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AUGUST 2015

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NERISSA



CARMENELLA



ALEXUS



TATTED UP HOLLY

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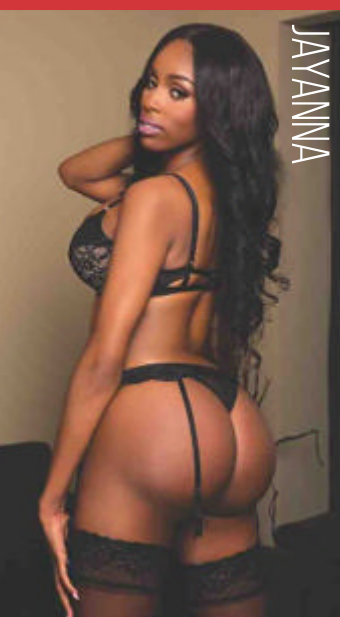
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SUPAWMN



NICHELE



RICHELLE



AZIA



NETTA



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Note From The Editor

CoCo Complex

She is the night sky illuminated by the stars of the galaxy. Compelling our world like Mother Earth, none can deny her like gravity.

She is the shock to my wave; the reason of whether I do or do not behave to the standard or above average, for she needs no masquerade.

She is the original; we are but continuations of migration evolving through various pilgrimages of mankind between nations. From kingdoms conquered by her. Behind every good king there was a great woman; someone to go forth and "replenish the Earth," as instructed in the book of Genesis. Someone to generate life in genuine gestures of love we reminisce.

She is the original woman. Skin of coal, cocoa or bronze. Her temple is that of the great dome of Mecca; strong but yet soft, immaculate yet smooth as she moves with grace. Almond shaped eyes peer from an angelic face. Lips like petals in full bloom kissed by morning dew.

My Cocoa-skinned Queen, this issue is dedicated to you.

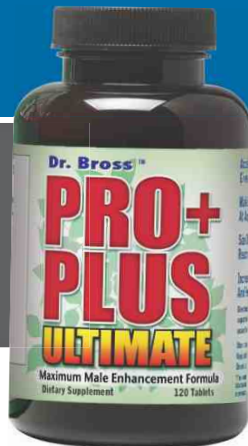
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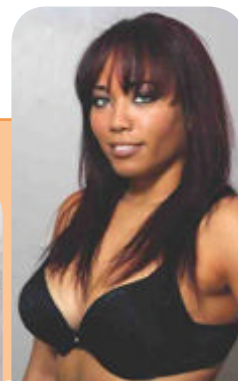
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JAZZMA

Photos by Brendan Forbes
Wardrobe Marcus Blassingame
Make Up Crystal Cadahia For Mac Cosmetics
Hair Crystal Cadahia For Mac Cosmetics
Photographer Brendan Forbes
Wardrobe Marcus Blassingame
Make UP TSD
Hair TSD

Name: Jazzma Kendrick
Nickname: Jazzma
Hometown: South Beach, FL
Zodiac: Scorpio
Sizes:
Bust: 34B
Waist: 23
Hip: 36



Malanski Boutique Pink Bathing Suit
with Rose Appliqué
Sweet Amor Jewelry
Giuseppi Zanotti Shoes



Web:

Twitter: @Jazzma

Of Followers: 4064

Instagram: @i_heart_Jazzma

Of Followers: 95.4K

Resume:

Magazine: *KISS* and *Black Men* (November 2014)

Runway: Mercedes Benz Swim Week

TV: Music videos for Trey Songz – “Nana,” Rick Ross – “Ashamed”
and “Mastermind (album trailer)” and Nicki Minaj – “Only.”

Favorite food/Restaurant: I don't have a favorite; I just love great food.

Favorite drink: Stoli Elite Martini Extra Dirty

This being our second time, how do you feel about *Black Men* magazine dedicating an issue to browner skinned models?

Although, I don't like how people separate colors (light skin vs. dark skin, etc), there's no question that darker toned people often receive the shorter end of the stick. So, I think it's amazing that we have an issue dedicated to us—showing we're equally as beautiful as everyone else.

Do you think darker skinned models are booked less? Why?

Yes, I do. And, it has a lot to do with the media and what they portray as "beautiful." When you look on the television, you barely see dark toned models. You listen to music, all you hear is "Yellow model this, and red bone that..."

Describe your type of man.

Extremely wealthy with a great heart.

Girls night—you and your girls sip wine and the subject most commonly discussed is...

Everything! My girls and I discuss just about everything—from fashion, careers, the latest gossip, men, money, family...everything.

Besides Kerry Washington, Michele Obama and Jennifer Hudson, name five famous, beautiful dark skinned women.

Gabrielle Union, Tika Sumpter, Nia Long, Jessica White and Sanaa Lathan.

Tell people what you feel when you hear: "You're pretty for a dark skinned girl." Honestly, I've had one person ever say that to me. It made me angry for about a split second, but then I remembered you can't let every, incompetent, ignorant, stupid, simple minded, idiotic, brainless and empty headed person get you down. So, I smiled and went about my day.

Tell us something amazing about you that we wouldn't know besides seeing how beautiful you are to us.
I'm an amazing shower singer.



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Give an encouraging word to fellow darker skinned models looking to make a career in this business. If you are confident and you truly love yourself, there isn't anything anyone can say or do to stop you from achieving anything you want.



