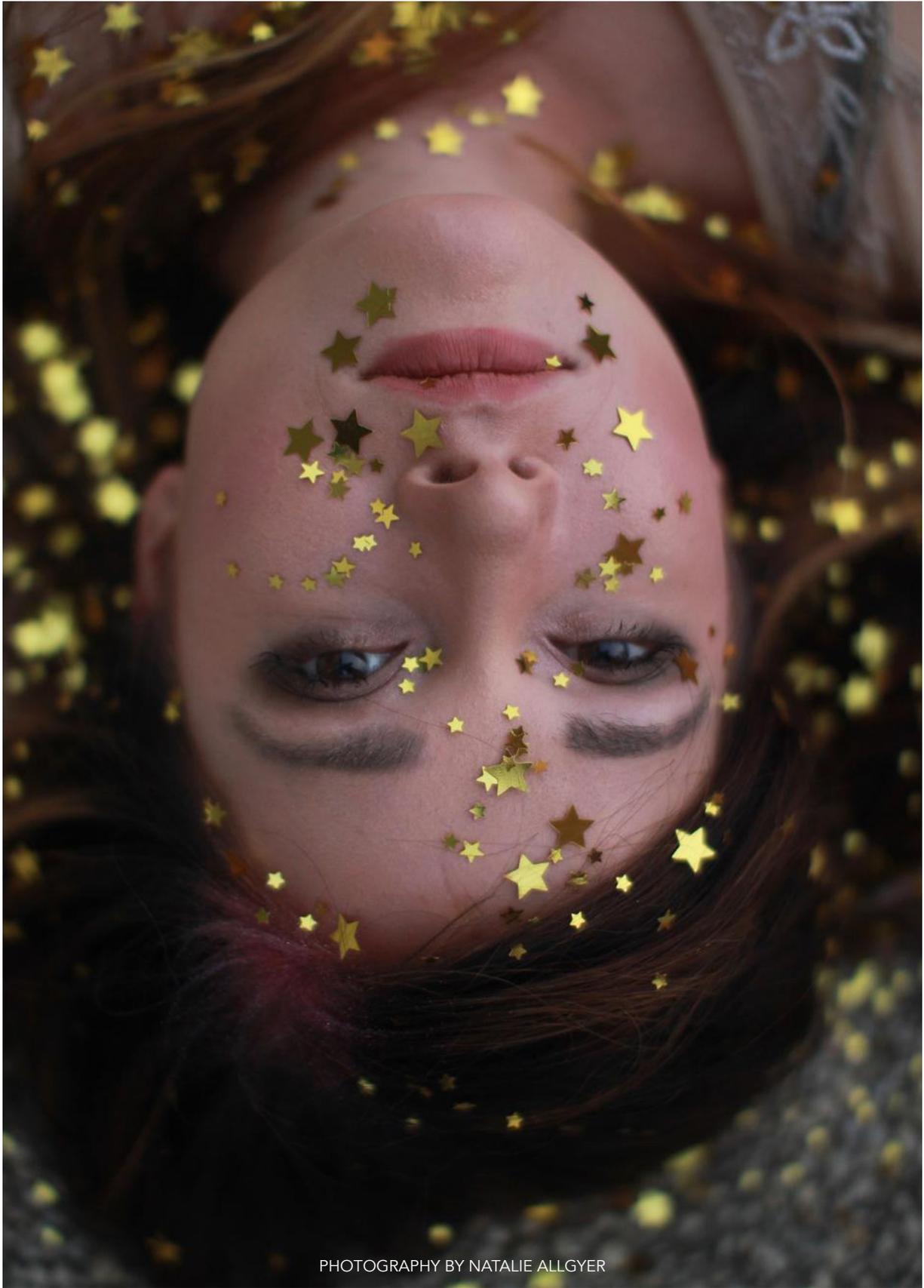


moonlit shore

I often feel as though I am the moon, reflecting the sun, but I no longer wish to be like the moon. Instead, I dream of the Stars.

I'm through with relying on other people's light in order to be seen. I hate that at some moments I feel like I am in the shadow of others. I would much rather be a star - even knowing that there are billions of stars in the universe, and that I will eventually burn out. I would rather have my own light shine it's brightest even after I'm gone, than borrow someone else's and be forgotten.

But, I must come to terms with the fact that I will never be golden and warm, but always remain pale and cold. I am a moon and always will be, regardless of the stars that dash across my cheekbones. The only thing I can do is love and be proud of who I am and hope that is enough to live the best life I can.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY NATALIE ALLGYER





Make a Move

WORDS: NAHOMY ORTIZ
ILLUSTRATION: LAURA ENDY

Imagine you are sitting at your regular spot on the same stiff chair in your school dining hall that you sit in all week, or you're sitting on a bench by the mall's fountain, or you're sitting in the back of a Starbucks with your laptop open, writing away, or you're sitting on the swings of the park down your street. You look up for a millisecond and see an attractive human being standing on the other side of the room. You feel butterflies in your stomach, you get tongue tied, and a thousand feelings rush through your body. What do you do?

Are you going to wait around to see if they acknowledge you? Will you keep staring at them until they look your way? Will your heart drop to your stomach when they leave without you ever speaking up? No, no, no.

Why should you wait around to see what could happen? Because society tells us that we should? It's about time we stopped accepting this as the "norm". Girls can ask guys out too! Let me walk you through how to get over the nervousness and ask them out!

1. Talking Body

Start the conversation! Unlike Tove Lo's song, Talking Body, unfortunately bodies aren't able to talk on their own so now we have to decipher their body language and get this thing going! Look at them (discretely): are they wearing a shirt from a band you like or that you'd like to know more about? Do they have tattoos? Something else cool happening? That's a conversation

starter! Observe, observe, observe!

2. Keep it casual

Once you have your conversation starter or you muster up the courage to talk to them, keep it casual.

3. Keep the conversation going

You are calm, you are talking to them, you have the conversation going, now don't let it diminish! Keep it going don't end the conversation awkwardly and lose your chance of getting their number. Find things to talk about that you are actually interested in! Don't pretend to like something you've never heard of before. Don't change yourself for anyone. Don't pretend to be someone you are not.

