VAN ISLE

2026 EDITION

REBEL

A PORTRAIT SERIES BY BARBARA ANNE PHOTOGRAPHY



“Life's too short not to try.”

FEATURING: PAMELA


BARBARA ANNE
Unscripted
“There’s more than one way to be a rebel”

Hello Welcome to Van Isle Rebel

When I first imagined the Van Isle Rebel Portrait Series, I wasn't thinking about photographs. I was thinking about people.

The people who have chosen a different path. The people who have challenged expectations, broken rules that no longer served them, stood up when it would have been easier to stay silent, and continued forward despite setbacks, heartbreak, criticism, or fear. The people who refuse to fit neatly into the boxes the world creates for them.

The rebels.

Over the course of this project, I had the privilege of meeting and photographing an incredible collection of women and gender-diverse individuals from across Vancouver Island. Each person arrived with their own story. Some were entrepreneurs, artists, advocates, caregivers, community builders, and dreamers. Some were loud and outspoken. Others were quietly changing lives in ways that may never make headlines.

What united them was not their profession, age, appearance, or background. It was their courage to be themselves. Behind every portrait in these pages is a story of resilience, growth, conviction, and authenticity. During our conversations, I witnessed moments of laughter, vulnerability, reflection, and pride. Again and again, I was reminded that rebellion is not always dramatic.

Sometimes rebellion is choosing yourself after years of putting everyone else first. Sometimes it is speaking your truth. Sometimes it is starting over. Sometimes it is simply refusing to shrink to make others comfortable.

As a portrait photographer, I have long believed in the power of being seen. Not just photographed - but truly seen. This project became a celebration of that idea.

The portraits you are about to experience are more than images. They are declarations. They are reminders that there is strength in authenticity, beauty in individuality, and power in living life on your own terms.

To every participant: thank you for trusting me with your story.

To every reader: I hope these pages inspire you to embrace the parts of yourself that make you different, challenge the expectations that no longer serve you, and celebrate the unique path that only you can walk.

Because the world doesn't need more people trying to fit in.
It needs more rebels.



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VANCOUVER ISLAND

"Wild roots. Unwritten rules."

MEET OUR 2026 REBELS

1. **HEATHER**
2. **ANGIE**
3. **KEELY**
4. **LISA MARIE**
5. **CLAIRE**
6. **PAMELA**
7. **KAREN**
8. **KRISTEN**
9. **SHIRAY**
10. **CHRISTY**
11. **MELISSA**
12. **TANICE**
13. **JUDI**
14. **CORALIE**
15. **DARLENE**
16. **DANETTE**
17. **JANET**
18. **ANASTASIA**
19. **RENEE**
20. **MICHELLE**
21. **JESSICA**
22. **KAETLON**
23. **CARRIE**
24. **KATHLEEN**


HEATHER
FEARLESS

Being a rebel, to me, means going against the current - living life to the fullest, unapologetically, unafraid, and brave.

I've stopped living according to what other people expect of me and started choosing the things that genuinely bring fulfillment and happiness into my life. I've learned that life is too short to constantly worry about fitting into someone else's idea of who I should be.

If I could talk to myself 10 years ago, I would tell her to breathe, trust the process, and flow. Stop worrying so much about the things completely outside of your control. You don't have to have everything figured out. Let go, trust yourself, and enjoy the life you're creating.

- Heather



ANGIE



"I've Got You"

KEELY



STRONG

LISA MARIE



"I would rather be called difficult for speaking the truth than be praised for staying silent."

What does being a rebel mean to you now?

Being a rebel means refusing to stay silent when silence protects the wrong people. It means being willing to make people uncomfortable when something needs to be said, especially when children/vulnerable people are involved.

There is so much pressure on women to keep the peace, protect reputations, be agreeable, forgive quietly and not make things “messy.”

But sometimes protecting your children means becoming the person who is willing to make it messy.

I don’t think rebellion is about being reckless anymore.

I think sometimes it looks like a mother standing between her children and anything that could harm them and saying, “No. This stops here.”

What’s something you know about yourself today that you wish you’d known 10 years ago?

That my voice is not the problem.