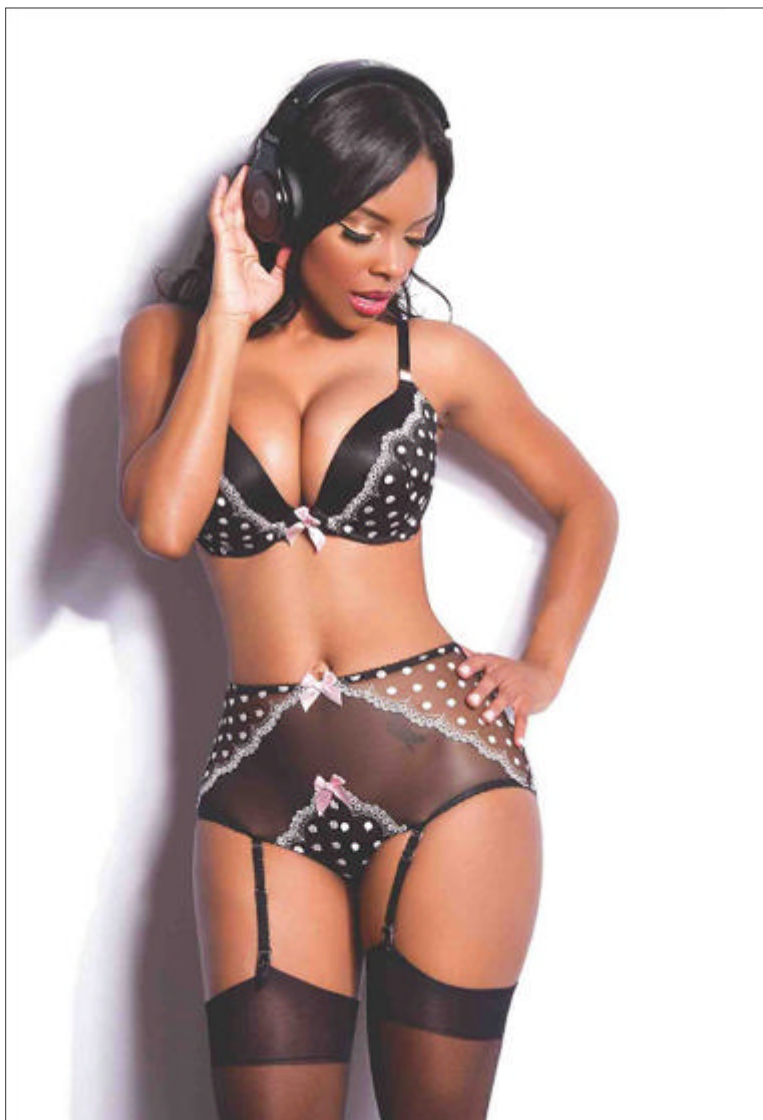




Photographer Alcole Studio

NIGEL DAVIS

Name: Angel Davis
Hometown: New Orleans, LA
Zodiac: Scorpio
Sizes:
Bust: 34DD
Waist: 24
Hip: 42



Web:

Official Web/Fansite: iloveangel2.com

Twitter: @iloveangel2

Of Followers: 28,000

Instagram: @iloveangel2

Of Followers: 28,000

Resume:

Video: "Diced Pineapples" by Rick Ross, Wale and Drake and "Trophy" by Future and Kanye West

Advertisement: I'm also the face of Protective nation-wide hair company. Their products are amazing. You can catch my face on most of their products that are on the store shelves.

ANGEL
DAVIS





Favorite food/Restaurant: I try to stick to chicken or fish, and I could do my thing in the kitchen, so I love to stay in and cook.

Favorite drink: A Screaming Orgasm. That's the name of the drink. It's mixed with Baileys, vodka and Kahlúa. It's pretty good.

How do you feel about *Black Men* magazine dedicating an issue to browner skinned models?

I think it's awesome to showcase to the world some many different shades of beautiful, brown skinned women.

Do you think darker skinned models are booked less? Why?

In a sense, yes. I believe it's just the way of the society.

Describe your type of man.

I'm such an affectionate type of person, so he would have to be receptive to that. And, I definitely love a gentleman. Someone that can open the car door, send me gifts and flowers when he thinks of me. Just someone that has my back—someone that can be my best friend, and also someone that can rub me down after a long stressful day of work.

Name five things a man should never say to you.

The word "No." [Laughs.]

Girls night—you and your girls sip wine and the subject most commonly discussed is...

Well, I'm very business-minded, so the top of my discussion is always getting to the money, business ventures, capitalizing, etc.

Besides Kerry Washington, Michelle Obama and Jennifer Hudson, name five famous, beautiful dark skinned women.

Well, let's see you have Angel Davis [laughs], Gabrielle Union, Kelly Roland, Naomi Campbell, Lupita Nyong'o and Oprah Winfrey.

Tell people what you feel when you hear: "You're pretty for a dark skinned girl."

It makes me view that person as though they don't see darker women as being beautiful or like it's rare, which is such an ignorant statement.

A full-body photograph of a woman with long, dark, wavy hair, wearing large black headphones. She is looking down with her eyes closed, and her hair is blowing in the wind. She is wearing a black and white polka-dot lingerie set consisting of a bra and high-cut panties, both featuring lace trim and small pink bows. She is also wearing black thigh-high stockings with garters. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

ANGEL
DAVIS

Tell us something amazing about you that we wouldn't know besides seeing how beautiful you are to us.

Well, I'm a double major graduate. I have degree in Biology and Psychology, and I'm a registered nurse. And, I also actually own a clothing line called BABC (Bad Ass Brown Chick). It's more of an empowerment line for women. BABC doesn't just mean you're beautiful and sexy—it also means that you're a go-getter, hard working, strong, intelligent, inspirational, conqueror, elegant, classy woman. Find out more about my line at badassbrownchick.com.

Give an encouraging word to fellow darker skinned models looking to make a career in this business.

Never feel discouraged because of your skin tone, remember it's an asset. Always be confident and believe in yourself. Working hard toward your goals always pays off. Love and respect yourself and others. And, remember with God on your side, everything is possible.



Photographer Aderon Mothersill
Wardrobe Marcus Blassingame
Make Up Deyona M | Hair Deyona M

AMBI

Name: Bambi
Nickname: The Bam
Hometown: Compton, CA
Zodiac: Pisces
Sizes:
Bust: 34
Waist: 27
Hip: 40





L'impasse NYC Black Dress, Of
Hope Jewelry Accessories,
Je'Taime Shoes



Web:

Twitter: 163k @adizbambi

Of Followers: 163k

Instagram: @adizthebam

Of Followers: 350k

Resume:

Magazine: *Black Men, Essence, Sister 2 Sister, Straight Stuntin*

Runway: Various runway shows.

TV: "The Office," "Ugly Betty," "Basketball Wives: L.A.," "Love And Hip-Hop Atlanta"

Favorite food/Restaurant:

Anything Mexican.

Favorite drink: A drink called the Damn Bam, Pineapple Ciroc and Hennessy with Sprite.

This being our second time, how do you feel about *Black Men* magazine dedicating an issue to browner skinned models?

I think it's amazing. Although I think *Black Men* magazine has always been pretty diverse, and has celebrated the beauty of all women over the years, sometimes we do get overlooked—so, I think it's great!

Do you think darker skinned models are booked less?

Why?

Not necessarily. I think that darker models may be the minority in the urban modeling world, so you see them less. Every time you look around you see a gang of light skinned chicks in a room, maybe only a few brown girls.

Describe your type of man.

I love a man's man—a man who doesn't have a problem getting his hands dirty. Someone who takes pride in protecting and taking care of his woman.

Name five things a man should never say to you.

"Ask someone else." "I can't." "No!" "Why?" Or, anything that will intentionally be disrespectful or hurtful.