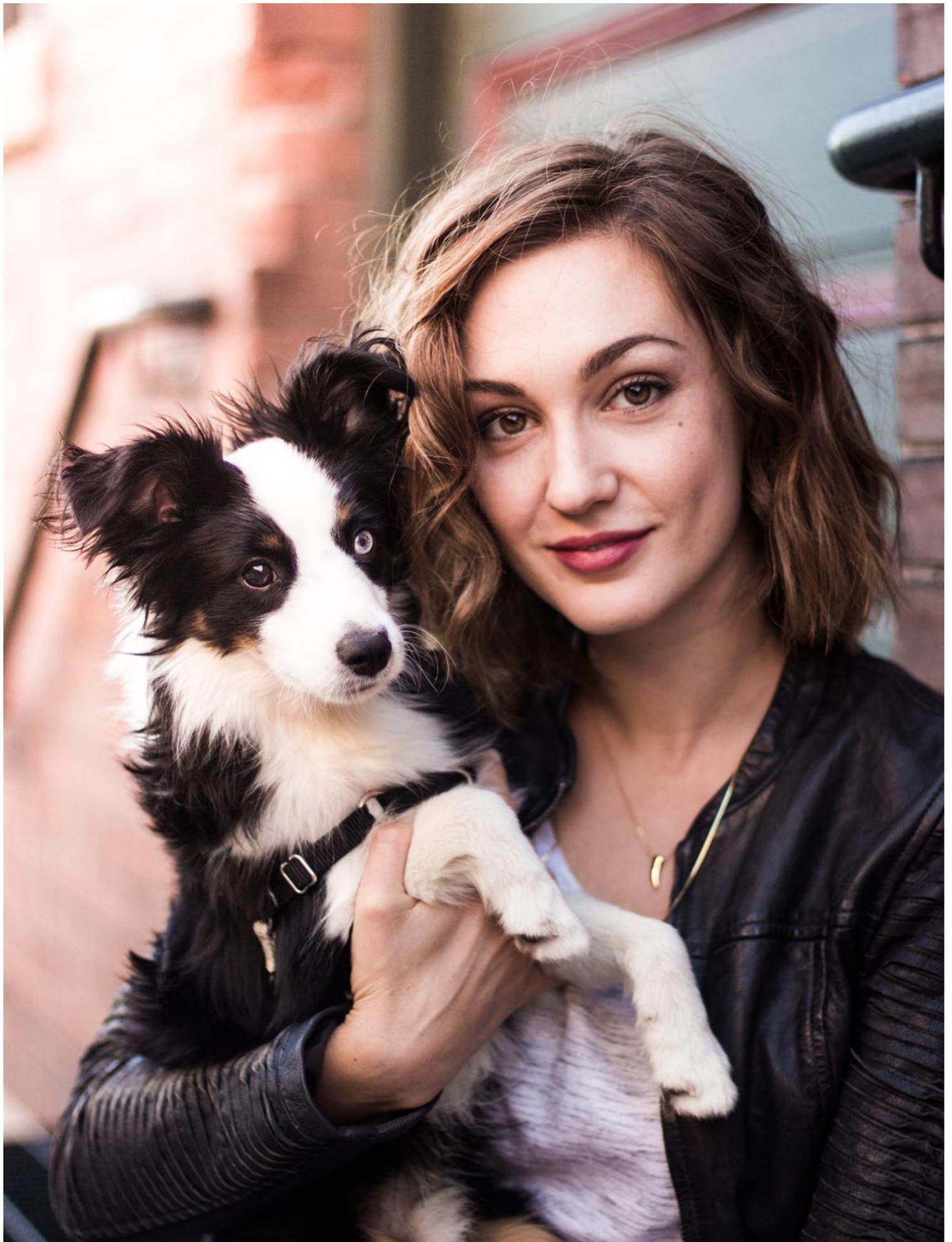
4. Be confident

Don't get nervous. The worse thing that can happen is that they are not interested and reject you politely. There's nothing to lose!

5. What if?

What if you do get rejected? Don't make too much of it. Maybe this person is already in a relationship, or maybe you're just not their type. Just know that there's nothing wrong with you. Because one person isn't interested, it doesn't mean someone else won't be. Also, keep in mind that what another person thinks about you or whether or not you're in a relationship does not determine your worth!





A SENSE OF COURAGE

Kat Barrel on female empowerment, labels, #WayHaught and much more!

INTERVIEW: NAHOMY ORTIZ AND CAROLYN RODRIGUEZ
PHOTOS: ANDREYA KLOBUCAR

When Katherine Barrel was little, she was torn between two careers: a star basketball player or the voice of Disney characters; now Katherine is a proud Canadian actress, producer, and director. She is most recognized from her work on the Syfy TV show Wynonna Earp as Officer Nicole Haught. People from all around the world have fallen in love with Katherine's character. Nicole Haught is one of the very few lesbian characters on TV that has an essential purpose to the plot of a TV show. Nicole is also a police officer who excels at her job and in the process falls for one of the Earp sisters. This show has cowboys with cool mustaches, demons, an interracial relationship, tons of strong female characters, an epic love story and a badass chick with a gun.

Mimp Mag: One of the many reasons why we love the show, is because of all the strong female characters. What was your first reaction reading the script and about all of these amazing female characters?

KAT: It's really rare because as an actress it's not very often that you get to work on shows that have so many female characters that are so strong. I think my first reaction was that it was a really amazing opportunity.

MM: So many people relate to Nicole because of her sexuality, but in what ways do you relate to her?

KAT: I think Nicole's sexuality is just an aspect of who she is, but what I think is universal, that anyone can relate to, is that she's got confidence. She is really strong and doesn't let people's judgements of her being a woman working a "man's job" get in the way. Working in the film industry, especially when I'm producing and directing, there's not as many women working in my industry in those jobs on the

other side of the camera yet, so I think that's one of the things that I really relate to in Nicole, that she's kind of working in this traditionally men's field and she's excelling at it. She's really excellent at her job and she doesn't ever let the fact that she's a woman deter her or get in her way.

MM: What advice would you give girls who are doubting themselves because of the way they look or who are lost because they feel like they don't fit under any labels?

KAT: Well I think it's the best thing in the world not to fall under any labels! I think for myself I never want to be labeled. I hate labels and I think I've always wanted to be somebody that nobody could put a label on. That's why I got into so many different aspects of my industry — because I don't like people telling me who I am. Because I think only I know who I am.

So I think my advice would be to follow your passion and do what you want to do with your life even if people tell you that it's going to be harder or that you can't. I think finding other people who do share your same passion is important. I know that sometimes as a young person, especially as a teenager, you're just trying to figure out, "Who am I?" but who you are might not have to be defined by somebody else. You need to create yourself rather than find yourself.

I wouldn't want anyone putting a label on me and I don't think that I fit into the mold of anyone else. I see people who are similar to me, that do similar things to what I do, but for a long time I really struggled with the fact that I wanted to produce and direct and act, I didn't want to just be an actor. For a while at the beginning of my career, that was really hard for me because I thought that people would look down

on me as an actor because I didn't just act. Now all of the sudden when my career is in this stage of blossoming and getting to the next level it's become my greatest asset, my greatest strength.

Another thing I would say to people struggling to figure out who they are is don't rush it. Keep doing your thing and do what makes you happy and you'll look back years later and realize that the things you were the most confused about are often the things that get you where you want to be.

MM: How did you feel knowing that the relationship between Nicole and Waverly breaks many tropes of lesbian relationships on TV?

KAT: Well I think it's awesome! I think that the fact that the relationship just feels very real to me. A relationship between two people who love each other is the same no matter if they are men or women or two men or two women. The emotion they feel is universal and I feel like anyone can identify with that. I think that's what makes Nicole and Waverly's relationship so great, that they're just two people who really fell for each other and they go through their ups and downs and they will continue to do so, just like every other person in a relationship.

(Nahomy: Yeah, that's what I love about Emily's [writer of Wynonna Earp] writing. She's not trying to make a statement with the relationship, it's just normal as it should be.) Exactly! For me when I first read the part of Nicole I didn't realize she would become a bit iconic as an LGBT character and I think it's fantastic and amazing that she has! It's a bonus that Nicole has been a character that so many people have been able to identify with and has helped so many people. But when I read Nicole I read her as this kick-ass woman who's extremely confident, she's great at her job, she's a bit of a fish out of water moving into this small town where she doesn't really know anyone and she's working through all of those things.

The fact that she was a gay woman was just a part of who she was, but it wasn't the first thing that struck me about her. I'm really happy about that because I just want to play her as a full person because her sexuality is only an aspect of who she is, it's not everything about her.

MM: Many fans of the show have found the courage to come out to their friends and family because of WayHaught. How do you feel about having that effect on so many people?

KAT: I think it's absolutely incredible! I'm so happy about it. I think as an actor when you get into the business you want to help people feel things and you want to give them an outlet, an escape or somebody to look up to, a sense of courage. It's so rare that you actually get a chance to do that, so I think for me the fact that something I'm working on is having such a positive and life changing effect on so many people is the greatest gift I could ever ask for. I could've gone my whole career never being able to do that. The fact that I've been able to be a part of such an amaz-

ing character that has touched and changed so many people's lives blows my mind.

Sometimes women in the film industry aren't taken seriously, whether it comes to production, direction and even as an actress. What has your experience as a producer/director been like? How did being a woman impact your career in this area?

KAT: I feel pretty fortunate that I got into producing and directing during this time. Right now in Canada there are a good amount of incentives and programs to help level the playing field and get an equal amount of men and women directing and producing, so I've never felt belittled as a woman. I've never had a specific experience where I've been kind of attacked for being a woman, no, definitely not. I think that I feel it more as an actor, especially earlier in my career, than I do as a producer/director.

As an actor you're auditioning for parts that sometimes turn out to be one-dimensional. The fact that these shows are still representing women in this way, I think that's disheartening. Some of the smaller roles I auditioned for at the beginning of my career, the character would be described as "the pretty servant girl" or "the beautiful waitress". It felt so superficial to me that the character description had nothing to do with who the girl was, they just wanted her to be pretty.

But I am grateful for that experience because it was those auditions that really fueled me to want to be on the other side of the camera because I felt like it was the only way I could change anything. I couldn't just sit around and complain about it if I wasn't going to try and make a difference, and that's why I really wanted to get into producing/directing and be more in a position where you're making the decisions on how female characters are being presented.

So, I think for me that was the kind of incentive, getting on the other side of the camera was just to be a part of helping to change the way women were represented in the media.

MM: Was there ever a moment in your life when someone doubted your career choice or moments that you might have even doubted yourself?