I used to think that if speaking up made people angry, uncomfortable or defensive, maybe I should soften it, explain myself better or stay quiet.

I know now that discomfort does not automatically mean you are doing something wrong.

Sometimes it means you touched the thing everyone else was trying not to talk about.

What’s one rule, expectation, or “should” you’ve stopped living by?

That keeping the peace is always the right thing to do.

Sometimes peace built on silence isn’t peace at all.

I would rather protect my children, tell the truth and live with being misunderstood than teach them that silence is the price of belonging.

- Lisa Marie

CLAIRE



"More of this, please"



Being a rebel to me is acting on those wondering thoughts. Doing the things that make me happy, pique my curiosity and the how ridiculous is this? Let’s do it and find out.

Something I know today that I wish I'd known 10 years ago is that hindsight is 50/50. 10 years ago I made the best decisions I could with what I knew at the time. I believe what I know about myself now was all learnt along the path of each decade past and I’m pretty grateful for all the bumps, bruises, growth and fun along the way.


PAMELA
"Life's too short not to try."

To me, being a rebel means never giving up on your wildest dreams. I don't want to live a life that makes sense to everyone else. I want to role model for my kids that dreams are possible we just need to figure out how. I want to be me, unapologetically, and have the best time doing it.



Something I know about myself today that I wish I'd known 10 years ago is that I will always find a way. The people who tell you that you can't, that you should stay small, or that something is too unrealistic won't matter in your life a few years from now - so why give their opinions so much power today?

Surround yourself with people who feed your spirit. People who genuinely want the best for you, believe in you, and will love you even when you mess up. And you will mess up and fall down, but you will learn pick yourself up and go for it again and again. The right people won't tell you to play it safe or make yourself smaller. They'll be standing beside you saying, "Okay... so how are we going to make this happen?"

One rule, expectation, or "should" that I've stopped living by is believing that I should always choose the easy way.

Sure, there's usually an easier, safer, more sensible option. But honestly? That's not always where the good stories are.

I want the adventure. I want the ridiculous ideas, the spontaneous decisions, the experiences that turn into stories I'll still be telling years from now. I don't want to look back and realize I played it safe just because I was supposed to.

Life is too short to live by a list of "shoulds." If there's something you dream about, go for it. Make the memories. Take the chance.

- Pamela

KAREN

“What is for you, will not go by you.”