Girls night—you and your girls sip wine and the subject most commonly discussed is...

All of my girls have corporate jobs, or other important jobs, so we mostly talk about work and things we can do to advance in our careers.

Besides Kerry Washington, Michele Obama and Jennifer Hudson, name five famous, beautiful dark skinned women.

Lupita Nyong'o, Gabrielle Union, Taraji P. Henson, Kenya Moore and Naomi Campbell.





L'impasse NYC Blue One
piece, Of Hope Jewelry
Accessories,
Je'Taime Shoes

Tell people what you feel when you hear: "You're pretty for a dark skinned girl."

I rarely hear people say that to me, but when I hear it said to other people, it really aggravates me.

Tell us something amazing about you that we wouldn't know besides seeing how beautiful you are to us. I have two college degrees, and I'm the first person in my family to graduate from college.

Give an encouraging word to fellow darker skinned models looking to make a career in this business.

Skin tone means nothing! So many beautiful, talented, dark skinned models have become successful, opening doors and changing the world's perception of beauty. Take care of your body, work hard and maintain a positive attitude.



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& THE
WEDDING
RINGER*
TAKES US
BEHIND THE
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By **Martin A. Berrios**
Photographer 2020 Photography
Wardrobe Marcus Blassingame
Groomer

WILL PACKER

Here today and gone later today is a saying that is all too prominent in Hollywood. Film producer Will Packer has been able to avoid those consequences by steadily crafting standout projects including *Think Like A Man*, *Ride Along* and *Stomp The Yard*. His secret? He goes above and beyond when putting in the work that the public does not see.

Now with the spotlight shining brightly upon him, *Black Men* magazine speaks to Will Packer about his start in the business, his proudest achievement and how African American actors can break through the big screen's invisible ceiling.

Black Men: How did you get into film?

Will Packer: One of my Alpha Phi Alpha line brothers wanted to be the next Spike Lee or John Singleton. I helped him to raise money and find distribution for our first film project, which was called *Chocolate City*. At that time I didn't know I wanted to be a filmmaker—I knew I wanted to be an entrepreneur and work for myself.

Was it difficult for you to break-through being that you are African American?

It's a difficult business. When you have that many people of all backgrounds and ethnicities trying to get into what ultimately is a very small window, you're definitely going to have a lot of competition. The fact that Hollywood makes only a certain amount of movies that are aimed at African Americans means that you have even fewer opportunities for people of color. So, that means for filmmakers of color that we find other ways to get our story told.



Stylist Own blazer, Edwing D'angelo tuxedo shirt and slacks, Cesare Paciotti shoes from Je'Taime Shoes Paramus

What do you find to be the most difficult part of getting a movie made?

Financing and distribution—that's the paradox. In order to secure financing you really need distribution. In order to get distribution you need to have the financing. So many filmmakers are inevitably caught chasing their tails trying to get in when they don't have the key elements to make a film. Because of digital and the influence of the Internet and social media, distribution isn't what it once was. However, you can make a great film for a nominal amount of money with digital equipment and put it out yourself online.

You have worked on so many credible films. What do you consider your shining achievement?

I have had several, but I have different reasons certain films of mine are important. *Stomp The Yard* was the first film of mine that went number one. *The Gospel* was my first movie that was distributed on more than just a few screens. *Think Like A Man* was the first film that almost approached the 100 million dollar mark. *Ride Along* was the first movie that actually crossed the 100 million. Money can't be the only reason you do this—it's about the stories that I am telling. The people that I am touching are critical to my success.

You worked very closely on the N.W.A. biopic, *Straight Outta Compton*. Why does that movie get released to film and a project like TLC's biopic *Crazy Sexy Cool* goes straight to VH1?

A lot of the times it's the team behind the movie. I can't speak about the TLC story, as I don't know much about it. But I can tell you that you had Dr. Dre and Ice Cube behind



Toure Designs canvas bomber jacket with embossed leather sleeves, treated slim fit jeans with leather detail and zipper at the knee area, Edwing D'angelo long shirt, Alessandro Dell'Acqua high-top sneakers from Je'Taime Shoes Paramus



Toure Designs
perforated leather
jacket, Edwing
D'angelo tuxedo
shirt with reptile
detail, Toure
Designs Jeans

the film all the way—those two are major Hollywood players—[director F. Gary Gray] is a big feature film director and Universal Studios is putting it out. A lot of the times it's about the package.

What is your opinion on the overwhelming criticism the film industry gets for pigeonholing dark skin African American actresses?

I think for a very long time America had a very Eurocentric image of beauty. So, African American women of all shades and hues have been held to that. I, personally, make it a priority of mine to reflect the full diaspora of African American women in all my films. I have a brown skin mother and brown skin daughters, and I want to make sure they feel beautiful, can be adored and be sought after on the big screen as well.

Common and John Legend just won an Oscar for best song. How important is that for Black Hollywood?

Huge! When we have people of color who win on the global stage like that, it means validation for them and people that look like them.

Lastly, what's your secret?

Hard work. I don't get distracted by things that are not important to my ultimate goal. It's the work that you put in that nobody is watching that makes everyone pay attention to you later. It's the hours I put in on the sets, on scripts, in the editing rooms that nobody sees that will have everyone paying attention to me at the world premiere. I always remember it's the grind and the way you work when nobody's paying attention or the camera isn't rolling. Ultimately that's what is going to drive your success.

Photographer 2020 Photography

Wardrobe: Marcus Blassingame

Make Up: DESI DAVIS (DESI THE MUA)

@iAmDesiTheMUA

Hair Artist :Kayree Jonae,

Platinumdreamstudios.com

IG:glamsquad_pds



Web:

Twitter: @Texasbarbiel9

Of Followers: 200

Instagram: @barbiemonroe_forever

Of Followers: 19k

Resume:

Magazine: *Pressure* (cover), *Dulce Girl*

Runway: Lucky Girls Fashion Show (overseas in 2010)