KAT: Oh, for sure! Absolutely there was. I think I've been really lucky. I've always had a pretty supportive family, but there were definitely moments where I know that my parents were really worried that I would never be able to support myself as an actor.

I came from a smaller suburban town, it's very traditional, and there was nobody who wanted to be an actor. So, for a lot of people, when I told them what I wanted to do I was met with a lot of doubt and skepticism. It is an extremely hard career to make a decent living in and I definitely still face it. I think for my family it was just them trying to protect me, they didn't want me to go into a career where I wasn't going to be able to support myself,



but I think ultimately I'm lucky that I kind of just stuck to my guns and kept on doing what I wanted to do and eventually it worked out for me.

I'm also very lucky because it doesn't happen to a lot of actors. Actors can have long careers of just constant struggle, and then there are good times and there are bad times, and it's a very inconsistent business. Just because I'm doing well now doesn't mean I will be forever, and I think it's just a matter of always trying to plan ahead then look to the next thing, especially being self-employed and making sure that you've got enough irons in the fire to keep yourself going.

MM: Now let's get down to some fan questions. We asked your fans to submit some questions and this is what they had to ask:

@waverlyhaughts asks: THIS IS KINDA GENERIC BUT COULD

YOU ASK WHAT KAT'S FAVORITE MEMORY ON SET WAS? WITH THE WHOLE CAST/INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS?

KAT: From Wynonna, my favorite memory was when we shot the party scenes that were in the last two episodes. (Carolyn: You guys looked beautiful!) Aw thank you! I think those are my favorite because it was the first time we were all together and I hadn't been in the same room with the whole cast yet and that was pretty special.

@vethanb6205 asks: WILL NICOLE EVER HAVE THAT CUP OF COFFEE WITH WAVERLY?

KAT: My god I hope so! I don't know, I almost feel like they might be past that cup of coffee or they might've had that cup of coffee off screen. For sure I think that they have had a few cups of coffee now. Although on screen, I'm not sure. That'll be up to the writers



in season 2. I don't know any of the plot points yet on season 2.

@waverlyhaughts asks: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE NICOLE LINE THAT YOU'VE SAID ON THE SHOW?

KAT: Probably, "Your ass is top shelf." I think that's my favorite or my second favorite would be, "Boy-man yeah I've been there it's the worst." That would be my number two. I just thought that line was so clever. (Nahomy: The whole writing of the show is so clever, everything that Melanie Scrofano says is so funny!) Yeah, it's awesome!

@timbuktoo_ asks: IF SHE COULD REDO ANY SCENE FROM SEASON ONE, IS THERE ONE? AND HOW WOULD SHE DO IT DIFFERENTLY?

KAT: Oh my god, that's a great question! I don't know because every scene has its own special memories attached to it from filming it. So I feel like if I did it differently then I wouldn't have those memories, but I think that at the beginning of the season I was really nervous as an actor and I think I would've just tried to put my nerves aside a little bit more and enjoyed it a little more because I was so nervous about screwing it up. I think I would've maybe had a little more fun if I had just relaxed a little bit. I don't know if I would do the scene differently, but I think I would just allow myself to be more in the moment and enjoy it more rather than be afraid that I was going to screw up at any moment.

@LuvLara asks: WHEN WILL WE GET TO SEE YOUR DIRECTING DEBUT, CANNONBALL AND DISSECTING GWEN?

KAT: Oh! Those are going to run the festival circuit so I'm submitting them to a bunch of festivals right now. I'm going to do that for about 6 to 7 months and then they'll be released to the public after they do the festivals. When you have a film in a festival it cannot be public, because then people will just go online and watch it so why would they go to a festival. Once they go through festivals they will be online so people can enjoy them for sure.

@Reshop_Heda307 (plus every fan of Nicole Haught's) asks: THERE'S A LOT OF FANS WHO WANT YOU TO BECOME A SERIES REGULAR ON WYNONNA EARP. WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THAT?

KAT: Nothing has officially been announced yet, I haven't been told yet what their plans are for season 2. I know that Nicole will be involved, but I don't know to what extent so I'm waiting just like everybody else.

@ShyDragon8 asks: IF THERE WERE A BODY SWAP EPISODE IN SEASON 2 WHICH CHARACTER WOULD YOU LIKE NICOLE TO SWITCH PLACES WITH?

KAT: Oh probably Dolls! I feel like he's so strong, good at martial arts and fighting it would be really cool to be in his body. (Nahomy: Did you have to do any training?) I didn't, but I think that for season 2 I would like to do some ride alongs with actual police officers just to get a sense of what their day-to-day routine is like. My dream challenge is to do a police training academy boot camp. I would love to see what they go through. I'm sure I will barely make it through, but I think it would be really fun and a new learning experience. (Carolyn: That being said are you excited about Nicole being part of black badge now in season 2?) Oh my god, yes! Definitely, I think it's amazing. For her I think it's been a long time coming, she showed, as she usually does, extreme patience, way more patience than I would've had. There's so many exciting things for Nicole I think coming in season 2 and she's joined the comic as well in issue #8. She's going to do some really cool things in the comic that are different from the show. I think that for her to be a comic book character it's pretty amazing and unreal! I think the sky is kind of the limit for what they can do with this character in the future so I'm really excited to see. I've heard some whispers of what Emily has been planning for season 2, but it can all change. Until there's an actual script I won't know anything so we'll see, but I think it's going to be a pretty awesome ride.



the booktube girl

Momo Chavez talks books and the importance of reading.

INTERVIEW BY: HALEY STANKS

PHOTO COURTESY OF: MOMO CHAVEZ

Recently, I had the opportunity to chat with MoMo Chavez, the Booktube Girl on YouTube, about topics such as reading, YouTube, Hamilton, and more.

HALEY STANKS: Can you describe what Booktube is and why you decided to make a channel?

MOMO CHAVEZ: Booktube is a small, relatively new community on Youtube where people essentially gush over books. It's been gaining a lot more popularity in the past couple years, which I personally think has been caused by all the hype over major movie franchises like The Hunger Games. Booktube is a lovely community which for the most part, is extremely loving and inclusive and allows people to share a common passion. Though I joined Booktube simply out of curiosity, I feel like a big part of continuing with my channel was this sense of belonging to a group of people who perhaps feel neglected outside of YouTube.

HALEY: You just reached 10,000 subscribers! How did you react when you first found out?

MOMO: I was ridiculously giddy! I was sitting in class a few weeks ago and I knew I was starting to get close, so I decided to check my subscriber count and I kind of freaked out. I know to a lot of people it might seem like a small amount, but the fact that an overly-excited 16 year old like me fangirling over books can reach a milestone like this... it's absolutely insane.

HALEY: What has been one of the best experiences you've had since creating your channel?

MOMO: This June I had the opportunity to fly from where I live in Australia to California, where I got to go to Vidcon - the biggest video/YouTube convention in the world. It's something I've wanted to do ever since starting my channel when I was 13 years old, and it was just perfect! For me, the best part was getting to meet so many of my beautiful friends that I've made through Booktube, but I also learnt so much through all the panels that Vidcon had to offer. It was incredible to fly across the world and attend a convention that celebrates something that hasn't always been accepted by people I know.

HALEY: Are there any specific authors or BookTubers that you look up to?

MOMO: I'm not sure about authors, but there are endless BookTubers that I look up to. I've always admired Christine (from poland-bananasBOOKS) for her creativity and for being downright hilarious, and also one of my best friends Emma (from emmmabooks)

- she's constantly inspiring me to (as cheesy as it sounds) stay true to myself and to be unique.

HALEY: Who are some of your all time favorite book characters and why?

MOMO: Ever since I read the book Lola and the Boy Next Door, I've been in love with the main character Lola. She's this really eccentric teenage girl who wears brightly coloured wigs and 50s dresses and out-there makeup. Though I'm not nearly as into fashion as Lola is, I've always kind of thought she was the braver, cooler version of myself as a book character.

HALEY: Along with book related videos, you post videos about Hamilton, the insanely popular Broadway musical. How has Hamilton affected your life?

MOMO: Well it's funny because Hamilton has kind of had a ripple effect across BookTube, which makes complete sense, since I'd like to think we are a group of intellectuals who enjoy reading and learning. Chuck in some perfectly crafted musical numbers, and you have a whole community of people loving Hamilton...even though technically BookTube has no relation to it. In terms of how it's affected me, I've learnt an insane amount of American history from listening to Hamilton, which is great because living in Australia doesn't teach anything relating to it. And it's a hip-hop musical - it's new, fresh and exciting...and it's freakin awesome.