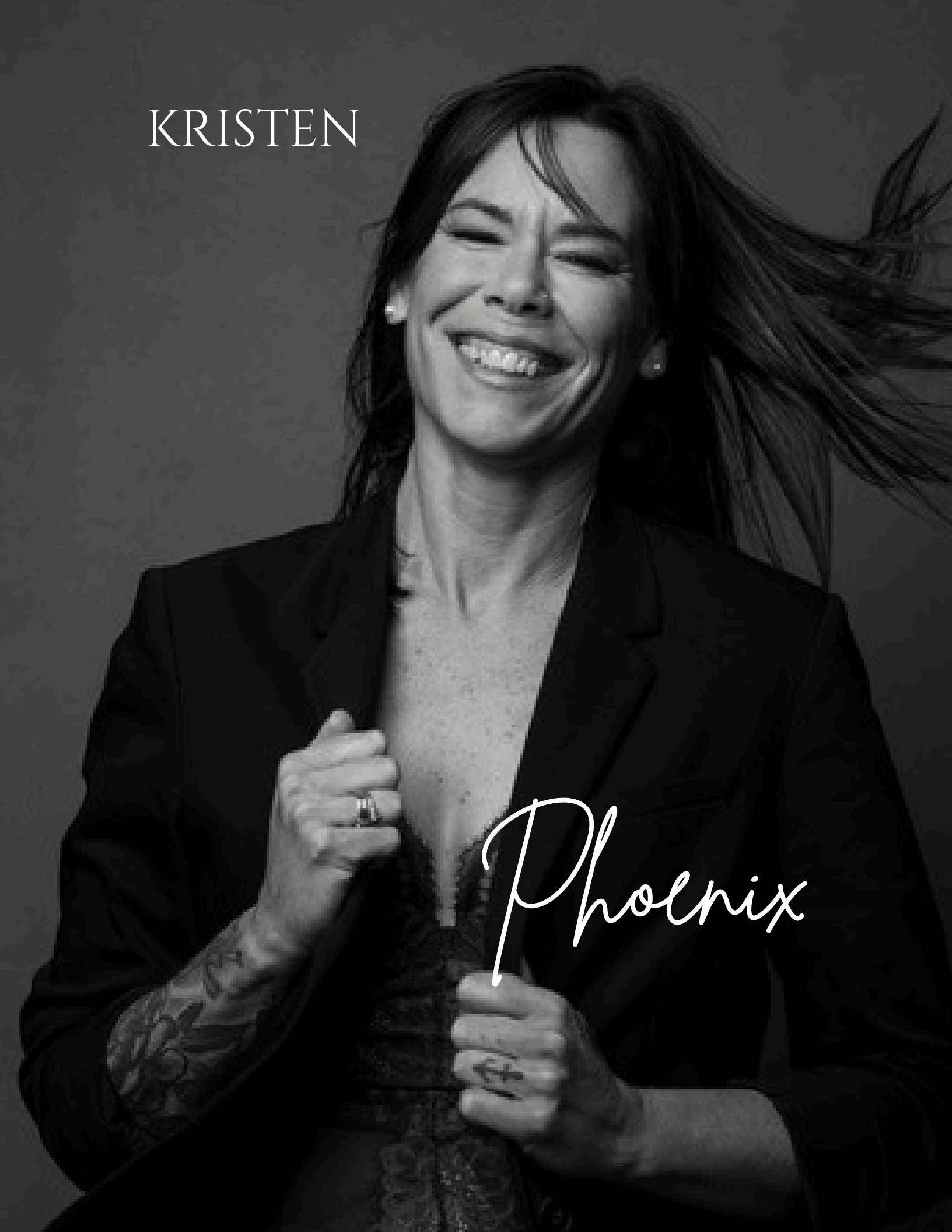
I never see myself as a rebel in the true sense of the word.

However, I have learned to question the decisions of those who make them to help me either understand or offer alternatives.

Something I know about myself today that I wish I'd known 10 years ago is to stand by your ethics even though it could mean you will not be well treated or even be forced to make a change in your life that was unexpected.

Walk away with your head high.

- Karen


KRISTEN
Phoenix

Agency of the Phoenix

To me, the Phoenix is about agency.

It is knowing that I have choices. Knowing that I can trust myself, follow what moves me, change my mind unapologetically, stand up, take up space, and use my voice.

Fire transforms. I have moved through fire more than once in my life, and each time I have grown through it. I emerge knowing myself more deeply - clearer about who I am, what matters to me, and what I choose to create next.

The Phoenix doesn't rise from the ashes to become who she was before.

She becomes.

That is the beauty of transformation. I get to carry forward what serves me. I get to change direction. I get to explore, create, evolve, and begin again. I get to ask myself, What do I want for me? - and create from the answer.

I create a life that feels like mine. A life with purpose and meaningful work, but also joy, beauty, curiosity, adventure, connection, laughter and wildness. I choose where my energy goes and what I bring into the world.

There will always be fire. There will always be change. I don't need to know exactly who I will be on the other side.

I know I have choices.

I know I have agency.

I follow what moves me. I create from there.

And I keep becoming

- Kristen


SHIRAY
Natural Beauty



10 years ago I wish I had known how important strength and self-love are and to protect your peace. Now, to me, being a rebel, means you need to get what you deserve out of life.

- Shiray



CHRISTY

“I identify with sasquatch, a guardian of the forest,
a solitary but aware being;

something that moves
between the human and wild worlds,

deeply private and observant,
respected rather than domesticated”



How did I become?

How do you suddenly get to a point where you stand at a crossroads and realize this is your opportunity to choose yourself? To become the rebel you already know that you are, walking away from a life that was never meant for you.

It's like, after years of wrestling, you suddenly emerge. You don't look the same. You don't feel the same. The risks are high; the stakes lie low.

Three years ago, I finally walked out, leaving a life riddled with lies and betrayal, only to discover that the biggest betrayal was abandoning myself.