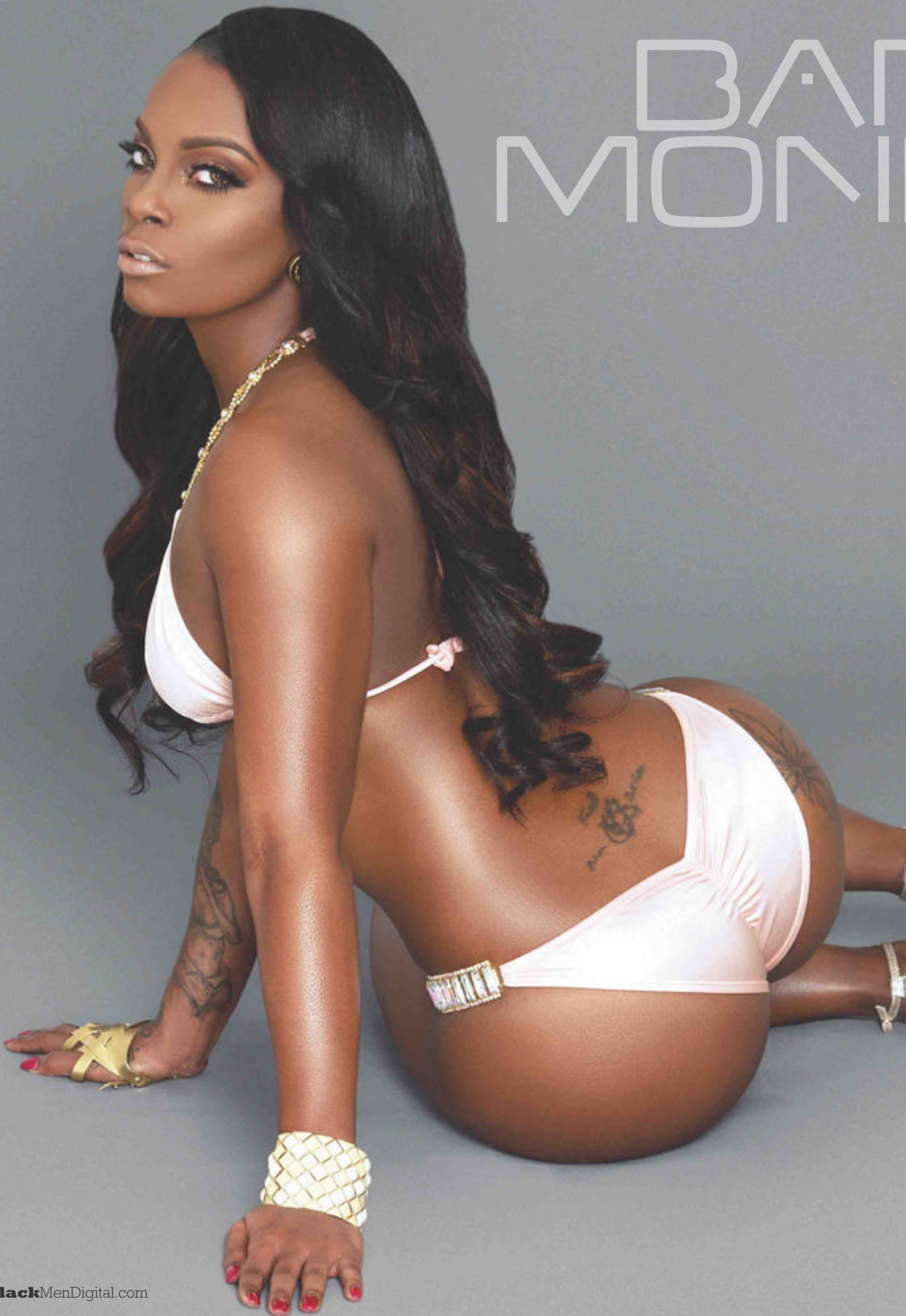
Advertisement: Levi commercial (at age 12)

ARBIE MONROE

Nickname: Barbie Monroe Bank
Hometown: Trinidad
Zodiac: Virgo
Sizes: 30
Bust: 34D
Waist: 24
Hip: 41



BAD MONI



ROBIE ROE

Favorite food/Restaurant: Fogo de Chao Brazilian Steakhouse.

Favorite drink: Cranberry juice or grapefruit.

This being our second time, how do you feel about *Black Men* magazine dedicating an issue to browner skinned models?

It's a good thing because black America doesn't see dark skin women as being beautiful—in high fashion, yes, we are winning, like Paris they embraces us. Adult entertainment magazines, like sexy magazines, they don't see us as sexy. I, myself, support the browner skin vixen models like Miracle, Lira, Bernice Burgos—they really make brown skinned vixens models look good.

Do you think darker skinned models are booked less? Why?

Depends how big your name is like the girls that I mentioned before probably get booked way more than any light skinned models. Beautiful



Versailles Brooklyn black one piece, Of Hope Jewelry



brown skinned women are rare, so you get more attention. To me, personally, it's not how much you get booked, but how much you get booked for. I can be booked up every weekend, but I don't take anything less than \$2,000. And, I'm not really that known yet, but working on my acting skills. I'm the next Gabrielle Union. *Donc très bientôt* [Very soon].

Describe your type of man.

A Leo...a king. Someone who looks over me. Humble, and not an over-talker. A visionary. He has to be able to see his goals and make them happen.

Name five things a man should never say to you.

Right now, I'm a dancer. You can say anything to me in the club because I speak green there.

Girls night—you and your girls sip wine and the subject most commonly discussed is...

I don't get drunk and have discussions. Women, we tend to be messy.

Besides Kerry Washington, Michele Obama and Jennifer Hudson, name five famous, beautiful dark skinned women.

Oprah Winfrey, Vivica Fox, Dr. Maya Angelou, Tika Sumpter, Iman Abdulmajid and Naomi Campbell. I look up to all them.

Tell people what you feel when you hear: "You're pretty for a dark skinned girl."

Thank you, because they acknowledge that I am dark skinned, but I'm not pretty, I'm beautiful...and rare.

Tell us something amazing about you that we wouldn't know besides seeing how beautiful you are to us.

I can't tell how amazing I am—you have to be around me to see it.

Give an encouraging word to fellow darker skinned models looking to make a career in this business.

Don't believe everything the next model says to you—they're your competition. If someone has to encourage you to be the best, then it's not for you.