HALEY: What are some of the books that led you to become an avid reader?

MOMO: The Mortal Instruments series without a doubt, and also I originally was really into popular books like The Fault in our Stars and Divergent. I had always loved reading, but something about the wit and sarcasm of these characters completely drew me into the world of Young Adult literature.

HALEY: Finally, why do you think it's important that people enjoy reading?

MOMO: I mean, I could honestly talk about this for hours, but I'll keep it short. Reading can have a bad stigma a lot of the time and people get called "nerds" a lot, as if that's a bad thing. Of course reading is important from an educational standpoint - my vocabulary and imagination have been majorly impacted by avidly reading. But more importantly, I think reading can be a very important tool in finding out who you are (or in some cases, who you would like to be) and connecting with characters who might be going through similar experiences to your own.

OUR FIGHT IS NOT OVER

The LGBTQ+ Fans Revolution | Interview with Amaya Wolf and Gina Tass founders of Lgbtfansdeservebetter.com

INTERVIEW BY NAHOMY ORTIZ AND CAROLYN RODRIGUEZ
PICTURES BY ANDREYA KLOBUCAR

On March 3rd, 2016, Lexa, a beloved lesbian character played by actress Alycia Debnam-Carey from sci-fi TV show *The 100*, died. Lexa had imprinted herself on so many people from the LGBT community, after her death LGBT+ fans from all around the world expressed their frustration through social media. But it was more than that: Lexa's death contributed to the "Bury Your Gays" and "Dead Lesbian" media tropes. LGBT+ fans were baited with the introduction of Lexa and just when they began to love her, the writers from the show took her away from them.

You might be thinking what the big deal is, as characters on TV "die all the time." According to the LGBT fans webpage, in US television (or TV produced for American audiences) there are over 1.8 million straight characters and only 383 Lesbian/Bisexual characters on TV. 31% of lesbian or bisexual characters on American scripted TV shows between 1976-2016 have ended up dead. With the list of dead lesbian/bisexual characters now at 162 (and counting), LGBT fans demand better from media creators. LGBT+ fans everywhere crave to someday have the same equality, relationships, hopes and dreams as any other straight character on TV.

Today we talk to Amaya Wolf and Ginna Tass, two of the many founders of Lgbtfansdeservebetter.com who have given a voice to the LGBT+ fans revolution.

When the LGBT+ Fans Deserve Better organization started, what were the expectations for this project? What was your purpose from day one?

Amaya: I think the initial reaction came from a place of concern seeing so many people so hurt by what had happened on *The 100*. Personally I'd say we were dreaming big, our goal has always been to impact the industry long-term and change things for the better. But the response has surpassed our expectations, and the rate and speed at which it has happened, has gone above and beyond. We always knew it was possible, but it's one thing to know in theory and another to see it happen before our eyes.

The Trevor Project has raised over \$100,000 and has also raised a lot of awareness among people who did not know about the trope. What is the Trevor Project and how did it come about?

Gina: The Trevor Project roots go all the way back to 1994. Trevor was originally a short film about a gay 13 year boy who attempts to take his life after being rejected by his fam-

ily and bullied by his friends. When the film aired in 1998 the creators wanted to attach a hotline to the airing to help youth who were suffering through the same parallels. Having discovered there weren't any, they founded The Trevor Project and the rest is history.

I am personally familiar with volunteers of the organization and how impactful and important their work is, it's the main reason I choose to have it represent LGBTQ youth. As for the donations, I thought if we could even get close 1K, if these kids could continue to have a safe space offering such services we would have accomplished so much. Needless to say in about a week we broke the 1K mark and it just kept rising. One thing I will say has become an unforgettable moment for myself, is my phone blowing up night and day with donations big and small from all over the world. No matter where I was or what I was doing seeing the comments left by donors just kept reinforcing how well the LGBTQ community comes together in times of need, how caring and gentle we can be with one another. It's a wonder gift I will always cherish.

How do you feel when you see celebrities like Eliza Taylor and Kat Barrel wearing your shirts?

Gina: It's inspiring. When I began the Fundraiser for Trevor, I did it because so many of these young kids are starving for someone to relate to and be acknowledged by. So seeing their role models standing up for them, the community and the joy it brings them, just cements why this is so important. It also gives me hope that actors and actresses in the industry won't feel the pressure of being blacklisted voicing their support in an industry which in many cases can stifle personal beliefs.

What have been some things from inconsiderate writers that have angered you most, being part of the LGBT community?

Amaya: I think the things that annoy us the most have at times come from writers who are self-identified as LGBTQ. The other excuse that grinds our gears are when they try to explain their narrative choices away or decide on their own that it is not correspondent to the 'Bury Your Gays' trope. That's not up to them to decide. It's one thing to be ignorant but willing to learn, it's another thing to be willfully ignorant and continuously dismiss the concerns of minorities.

I get it, no one wants to think of themselves as the bad guy, but isn't it better to apologize for hurting someone - even





accidentally - and then committing to doing better? That's what the Pledge is all about. We're not asking writers to be perfect, we're asking them to try and do better, while also seeking to give them to the tools to do so.

A lot of fans were willing to stop watching *The 100* after Lexa's death. Was that something the organization thought of doing? Did you continue to support the show afterwards?

Amaya: Some of us continued to follow the show for closure and curiosity as well as gathering additional information on the narrative. Clarke does remain on the show and she is bisexual. However we did not support the show by watching it through Netflix, Hulu, iTunes or live and we did not tweet about it using the official title. That was a huge angle of our social media activism, the push for a "social media blackout." The CW is one of the few networks who does not use live ratings as their only numbers to determine viewership and popularity, one of the best ways to protest and be heard was to cease using streaming services and stop giving the show online buzz.

The Lexa Pledge has brought together writers/producers that are willing to defy from the trope and have their LGBT+ characters get the endings they deserve. How many writers/producers have signed the Lexa pledge as of today?

Gina: Like most things behind the scenes with LGBT Fans we all sat at the giant round table, wine in hand and said "This is what we have done so far, how can we now mold this clay into something that lasts?" It was at this point when Michelle Mama, a good friend and director, popped into my head. I picked up the phone and said "Mama, so this thing happened, and now we have taken over the internet. I need your help!"

At that point two other lovely friends of mine (Noelle Carbone & Sonia Hosko) who happen to be executive producers on a Canadian TV Drama named Saving Hope came into play. The entire group signed the pledge including showrunner Adam Pettle with nothing but the best of intentions. They further cemented their promise by going back before filming season 5 and re-writing the lesbian couple storyline thus avoiding yet the longstanding trope. As of today the pledge has 16 signatures, but more importantly it's been seen, it's been heard and hopefully that means a future where others are held accountable. My dream is it inspires greater creative writing.

Who are some of your favourite lesbian couples on TV right now?

Amaya: Right now? Oh that is a tough question. I currently do have a soft spot for Audrey from *Scream* and though they are technically not a couple I enjoy the interactions and subtext she has with Emma. I'll be curious to see if the writers will follow through with what they've alluded to so far.

Gina: There are lesbians couples on TV right now? Let me put on my glasses, it's so hard to see them. To be honest being a tad older than most of the LGBTQ fandom I don't really watch many of the teen based shows. But I have caught up on the web series *Carmilla* which happens to be filmed here

in Toronto. It's witty, it's dramatic, it's over the top, and it has lesbian vampires. I call that a win.

What TV shows would you recommend for LGBT+ fans who are looking for characters with whom to relate?

Amaya: This is a difficult question to answer due to the limited amount of LGBT characters presently on television, and the wide diversity in our community. We're actually currently working on a project that seeks to score and rank shows with representation to help with this very question in the future! I would recommend the webseries *Carmilla*. It is a pretty popular choice at the moment. In terms of shows no longer on air, the numbers are also pretty dire regarding happy endings.

Gina: The sad part about this question is the first thing that comes to mind is, what shows I wouldn't recommend. There is just so much that needs to be done. But alas there is some hope! I would recommend *Wynonna Earp*! (Check out our interview with *Wynonna Earp* star Kat Barrell on page 52)

My best friend (Carolyn) was one of the people who was very affected by the death of Lexa on *The 100* and your organization really helped her to not feel alone. How do you feel about having that kind of impact on fans around the world?