Leaving abuse doesn't make it end. It is only the beginning of being forged. Until finally, the person who tried to destroy you becomes the very person who shows you how to become.
Thank you. I'll take it from here.

You fortify the walls with your own blood, and slowly the pain becomes the plumbline needed to guide you through. Your steps are invisible, the voices are loud, and no one understands the million tiny choices you had to make to get here.

And suddenly, you make it to a crossroads: an opportunity to choose between a beautiful life applauded by others or a life where I can applaud myself.

I choose the latter.

I could hide until I'm perfect, or until I'm healed, or until I reach some arbitrary level of societal acceptance. But instead, I choose to emerge as the rebellious, Sasquatch-chasing forest warrior that I am.

- Christy

MELISSA

"A work in Progress"





TANICE



FREE

To me, being a rebel means having the courage to create a life that is genuinely mine.

It means refusing to shrink myself to fit into places I have outgrown, questioning the way things have always been done and trusting my own vision - even when nobody else can see it yet.

I have learned that being different is not something I need to apologize for. It is where every meaningful thing I have ever created began.

I wish I had known 10 years ago that I could trust myself completely.

Every time I believed in my own instincts, I found a way forward - even when what I wanted seemed impossible.

I also wish I had understood sooner that I am not responsible for holding everything together, fixing every problem or carrying people who will not carry themselves.

I can care deeply without sacrificing my own peace.

I have stopped believing that loyalty means staying somewhere after it has begun costing me who I am.

I no longer believe I “should” make myself smaller, quieter or easier for other people to manage.

At this stage of my life, I choose freedom, peace and purpose - and I am finally building the life I once only imagined.

- Tanice


JUDI
Empowered

I was born a rebel with three older brothers! It was never an option not to keep up. It was expected and I was never ever treated less because I was a girl!

Extreme sports run through my veins. Waterskiing on Long Lake sleeping on the dock for “first glass”! Slalom feet off the rope, bare-footing, jumping and parasailing! Caving in the bluffs behind my house! Shredding on my minibike, outrunning cops! Caving Solo flashlight taped to my beanie! 4th Grade Boyfriend who lived on JinglePot. He had a FOOSBALL TABLE! I was in love! With the table.

WHAT AN ISLAND LIFE!

Divers Lake gang for life! Still friends and accomplices to THIS DAY!

Next up SKATEBOARDING! Getting VERT on my neighbors garage door old rickety ramp pushed up. The Dad was at the bars and we would totally shred the driveway! Jumping metal trash cans and each other! We still have the scars to remind us.

My closest brother started a little skateboarding company “skullskates” and we went on the road with a plexiglass half pipe and pros! 1980s MALL TOUR OF CANADA. Next came dropping in. Handstands! 360s for Days!

Still living that island life of adventures.

See you on the path.
Judi (Chooch)

CORALIE




"Rebel
with a heart"



DARLENE

"Grief changed me, but it didn't break me. I carry what I've lost in my heart and choose, every day, to love life again"


I refuse to let fear,
societal expectations
or others' opinions
define me
I am strong...
I can overcome
I can keep it
together...even when
I'm falling apart
Warmth & Light

DANETTE



What being a Rebel means to me now...

Over the last 8 months of being on my own after a 40 plus year relationship I find myself finally forgiving the woman I once was. I have realized that it is ok to love who I was, be proud of how strong I was during the heavy years, and forgive myself for living a life for everyone but me. I have no regrets for choices I made, but I see with more clarity than ever before.

Now, I look in the mirror, and I see who I truly am. I am proud for how much I have grown, how I have healed (and am still healing) and realize that it is absolutely okay to choose me in ways I never have before. Learning how to set boundaries and live without the guilty feelings of choosing “me”.