C RISANIA

Photographer-2020 Photography
Wardrobe -Marcus Blassingame
Make Up Tia Jefferson IG: @iam_muatia
Hair TSD
Look
TSD

Name: Crisana Mariyah
Nickname: Cinnamon Apple
Hometown: Atlanta, GA
Zodiac: Cancer
Sizes:
Waist: 36
Hip: 49





Web:

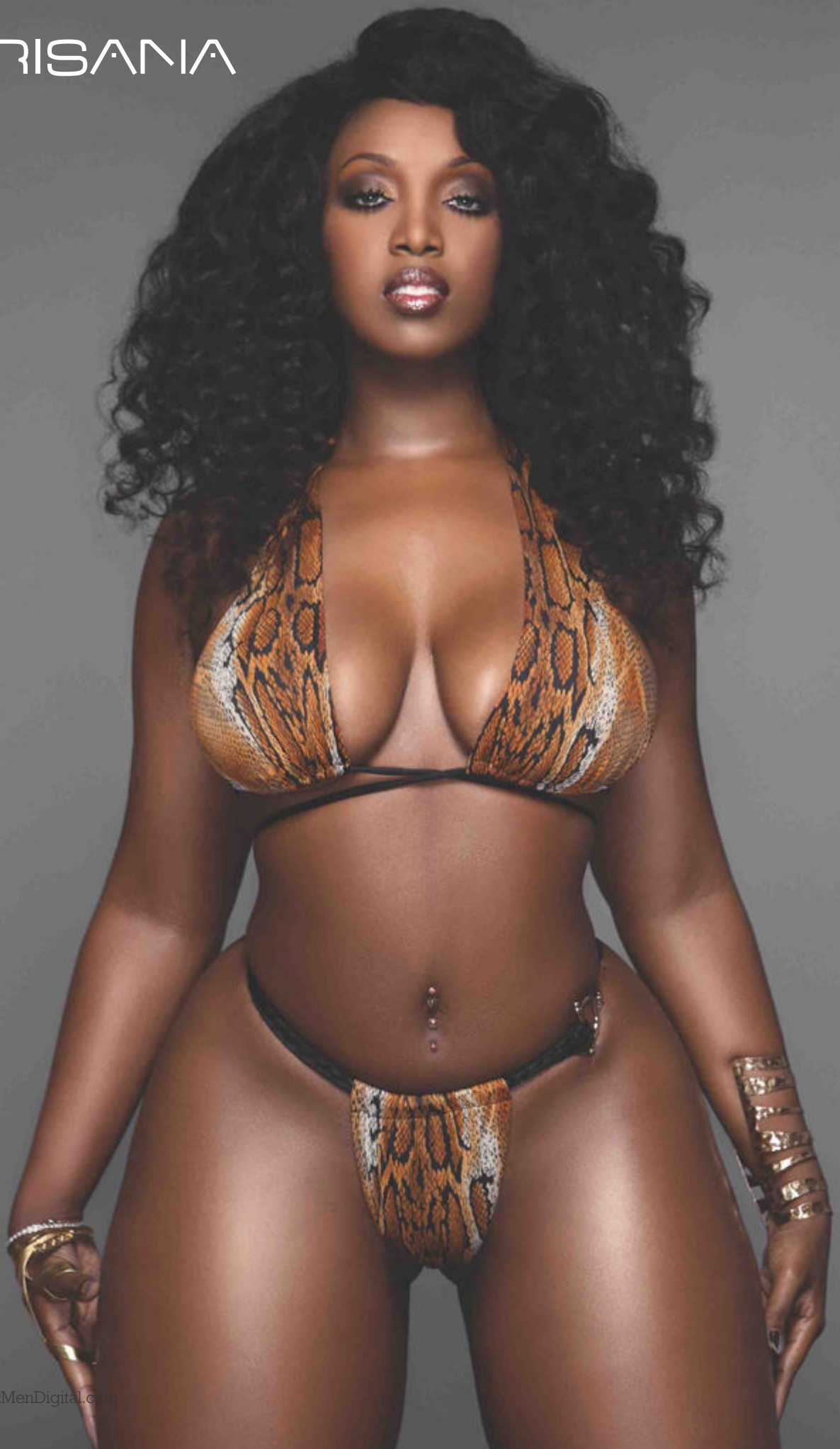
Twitter: @Crisana_Mariyah

Of Followers: 18.8k

Instagram: @Crisanamariyah

Of Followers: 100k

CRISANIA





Favorite food/

Restaurant: Ruth's Chris, Houston's, or any upscale steak house, because I love steak.

Favorite drink: I don't drink, so virgin piña colada.

This being our second time, how do you feel about *Black Men* magazine dedicating an issue to browner skinned models?

I think it's amazing, and I feel like everyone will follow and do the same thing once it's done.

Do you think darker-skinned models are booked less?

Why?

Yes, and I don't know why. It's just the world we live in where light skin and white people are superior. It's all controlled by the media.

Describe your type of man.

I like a gentle thug—someone that is hardcore with everyone else and sweet to me. He has to be smart, handsome, well spoken and nicely dressed.

Name five things a man should never say to you.

1. "How much do you weight?"
2. "You look older than your age."
3. "Can you pay my bills?"
4. "Send me some pics."
5. "I don't like those shoes."

Girls night—you and your girls sip wine and the subject most commonly discussed is...

What everyone has going on in their lives, and more than likely men.

Besides Kerry Washington, Michele Obama and Jennifer Hudson, name five famous, beautiful dark-skinned women.

Gabrielle Union, Lauryn Hill, Nia Long, Iman and Naomi Campbell.



CRISANIA

Tell people what you feel when you hear: "You're pretty for a dark skinned girl."

Disgusted. It's very offensive and ignorant. It's as if skin color makes you ugly and not features.

Tell us something amazing about you that we wouldn't know besides seeing how beautiful you are to us.

I can cook like a grandma in the south *[laughs]*.

Give an encouraging word to fellow darker skinned models looking to make a career in this business.

If this is something you want to do, then don't let the ignorance of the world stop you, because there will always be an opportunity like this one for you to be seen and heard.



N ERISSA

Photographer-2020 Photography

Name: Nerissa Irving
Nickname: Nefeteri
Hometown: Miami, FL
Zodiac: Aries
Sizes:
Bust: 34
Waist: 25
Hip: 39

Web:
Official Web/Fansite: nerissairving.com
Twitter: @nerissanefeteri
Of Followers: 9k
Instagram: @nerissanefeteri
Of Followers: 74,000





Resume:

Magazine: *Playboy*, *Sophisticated Black Hair*, *Txture*

Favorite food/Restaurant: Ethiopian Food

Favorite drink: Coconut water

This being our second time, how do you feel about *Black Men* magazine dedicating an issue to browner skinned models?

I love the idea. Chocolate skin should be celebrated more. I love seeing a beautiful, dark skin woman with smooth skin and a low haircut. Those women give me chills. Chocolate women are royal!

Do you think darker skinned models are booked less? Why?

When it comes to runway, I think yes. A lot of these designers don't showcase their art on a lot of black women in general. That needs to change. I can go on and on about other ways they are booked less, but I think you know some of those answers.

Describe your type of man.

He must be intelligent, open-minded, confident and ambitious. He should know his roots. He will uplift me and support my dreams. He must have a boss attitude. We both must have amazing chemistry in the bedroom.

Name five things a man should never say to you.