Amaya: It's at once humbling, motivating and so touching. It's everything we work for. If what we do can help just one person like Carolyn, then it makes all of the hard work worth it. We strive for a better tomorrow, to ensure a future where people will never be unjustly hurt like that. Because Carolyn deserved better. LGBT Fans Deserve Better.

Gina: Bukowski once said "You begin saving the world by saving one person at a time; all else is grandiose romanticism or politics." It's incredibly inspiring for someone like myself who is older to be moved from indifference. That's because of individuals like Carolyn who make their voices heard and move us to action. There are moments when it is bittersweet. But it's because of each and every one of these voices which we have become a scream.

I am so proud of the LGBTQ youth out there who won't settle any longer, who won't just eat what they are fed. I don't wish to live in a world where my nephew or anyone feel like they're sold tragedy and told it's life. You should all be proud of what you've done. By saving one at a time, you managed to save each other. Before we knew it we were all tweeting, sharing stories, making art, saving lives. If I could meet every single one of you darlings one day I would be complete.

Know how powerful you are, know you're loved, and know we will keep fighting together, side by side. All my love.

You can follow LGBT FANS DESERVE BETTER (and trend with them) on twitter: @LGBTfans

To buy LGBT Fans deserve better shirts or the Lexa fanart book visit: lgbtfans.tumblr.com

For more information about the pledge, fundraisers and more visit: lgbtfansdeservebetter.com

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING

BUT CHANCES ARE YOU DON'T EITHER

WORDS BY: ELENA M-SKI
ART BY: ALEX SKYRME

As a teenager, I've been asked the question, "What do you want to do when you grow up?", about 8 million times. At age 4 I wanted to be a vet. At age 5 I realized that vets didn't just pet animals and have fun all day; they had to deal with some serious stuff. So logically, I decided a career in politics was the next best choice for me: to become the first female President of the United States. At age 6 I realized that being President was a hard job, and that the President didn't make as much money as I thought he/she deserved for the difficulty of the job. I then decided I wanted to be a teacher.

Every year my future career prospect changed. From teacher to doctor to surgeon to scientist to marine biologist to medical researcher to sports medicine doctor to lawyer and now...well, that still remains unclear. I don't know what I'm doing, and that's scary because it seems like everyone else knows their purpose. Society conveys a sense of "having a grip" on everything. Everyone has such a tight leash on their lives. Their paths seem to be predetermined since birth.

That's not true though because I know I'm not the only one (Cue sam smith haha). Yes, some teens my age know what they want to do. To all of my future fellow classmates that are going to conferences already for things they want to pursue, congrats!

Your life is in order! But mine isn't.

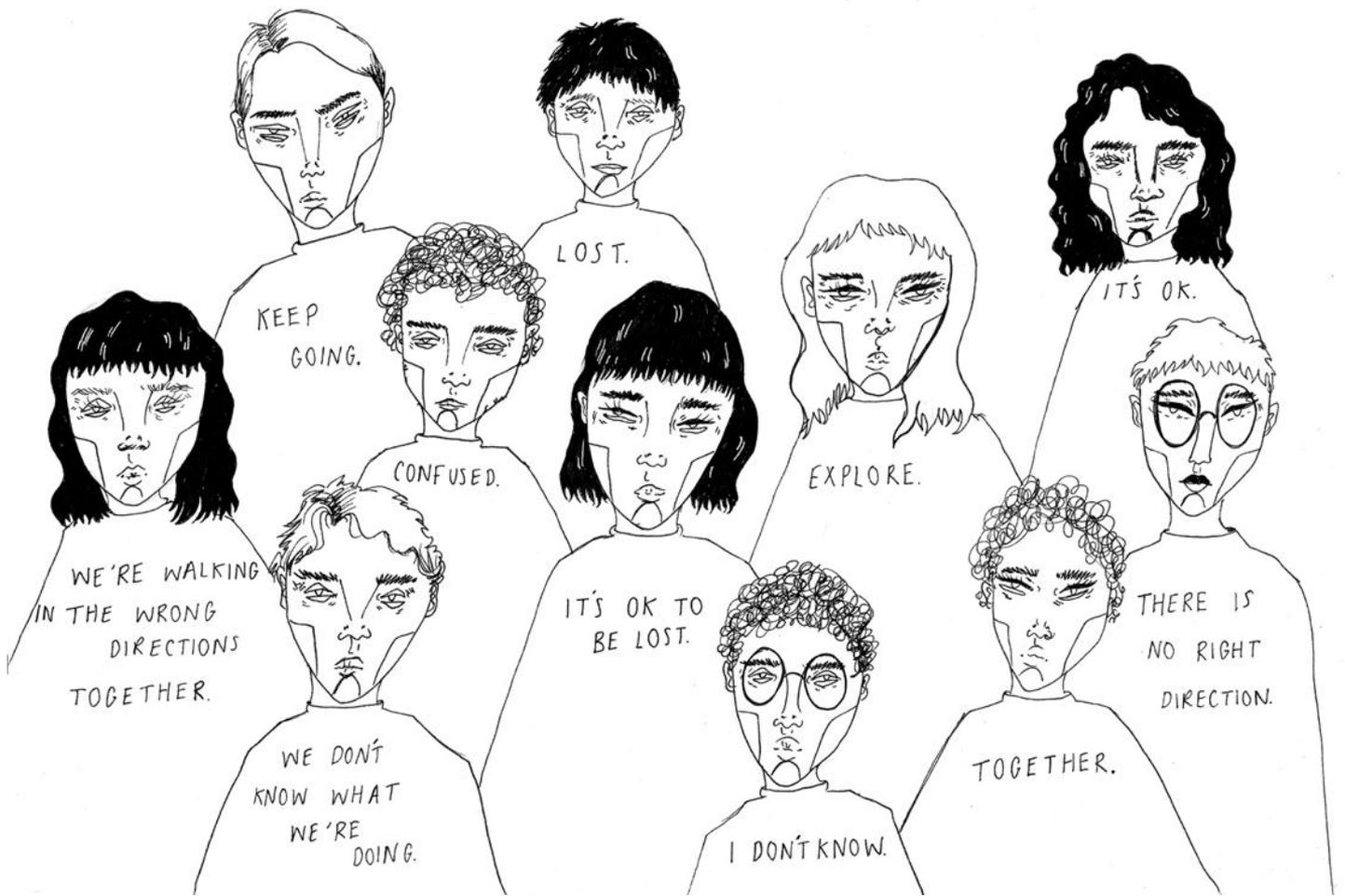
I do know a few things: I want to be happy. I want to be successful. I want to be able to support myself.

My fear is constantly that those things will not align together and I'll have to pick and choose what I sacrifice out of the three. Money and success but no happiness? Money and happiness but no success? Happiness and success but broke? I guess that's life...I'm just having a hard time coming to terms with it.

I won't show you this side of me, the not-so put together side. You see that smile on my lips? This glossy picture you see covers up the real indecision inside me. We all do it, admittedly. I exaggerate the details of my life in order to show others that I have a semblance of direction. I know where I'm going.... sort of? I talk like I know what I'm talking about when in reality I'm partially faking my future plans in the hopes that they will solidify. Yeah, I'm a mess.

Then again, everyone is, no matter how successful. Everything said outloud is an exaggeration of truth. A shiny veneer painted over something mediocre. Someday that paint dries and true success shines through.

Yeah, I don't know what I'm doing...but chances are you don't either. Nobody knows what's going on in your head, so it's okay to be indecisive and to not know what to do with your life. The good thing is, we'll all figure it out eventually.



LOOK BEYOND THE SURFACE

FOUR THINGS I'VE LEARNED THIS YEAR.

WORDS BY: HANNAH HURDLE

ART BY: GENEVA GARCIA

1. Become less.

It's not thinking less of yourself but thinking about yourself less. Putting others before yourself can make you happier than if you are constantly just thinking of your own happiness. Occasionally, you have to sacrifice your own happiness for the greater good of another. It's always hard, but it's worth it. Why? Because it will mean far more in the long run for them than it would for you. Despite what some might say, you don't always have to come out on top. Sometimes second place needs to be enough.

2. Be patient.

You will learn what you need to know and grow how you need to grow—in time. There is no sense rushing things. Rushing things is often when mistakes decide to hitch a ride on your life. Learning things takes time, and it takes patience. Don't expect knowledge to just jump into your brain. Anything worth doing (or learning) is worth the time it takes.