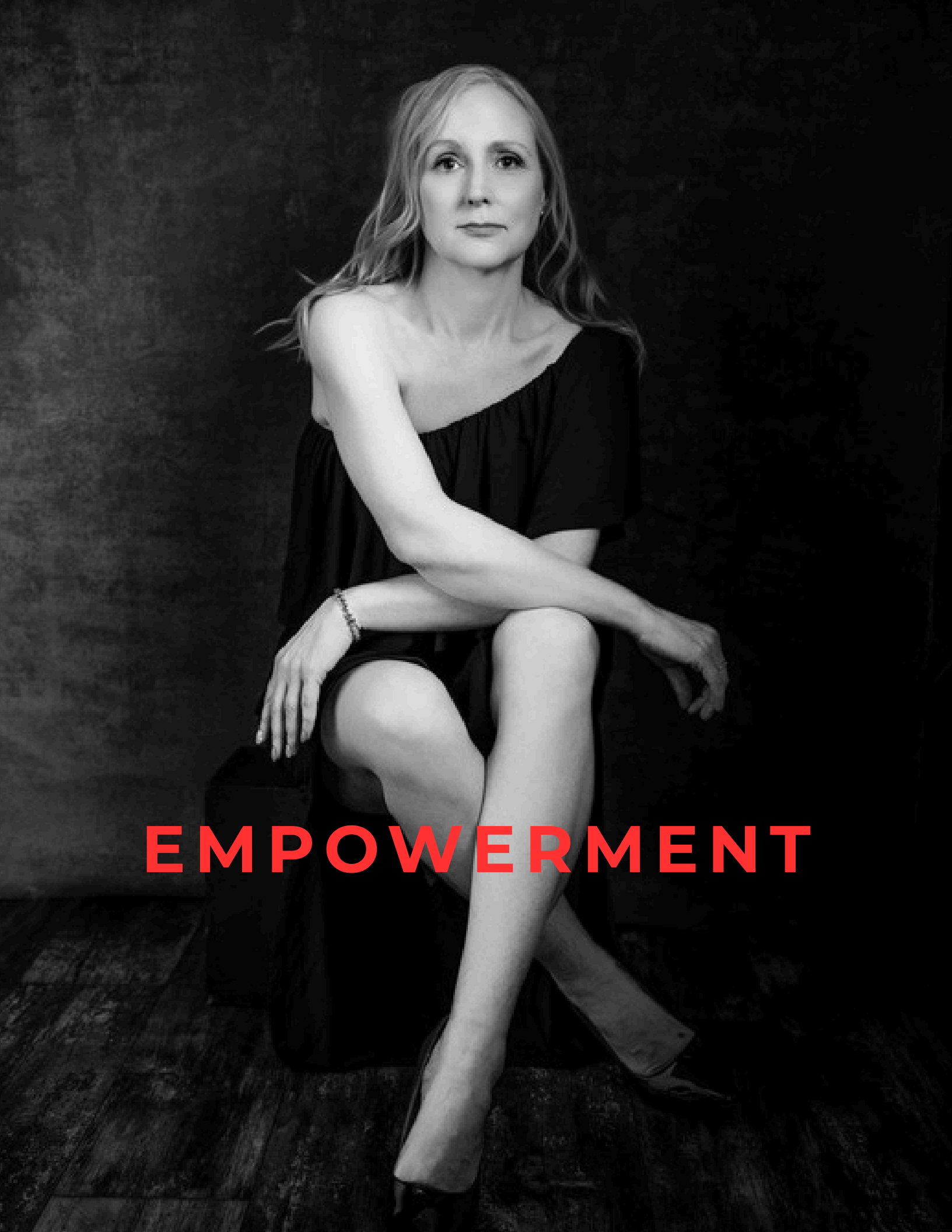
As a wife and a mom, I loved so much of my life looking back. I raised the most amazing humans; I loved fiercely a man I met when I was a mere teenager....but somewhere along the way the woman in the mirror became a stranger. I was everything for everyone, again not a regret in my heart or soul, but losing “me” was a path I suppose I never dreamed I would take.

Looking forward – I am super excited to learn more about myself as an empowered woman. I will keep dreaming, keep believing and moving forward towards goals I never thought I would achieve – I never saw myself as having any importance.

Today I see this was so far from the truth – I literally have the best chapters of my life ahead – I am still a mom; I love my girls ‘to the moon and back’ and this will never change. The relationships I now have with them has shown me what unconditional love truly means. As adults, they both see me not just as their mom, but as someone who would stand up against the world for them.