"You can't do that;" "You're not good enough;" "Eat pork;" "Cut your hair;" and "We can't afford to eat healthy."





NERISSA

NERISSA

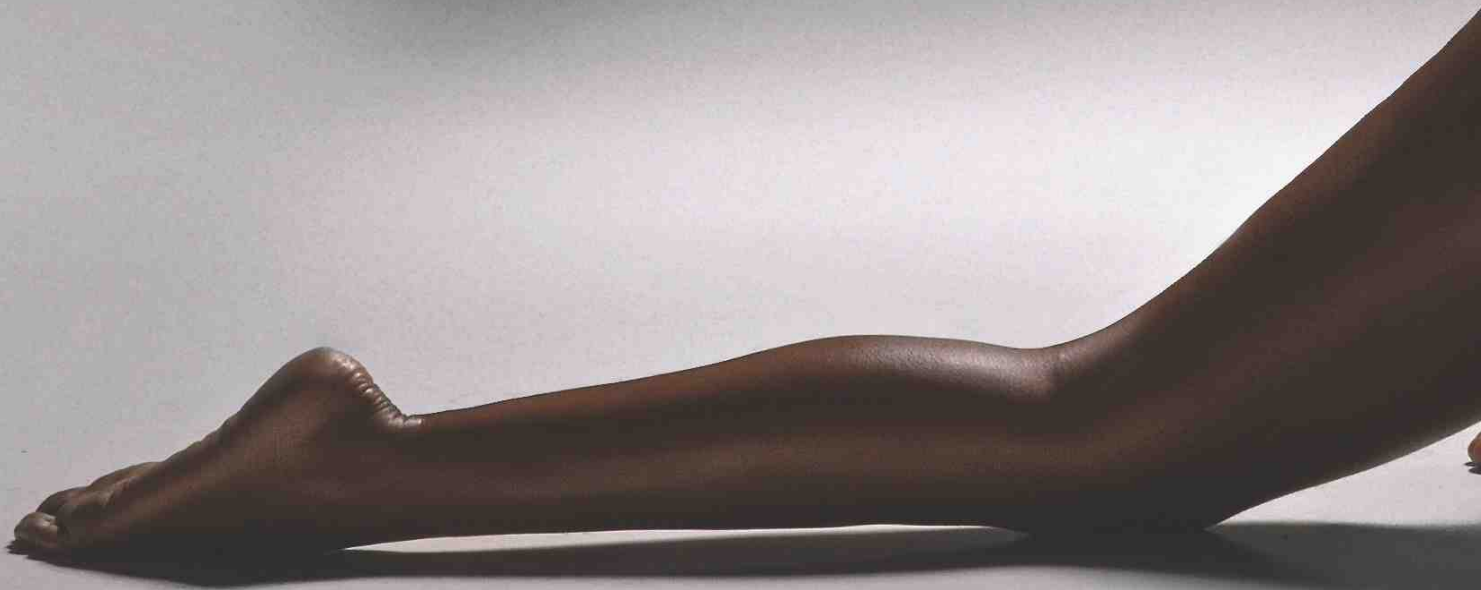
Girls night—you and your girls sip wine and the subject most commonly discussed is...
With my kinky friends the subject will be about sex *[laughs]*.

Tell people what you feel when you hear: "You're pretty for a dark skinned girl."

I'm not a dark skinned girl, but that sentence hurts my soul. What the hell do you mean she's pretty for a dark skinned girl? It's either she is pretty or she's not. Her color shouldn't even be brought up. It's sad that we still live with people that have this mindset. It's sad to see dark skinned women put down another dark skinned woman because their hair is kinkier. When will the self-hate end?

Tell us something amazing about you that we wouldn't know besides seeing how beautiful you are to us.
This year, I'll be going back to school to become a sex therapist. I'm so excited about my new journey. Beauty and brains always win. Sapiosexual Life!

Give an encouraging word to fellow darker skinned models looking to make a career in this business.
Be yourself no matter what bullsh*t people throw at you. You are beautiful! Your skin is worth more than gold!





Photographer Aderon Mothersill
Wardrobe Marcus Blassingame



ARMENELLA

Name: Carmenella
Nickname: Carmen
Hometown: Southport, NC
Zodiac: Aries
Sizes: Small/Medium
Bust: 34B
Waist: 29
Hip: 40

Web:

Official Web/Fansite: CarmenellasWorld.com
(Launching in Summer 2015)

Instagram: @Carmenellas_World

Of Followers: 14.1k

Resume:

Magazine: *GGurls*, *Straight Stuntin* #34, 2014 *Paper Dolls*, *Dynasty Series* "Freshmen Class"

Runway: 2012 N.C. Fashion Shows, 2013 N.C. Hair Shows

TV: "One Tree Hill" and "Bolden"

Advertisement: Hair Model Boogie Hair in Houston TX

Favorite food/Restaurant: Anything with pasta, and Cheesecake Factory.

Favorite drink: I absolutely love Piña Colada with mangos.

This being our second time, how do you feel about *Black Men* magazine dedicating an issue to browner skinned models?

Excited! It gives us black women a major opportunity to stand out and let our light shine.

Do you think darker skinned models are booked less? Why?

Yes. I still have been trying to figure out the reason, though. I know every project is looking for something different nowadays. Black is beautiful. People need to see that we need more magazines to dedicate to the Black culture and to the Black woman.

Describe your type of man.

Good hygiene—that's a must... Someone handsome and tall, with a good build and is down to earth, and can cook a good meal for me. He also must be respectable and always humble.





CARMENIELLA

L'impasse NYC Body Chain, Onny Swim by Chanel
(stylesbychanel.tumblr.com) crochet bikini



Name five things a man should never say to you. Call me out of my name for one. I know how to compromise, but never try to just tell me what to do. "Can I get that number?" I hate that line. "You're so fine! You need to have my baby." And, "You're pretty for a dark skinned girl."

Tell people what you feel when you hear: "You're pretty for a dark skinned girl."

I hate that they have to use my skin color in the same sentence! Just tell me that I'm pretty or beautiful.

Girls night—you and your girls sip wine and the subject most commonly discussed is...

Our men, always.

[Laughs.]