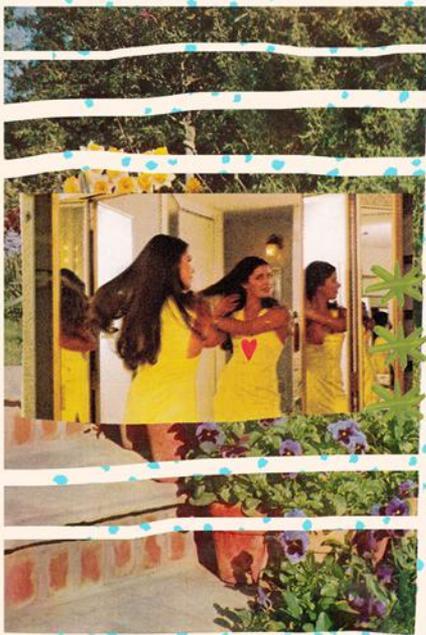
3. Find joy rather than happiness.

Everyone deserves to be happy, right? While the idea is wonderful, it doesn't always work in practice. Many times someone's happiness can be at the expense of someone else. (See number 1!) That's why instead of trying to focus on plain old happiness, joy is a good solution. You can always have joy. Even in

a dark situation that might seem hopeless, you can still have joy, because it stems from thankfulness. It's being grateful for what you have even when it seems like everything's falling apart. When you feel like you can't be happy, cling to joy.

4. Live simply.

We can become obsessed with having the nicest things. The nicest house, purse, clothes. We can learn a lot though from those who have very little. Recently I spent some time in Honduras, a developing Country. From the people there I've learned that even if you're very poor you can still have immense joy and feel blessed. You might not have the name brands, the sports car, or the newest iPhone, but you do have (as corny as it sounds) something more important: people who love you. So when it doesn't seem like you can always have what you want, remember what you need is more important. We are very blessed even in the simplest way. And sometimes it's the simple things that can hold the most value.





STOP COMPARING YOURSELF

WORDS BY: SARAH MARIOTTI
ART BY: TARA PRESNELL

In our age of social media, seeing constant updates of people's lives is a free ticket into FOMO, the feeling of inadequateness or a sense of failure. There are many great things in life that are free... this is not one of them.

What is FOMO?

FOMO, the fear of missing out, is knowing that something is occurring – an event or a trend – and being excluded. For whatever reason, you are not a part of the IT instead, you seem to experience it secondhand through live Snapchat updates.

FOMO is all in our heads

What is it you are most proud of in your life? What are you most involved in? That should be consuming your mind. It's time to forget what others are doing – you need to get busy living YOUR life. FOMO is all in our heads. You truly do not know what you are missing out on because you can only make a judgement based on a few photos or short videos. Therefore, there is no way to justify that an event you are missing out on is the biggest thing happening right now, or the most important.

Don't let social media consume you

To be truly okay with yourself and happy with where you are in this world, you must be attentive to your life. Your surroundings are what you thrive off of, so cancel out the social media.

The way we present ourselves on social media is usually carefully thought out and censored. That means there

is no way our profiles are true depictions of ourselves. We only show what we want others to see and believe. This comes from insecurities, of course, because we all have them; however, this alone should be proof that we should not let another person's Instagram or VSCO intimidate us.

Our confidence and happiness must not take a knock after a profile comparison. Do not allow social media to consume you. Allot it only a certain amount of your day, and you will start to develop a new, peaceful relationship with yourself.

Invest in yourself

My most sincere request for every human is to focus on yourself. Become obsessed with your own life!

It's not until you put the time and effort into bettering yourself that you realize all that you have going for you. This also keeps you super busy, so you do not have the time to compare your life to another's. When you love yourself, nothing can stop you from being superwoman! You have every right to be proud of yourself, proud of the cool things you can do, and proud of what you have already done (regardless of how little). Cherish yourself

Find ways to cherish yourself. I promise you, the temptation to compare yourself to someone else will disappear.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY EMMA TIERNEY



STITCHING BACK TOGETHER

THE WORST PART ABOUT BREAKING UP IS MOVING ON

WORDS BY: NAHOMY ORTIZ

PHOTO BY: ANDREYA KLOBUCAR

Let me start by saying that not all breakups are bad. Some breakups can bring tidal waves of strength; they can shape us into happier people and motivate us to believe that good things can come with change. Some of these 'life changing' breakups, however, result in confusing and horrible experiences that cause us to doubt everything our mom and The W Network told us about love.

Sometimes it is impossible to imagine that things like the painful breakups in movies can happen to you, but they do. They happen on Sunday nights, on Facebook message conversations, when the person you love tells you that they have feelings for someone else, who (in my case) turned out to be this smarter, prettier girl I happened to have classes with.

That breakup changed me forever.

I felt my heart turn cold. He didn't just ruin our relationship, he ruined all of my future relationships as well. I now find it difficult to trust people, and I never feel confident in my relationships because I keep thinking that someone better than me is going to come along. I've spent the entire second semester of my senior year of high school comparing myself to other people, putting myself down, being paranoid, stressed, and sad, and hoping I could move on from all of this—but how is it possible to forget a person

when you see them five times a week for two hours and, well, spend the rest of your time obsessing over every moment you ever shared?

People keep telling me that in no time I'll move on and that I just have to "give it a couple months," but I just want it to be over. I want to look at him and feel nothing, I wish the urge to talk to him could disappear, I don't want to feel the need to flirt with other guys to make him jealous, to look at him and see just another person.

The truth is, though I wish the process was faster, but it has to take months because you have to start doing things that make you happy to replace memories, to replace pain, to replace promises and lies. Friends have been telling me that to genuinely move on I have to give myself permission to move on because otherwise I will always be hung up on him. I thought about it a lot and I kept wondering, how do I do that? How do I give myself permission to move on?

But, ultimately, I decided to give myself permission to move on. I don't want to be stuck, I don't want to compare myself to other people anymore, I don't want to put myself down, I don't want to be paranoid, or stressed or sad and I don't want to hope I can move on, I want to move on.



THE WAR ON CHRISTMAS

AND OTHER THINGS THAT DON'T EXIST.

WORDS BY: ANN LEMONNIER
ART BY: CHRISTINA GOLOVINA

As someone who has lived through seventeen Christmases, I've definitely seen strange arguments about the holiday season. From having to listen to my middle school history teacher telling us how absolutely ridiculous it was that we could no longer have a Christmas tree in the lobby to whatever mess that was last year's ordeal with the red Starbucks cups, I've heard it all! It's unbelievable that we keep having to read a million Facebook shares featuring what Fox News would call, "The War on Christmas," but that's our reality!

So what is this supposed war all based on?

Good question. As incredibly absurd as it sounds, the argument stems from the idea that politically correct culture is "shutting down" Christmas paraphernalia in public establishments due to being "sensitive" (Fox News). After looking into these flimsy arguments, I was amazed at the sheer lack of observance towards the past. As a Jewish kid growing up in the public school system, I can tell you all about the lack of representation towards my culture within this time of year. I can tell you all about the feelings of exclusion, alienation, and inferiority towards my own culture and traditions.

Starting in first grade, after admitting to not having all the seemingly awesome traditions the other kids in my class had, I was seen as "different" and therefore not as assimilated into my other classmates experiences. At such a young age, reasoning and logic aren't as present and the conclusions I bought from this were that me not celebrating this time of year was due to me not being "American" enough (which is completely laughable as a third generation American). Though this probably sounds incredibly unbelievable, by putting out the value and image of Christmas being the

"normal" winter holiday, we isolate all else from the narrative.

As trivial as it may seem, inclusion is so vital in our rich and diverse culture. As peppermint hot chocolate hits Starbucks, so should our open mindedness towards those outside the "Christmas-celebrating norm." By including the teaching of the other various celebrations during the month of December, and on a larger scale, having a general curriculum of immersing students in the cultures of others, our idea of the world around us enlarges and rather present events such as Hanukkah become less foreign. As we continue to only represent Christmas and other Christian-centric holidays (ex: most districts' winter and spring breaks are focused around Christmas and Easter which are, you guessed it, both Christian celebrations), we push out and alienate others and give a false sense of other religions which leads to ignorance and exoticism. Though I will jokingly say from time to time, "I hate Christmas", due to being an angsty teenager, I do not mean this in a threatening sense; because there are some things I love about the season. I love candy canes. I love peppermint Starbuck drinks, and the lights that illuminate the block come the holiday season. I love a lot about Christmas.