Finding “me” has been a journey, to say the least, but as the storm settles, I can see the calm that awaits me. I will perhaps one day love again fiercely, but as for today I need to keep choosing to love myself, see my worth and know that it is okay to do so.

Being a rebel.....choosing me, not questioning my worth.....taking it one day at a time – this is just the beginning to becoming the woman I refuse to abandon ever again.


EMPOWERMENT

JANET



One thing I've stopped doing is letting the little things that irritate me take up space in my thoughts. I carried around so much anger and insecurities in survival mode for years and called it “drive”.

Managing that negative stress is so important in how I live my life now. Part of that is being comfortable with saying no to things that don’t ultimately feed my soul.

Something I know about myself today that I wish I'd known 10 years ago is allowing myself to be vulnerable, to ask for and receive help, opens up so many avenues for positive personal growth.

I love my husband more now than I ever have, I tell family and friends how important they are to me on a regular basis, and I focus on the people that send that energy back to me.


"It's not time
to be tired"


ANASTASIA
Resilience,
Passion
& Self-love

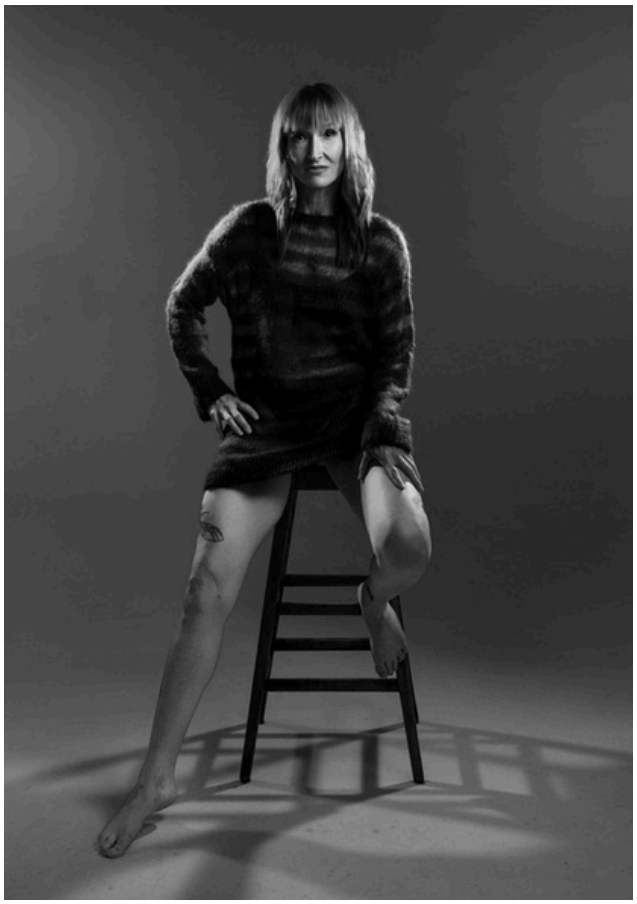

RENEE
"There is a rainbow after the storm,
keep shining your light"

MICHELLE




“I am not hard like a rock,
I am not soft like clay.
I am both a rock and clay,
with a little island
ocean spray.”


JESSICA
Indomitable



A standard definition of a rebel is a person who fights, resists, or refuses to obey an authority, government, or a set of rules.

As a woman, mother, and grandmother in 2026, I have come to understand that rebellion is not always loud or bold. Instead, it is the quiet decision to remain true to oneself in a world that rewards conformity. It is the courage to say something when silence is more comfortable, to stand firm when retreat is easier, and to defend others when neutrality is far safer. It is knowing that rights can be eroded, that hard-won gains can be lost, and that justice requires constant maintenance. To be a rebel is not to reject society. It is to refuse to accept its injustices as par for the course. If rebellion means anything to me now, it is the willingness to keep trying, even imperfectly, to move towards a more authentic, compassionate version of myself.

Something I know about myself today that I wish I'd known 10 years ago
is that I can make room for others without abandoning myself, and I can defend myself without denying others the space to be fully who they are.