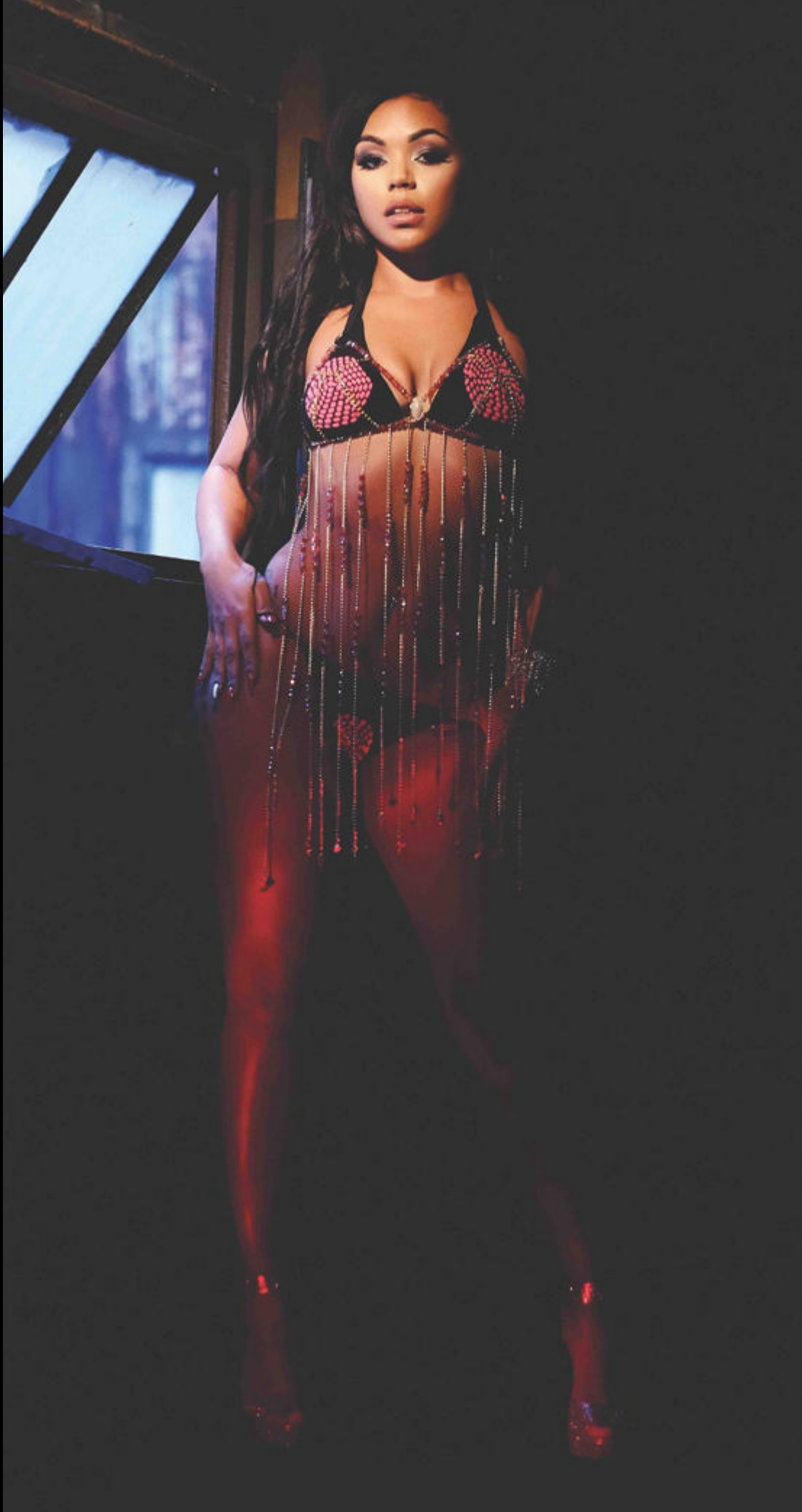
Besides Kerry Washington, Michele Obama and Jennifer Hudson, name five famous, beautiful dark skinned women.

Oprah Winfrey, Tyra Banks, Whoopi Goldberg, Queen Latifah and, last but not least, Gabrielle Union.

Tell us something amazing about you that we wouldn't know besides seeing how beautiful you are to us.

I am a strong, black woman. Also, I'm an activist for our black culture. I am a Down South woman who loves to cook Southern style meals. I feel that my cooking is a way to feed the soul.

Give an encouraging word to fellow dark skinned models looking to make a career in this business. Always keep your faith. Work hard. There is a lot of competition. Stay focused on yourself—never look to what the next person is doing, and that will set you apart from the rest.





L'impasse NYC Black Top and Bi-
kini, Of Hope Jewelry Accessories

CARMENELLA



Name: Alexis Lashawn Bradley
Nickname: Lex; Keys2Alexus
Hometown: Westside of Detroit, MI
Zodiac: Aquarius
Sizes:
Bust: 36
Waist: 26
Hip: 38



Photographer 2020 Photography
Wardrobe Marcus Blassingame
Make Up AyeRedd Angeleah Speights

Web:
Twitter: @_Key2alexus
Of Followers: 500
Instagram: @Key2Alexus
Of Followers: 20k



Favorite food/Restaurant: Seafood/Ocean Prime
Favorite drink: Jägerbomb

This being our second time, how do you feel about *Black Men* magazine dedicating an issue to browner skinned models? I'm actually excited about this issue. There's nothing like black beautiful women.

Do you think darker skinned models are booked less? Why?
Yes, I do think darker skinned models are booked less because a lot of photographers are into the mixed/light skin look.

Describe your type of man.
Smart, tall and handsome. He has to have nice teeth and lips.

Name 5 things a man should never say to you.
"No." "Why are you so tall?" "Did you cum?" "I don't care." "Why am I single?"

Girls night—you and your girls sip wine and the subject most commonly discussed is...
What's next? The next move. What we want to do next. Goals.

Besides Kerry Washington, Michele Obama and Jennifer Hudson, name five famous, beautiful dark skinned women.
Tyra Banks, Naomi Campbell, Lauryn Hill, Whitney Houston and Halle Berry.

Tell people what you feel when you hear: "You're pretty for a dark skinned girl."
Um, that can go so many ways. But, personally, I don't think too hard about it. We all are beautiful in our own ways.

Tell us something amazing about you that we wouldn't know besides seeing how beautiful you are to us.
Besides being beautiful, I am a very ambitious young woman focused on success. I am also an entrepreneur with an extraordinary vision. I'm creating my own line of swimwear called Luxeswimwear, and I am excited to see the growth, and how far I can drive myself.

Give an encouraging word to fellow darker skinned models looking to make a career in this business.
Being beautiful in today's society is just simply not enough. You have to be driven and dedicated to being successful. Black women are the most successful women, and with that being said, you have to have goals that you try and exceed daily. Stay focused, and good luck!