What I don't love is the underrepresentation of other cultures during the holidays. The more we understand each other's backgrounds, religions, and beliefs from a young age, the more we can grow as a society and develop a sense of understanding and empathy for one another. The more we think of Christmas as a "war," the more we push away opposing ideas and become blinded in favor of one-sided traditions that don't represent America's culture as a whole.



BODY (R)EVOLUTION

A POEM ABOUT BODY IMAGE

WORDS BY: MEG BAXTER

ART BY: GRACE MAZZUCCHI

This poem is for the girls who think they take up too much space. That think they don't deserve to be told they're beautiful in the way that the stars, trees and oceans are effortlessly, magnificently beautiful. The girls that think they will never be loved, that think they are too ugly for that to even be remotely possible...

Girls, you are not ugly. You are divine, and you deserve a love like the poets write about. I hope someday you realise that.

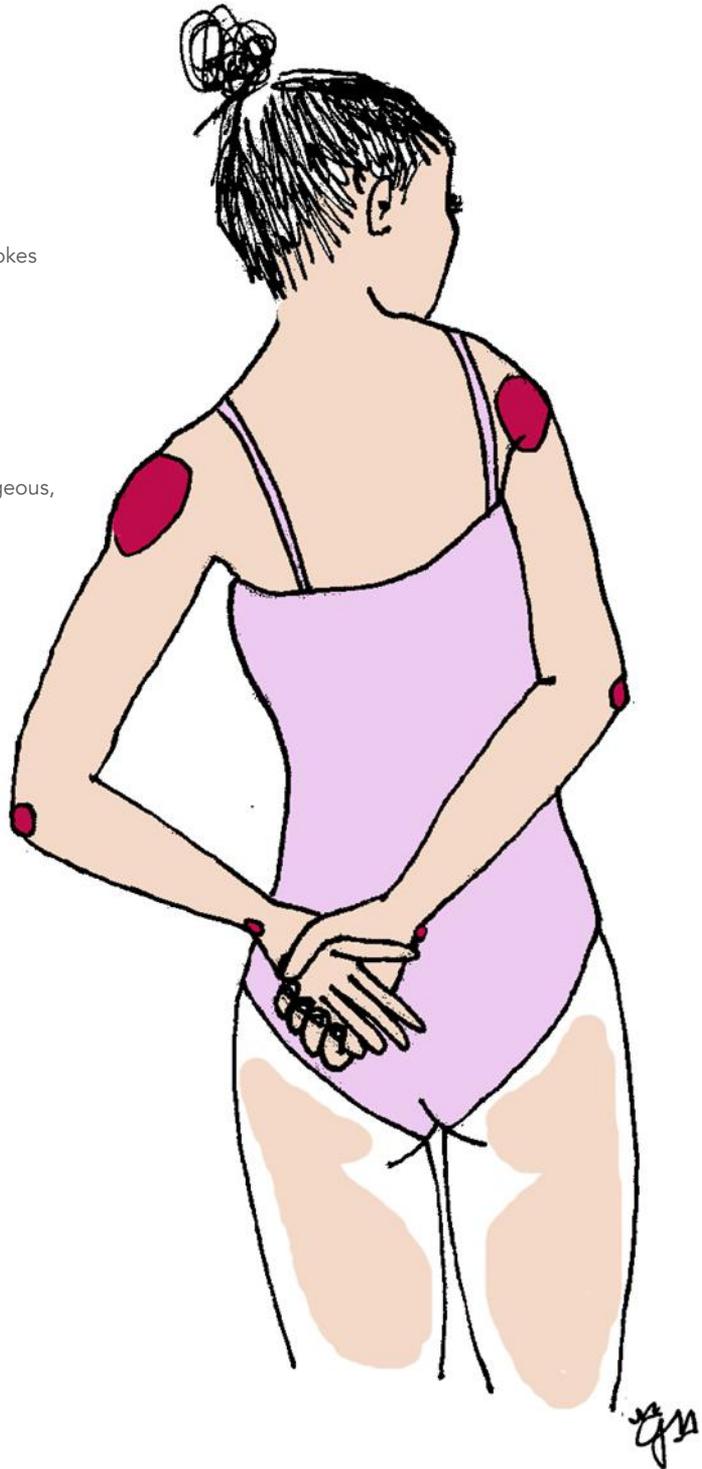
Tell me the truth, do I look fat in this?

soft skin stretched over big bones
a girl looks at the glowing screen
wishes she could be smaller
softer
wishes she didn't take up so much room
before she sleeps
her mind dwells on the shape in the mirror
does she look too wide?
too tall?
why can't she be graceful, small and slender
like an elegant dancer
or a delicate flower like her friends
effortless in their beauty
she wonders
did the handsome man whose soft eyes lay on hers just the night before
only do so because her too-big body
was in the way
of something more beautiful?

the answer is no
god no
she's a dream
a pre-raphaelite etching made up of
smooth curves and soft edges
she takes up space, yes,
but like a painting,
an abstract galaxy of rich colour sprawled across the gallery wall
the handsome man who looked her way
did so
because he's never seen a girl made of stars before
she radiates light
that touches those around her
makes them braver
makes their heart feel a little lighter
and as well as that
he thinks the swell of her stomach
is beautiful
thinks the steep curve of her hips
unimaginably gorgeous
and,
if he'd worked up the courage to say hello,

to take her out for a drink
stirred the butterflies in her stomach
the first time he saw her naked
he would think
oh my god
she's a goddess
and when she inevitably asked
tell me the truth,
do i look fat in this?
he'd tell her,
you look like an angel
his eyes would be earnest,
his touch gentle
and,
finally,

she'd believe it.
she'd see her body,
soft flesh that creases when she sits down
masterfully painted with large, sweeping brushstrokes
and she wouldn't see the words
too big
and graceless
she'd see
a gorgeous body
made of poetry
and magic
and she'd kick herself,
partly because it took a boy to make her feel gorgeous,
but mostly for not seeing sooner
the infinite loveliness
of the body she called home





ACROSS THE LAKE

WORDS BY: HANNAH HURDLE

ART BY: MARGARIDA ELOY

The water ripples, the sun shining off it like glass
The motor of the boat, the roaring of it in my ears fades away

As the wind whispers, a name, a promise
A promise that was once found but is now lost
A promise of what was and what could be

I listen harder trying to grasp what it is saying
But the name slips away
Leaving me with just the idea of what it was

The humming of the motor grows louder and louder still
The boat speeds up faster, faster
I can hear the wind again

Now it's not just a name but a chorus of names screaming to be heard
Louder and louder up over the roar of the boat

I close my eyes and try to listen
Not to the loudest of the voices but to the quietest
The one that whispers its name

Softly, ever so softly like a feather landing on the earth
I separate that name from the chorus of voices

In my mind,
I write this name across my heart
I tattoo it on my skin
I weave it through the air
Across the lake, across the world, out into the atmosphere

This name
The name of the promise
The name in the wind
It's light

A light shining out of the darkness
Something so pure it's been forgotten
Disappeared in the sea of black

But the earth remembered
The wind sang its name

The boat docks, the motors slows, and the winds ceases
\
But the name rings on
Light
The light of hope
Shining all around us



Mason Noteboom is a freelance fashion and portrait photographer based out of Colorado and living in San Francisco. She draws inspiration from the outdoor world and strives to capture the interaction of people and places. For more, visit: www.masonnoteboom.photography.





IN PASSING

OBLIVION OF THE EVERYDAY STUDENT

WORDS BY: NAHOMY ORTIZ

ART BY: ROBIN JARVIS

In high school I was always in sort of an in-between state. I was never failing classes but I wasn't a prodigy. I wasn't a social butterfly, but it didn't mean I was completely isolated. I didn't hate school but I didn't love it either. I made mistakes, I never made really big ones (which sadly means my mistakes won't make for great stories). I don't feel like I had much of a legacy in high school.

When I think about high school legacies, I also think about how, although some people are remembered now or will be remembered years after we've graduated, oblivion is inevitable. Everything created will fade and people will forget. Situations that were once a huge deal, in a couple of years won't be.

I also instantly think of the popular kids who have lots of friends, or students with outstanding grades, or even the kids who get bullied (because even though they are acknowledged for a negative purpose, they are still remembered).