I've stopped believing that optimism comes from pretending everything is fine.
I think optimism comes from looking directly at what is broken and choosing to care anyway.

- Jessica

KAETLON



Survivor. Warrior.
Soul Seeker with sass.



At first I thought being a rebel was about breaking out of the bonds of social norms and expressing my sassy side.

Now it's about never backing down from the fight to reclaim those wounded, abandoned, and innocently beautiful parts of myself. It means taking care of myself instead of always taking care of others. It means putting my sparkly booty shorts on over my fishnets and going out dancing, with or without someone. It means giving myself the gift of this photoshoot so I can see my beauty, strength, sass, femininity... all of it to remind me of who I really am.

No apologies.

- Kaetlon


CARRIE
TRAILBLAZER



Ten years ago, I thought I had to have everything figured out.

Now I know that life isn't about having all the answers - it's about trusting yourself enough to keep moving when you don't.

I know that not everyone is meant to stay, that saying no can be an act of self-respect, and that you don't have to earn your worth through what you do for others.

I know that time is precious, that joy should never be postponed, and that starting over is not failure - it's courage.

Most of all, I know that the woman I was ten years ago was doing the best she could with what she knew then. I don't wish I could go back and change her.

I wish I could go back and tell her: you are going to find yourself, and you're going to love who you become.

❤️✨
Carrie Ann

KATHLEEN



I used to rebel by creating tension and being loud and abrupt.

Now I rebel by showing up with grey hair, a few pounds of extra weight and faith in the god of my understanding.

I've taken off the expectation of being seen as a teenager with long red hair! Some folks still want me to look a certain way and to be cheery and animated all the time.

Ten years ago, I thought I was closer to my adult children than I really am. That's ok.

It's good to know that with every advancing decade there are different joys and sorrows and being present to the time I'm in is the best.

- Kathleen


RUAH

BARBARA ANNE PHOTOGRAPHY

SIGNATURE PORTRAIT EXPERIENCE

includes



PERSONALIZED CONSULTATION

We'll plan every detail together so your vision is brought to life with ease and intention.



FULLY GUIDED SESSION

From poses to expressions, you'll be gently guided every step for the most flattering results.



PROFESSIONAL MAKEUP AND HAIR STYLING

Enjoy a full glam session with a professional artist to ensure you feel confident, radiant, and camera-ready.



CUSTOM RETOUCHING

Each image is carefully refined to enhance your natural beauty while preserving authenticity.



CURATED WARDROBE STYLING

Select from our exclusive gowns and fabrics to create an effortlessly elevated, editorial look.



IN-PERSON VIEWING SESSION

Receive expert guidance in selecting your most impactful images, thoughtfully chosen for artwork and heirloom display.

*COLLECTIONS ARE DESIGNED & PURCHASED SEPARATELY



YOUR DREAM SESSION STARTS HERE

Book a quick 15-minute call to design the perfect photography session tailored to you and your loved ones. This is your chance to ask questions, share your vision, and feel completely confident in the experience ahead.

Ready to begin? Let's chat.

SCHEDULE A CALL

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To the Rebels...

This project began with a simple idea: to celebrate people who have chosen to live life on their own terms.

But somewhere along the way, it became so much more.

Every person in these pages brought a different story into my studio. Stories of starting over. Speaking up. Taking risks. Surviving things no one else could see. Choosing themselves. Breaking expectations. Finding joy. And sometimes simply deciding that they no longer needed anyone else's permission to be exactly who they are.

That, to me, is what being a rebel is really about.

Not being louder than everyone else.
Not breaking rules simply for the sake of breaking them.
But knowing who you are — or having the courage to keep discovering who you are — and choosing to live from that place.

Thank you to every person who trusted me with their story and stepped in front of my camera.

You are the Van Isle Rebels of 2026.

And I hope these pages remind you that there are a whole lot of incredible humans on this Island quietly doing life their own damn way.

Keep going. Keep becoming. Keep being seen.



Barbara Anne

PORTRAIT ARTIST • STORYTELLER • VISUAL ADVOCATE

Your Portraits. Your Story. Your Legacy.

VANCOUVER ISLAND
ALWAYS A GOOD IDEA