But not me. My life did not revolve around house parties, alcohol and drugs. I'm not the brave student in class who speaks their mind without consequence. I haven't had straight A's since the 7th grade. I've just been what I like to call an inbetweener or a student in passing.

Brief definition of inbetweener/student in passing:

stu-dent in pass-ing
Student that normally is in an inbetween state about most high school experiences or decisions. Normally they keep to themselves, keep their head down while walking down hallways, speak with a low soft tone during presentations, and desperately wants high school to be over. They are at an average level of everything high school related. (e.g. average amount of friends, grades, average social level, etc.)

It might sound sad, but, at the end of the day, I'm truly grateful that this was the way I spent high school. People that are remembered after high school are under the pressure that they have to continue to be the person they were in high school, but people grow and evolve to like different things. These expectations slow people down and make them re-think future decisions, too focused on the past.

The high school legacy just doesn't make much sense to me. There's an atmosphere of obsession over being on the superlatives, being prom king or queen, teenagers are doing insane things to bring attention to themselves, following trends that the media considers "cool"

and just have an overall obsession with popularity. I'm not saying being social and just a decent human being is an issue, because it's not, I just don't want to be remembered for the person I was for such a brief 4 years of my life when I didn't even know who I was. I want to be remembered for the things I will do that matter in the real world. But when does this real world begin?

From the beginning of August 2015, my mind had been set on graduating and making it to the end of high school avoiding drama (you'll be sad to know that I failed at the drama thing). Unlike other years, I've made lifelong friends with whom I've shared incredible experiences with, which I am eternally grateful for. My senior year of high school has also been a true learning experience. Some of the greatest lessons I have ever learned are the ones that my teachers will never remember lecturing.

I know that I am going to miss a lot of things from high school, like having my friends around, the sense of security and familiarity, but I have never been so excited about the future the way I am now. I am so content on ending a chapter of my life to begin a new one, making new friends, learning new subjects at college, continuing some of the things I love and embedding them in a professional way.

Right now I feel much like a lot of other students leaving high school: bittersweet. It's absurd to think that these four years of my life have shaped me so drastically as a person and that they will define me for the rest of my life. When I'm older I'm going to think back on teachers who taught me incredible lessons that hopefully then will be my career. I'm going to think back on people from high school that I was once so close with and that maybe I won't be as connected with in the future. I am going to recall conflicts that will seem so silly in the future.

I will reminisce on prom and graduation which will be some of the highlights of my life. It all seems a lot bigger than who I am, like in a book that I once read by one of my favorite authors. As John Green said, "I believe now that we are greater than the sum of our parts." If you take a person's personality, the relationships they had with people, the size and shape of their body, their intellect (and much more) and you sum it all up together, you don't get them. You get something else entirely.

High school is going to be one of those significant experiences that will sum up to the person I will become in the future.



VEGETARIAN QUESTIONS AND HOW TO ANSWER THEM

WORDS BY: NEHA AGARWAL
ART BY: MARGARIDA ELOY

I have been a vegetarian for a long time now, so I have learned how to answer the commonly asked questions. I try to avoid talking about being a vegetarian but the topic is difficult to avoid during meals. In my experience, there has always been three responses from people learning for the first time that I am a vegetarian:

"You're vegetarian? I'm so sorry for you."

"Well I'm not. I'm pretty sure I chose this lifestyle."

I used to stay quiet when someone said this to me because they made being vegetarian sound like a bad thing, even though I know it's not.

"Oh that's cool. I know someone who is a vegetarian. He/She always lectures us about eating meat it's so annoying."

This is usually the person who doesn't even realize they are saying something rude. They usually talk about a person they know who is vegetarian, not understanding that they are implying that I act that way too.

The last type (my favorite) is the person who says something along the lines of, **"Cool!"** and moves on.

Along with these initial reactions I also am asked many questions that, over the years, I have come up with good answers to.

"but meat tastes SOO good!"

"And so do many other food products out there! Maybe try exploring outside of your comfort zone and you will find something you really love!"

"It must be sad not being able to eat out at restaurants..."

"Actually, I eat out at restaurants all the time. Pretty much every restaurant has a vegetarian section and even when they don't I can always find at least one meat free item."

"Your lucky because it's easy for you to stay skinny."

"Have you heard of ice cream, chocolate, or cake?"

"But it's so hard to follow a vegetarian lifestyle right?"

"Many people believe that being a vegetarian is very hard, and to be honest it can be at times, but it usually isn't. There are so many food options available to vegetarians nowadays. The satisfaction of knowing that you are not causing the death of animals will override the few hardships in finding meals once in awhile."

"Don't worry they have salad/veggie burgers!"

"Usually when someone tells me this a smile and say "thank you" because I know they are trying to be helpful. One of the most common misconceptions about vegetarians is that the only thing we eat is veggie burgers and salads. There is a wide variety of food available to vegetarians including cuisine from countries all over the world."

"Why don't you eat meat, but you still eat stuff that are supposed to taste like meat?"

"The point isn't to not eat meat because of how it tastes. Eating products, like veggie burgers, adds variety to meals without causing the problems meat does." Many times when someone asks me a question like this, I don't really answer truthfully because I don't want to offend them. If I was truthful I would answer it like that, but many times I just say, "I don't know".

"I didn't realize you were vegetarian. Does it gross you out that I'm eating meat in front of you?" *chew chew swallow swallow*

"Does it gross you out when I eat this *insert food here*? You can eat whatever you want in front of me, whether it's meat or not. "

A woman with voluminous curly hair is seen from the back, wearing a red dress. She is looking out a window where bright sunlight filters through, creating a warm, bokeh effect on the foliage outside. The overall mood is serene and artistic.

the opposite of **falling**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY: KARINA ALEJANDRA | MODELED BY YORJELYS HERNANDEZ

Photography is my passion, & my intent with this sessions is to let the woman in my photographs be as creative as they want. To make them feel comfortable, beautiful, & powerful.





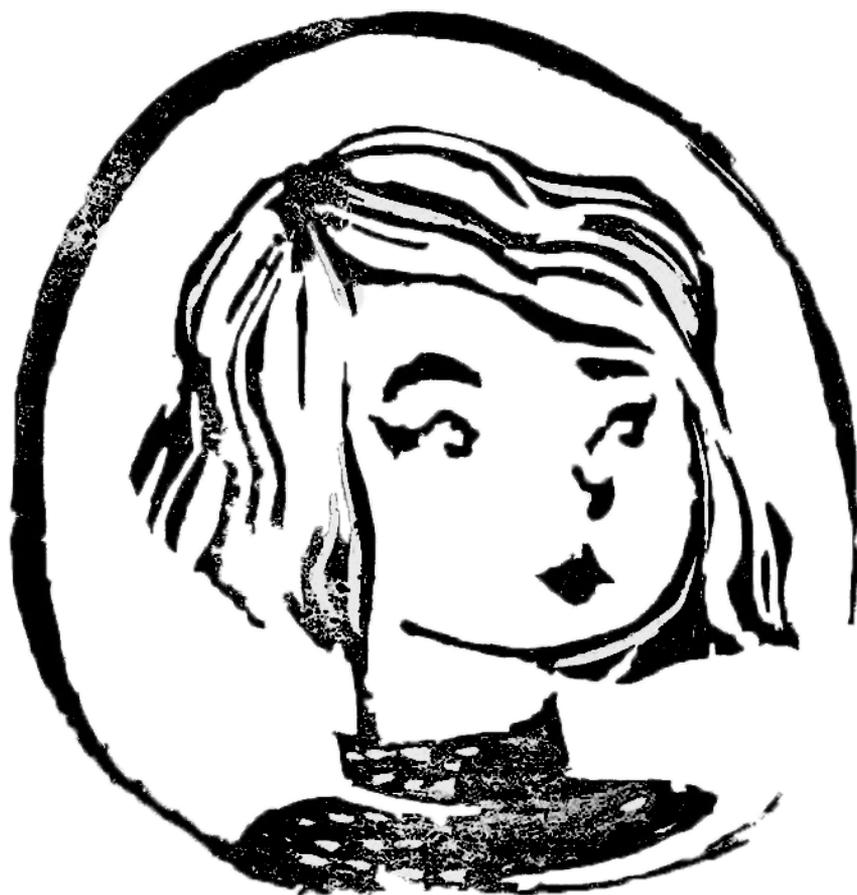




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