ALEXUS

Body Paint-Ed The Artist
Shoes-Je'Taime Shoes Paramus NJ

TATTED UP HOLLY

Name: Stephanie
Nickname: Tattedupholly
Age: 24
Nickname: Hollywood
Hometown: Bronx, NY
Zodiac: Taurus (may 13)
Height: 5'7
Sizes:
Bust: 36C
Waist: 28
Hip: 44



Photographer Brendan Forbes
Wardrobe Marcus Blassingame
Make Up Holly
Hair Holly



Web:

Twitter: @tatteduphollyyy

Of Followers: 16.5k

Instagram: @tattedupholly

Of Followers: 343k

Resume:

Magazine: XXL Eye Candy Oct/Nov 2014

TV: "First 48" and "Law & Order: SVU"

Favorite food/Restaurant: Favorite food has to be Mexican, spicy foods.
Favorite drink: Lychee Martini

This being our second time, how do you feel about *Black Men* magazine dedicating an issue to browner skinned models?

I absolutely love my darker shades. I think it's beautiful. I think it's exotic and exciting.

Do you think darker skinned models are booked less? Why?

If you're talking about high fashion and runway, then maybe just a little bit. But lately, I have to say I have been seeing more darker skin models across the board. If you are talking about urban modeling, then no. Urban modeling has all shades of beauty.

Describe your type of man.

Ugh men! What can I say? [Laughs.] My type of man would have to be tall, dark and handsome. So cliché. But seriously, I love a man who is stable, ambitious and loyal. Sounds so far-fetched nowadays to ask for loyalty. I think I was born in the wrong era. I'm really just seeking a friendship so strong, and a connection so deep, that we won't be able to live without each other.

Name five things a man should never say to you.

1. "My phone is dying."
2. "Why are you always doing your hair and nails?"
3. "Are you really going to wear that?"
4. "I got money, baby."
5. "Is that ass real?"

Girls night—you and your girls sip wine and the subject most commonly discussed is...

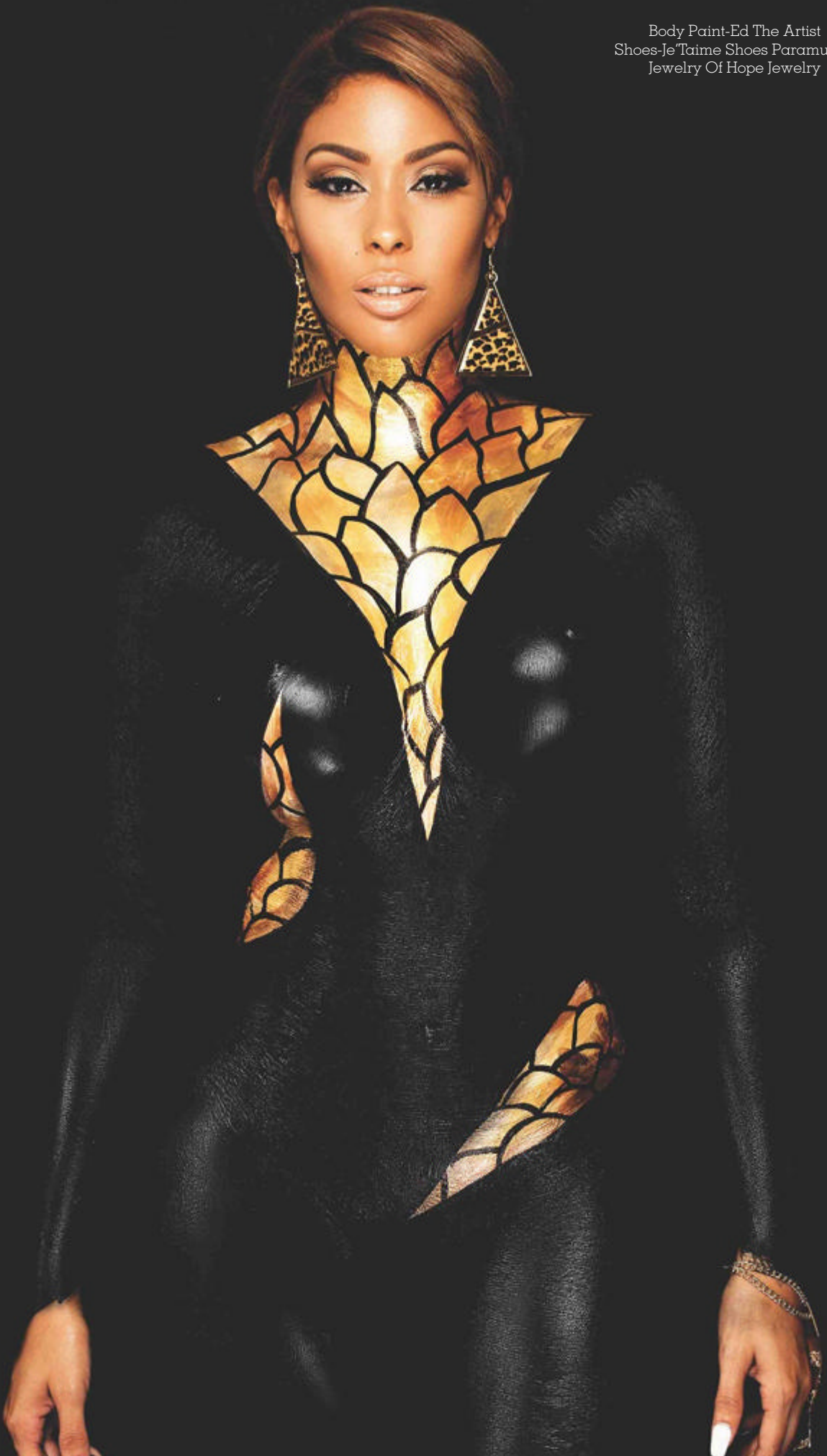
1. Fashion
2. Planning next vacation
3. Boys
4. Snap shots (texts, social media, fashion)
5. TV shows

Besides Kerry Washington, Michelle Obama and Jennifer Hudson, name five famous, beautiful, dark skinned women.

1. Gabriel Union
2. Angela Bassett
3. Tamar Braxton
4. Samaa Lathan
5. Jada Pinkett-Smith



Body Paint-Ed The Artist
Shoes-Je'Taime Shoes Paramus NJ
Jewelry Of Hope Jewelry





TATTED UP HOLLY



Tell people what you feel when you hear: "You're pretty for a dark skinned girl."

It's ignorant. I believe that everybody is beautiful to somebody. I believe that everybody has meaning. I've seen some very beautiful, dark skin women. And, I wish I were darker. I love me in the summer when I'm all tanned.

Tell us something amazing about you that we wouldn't know besides seeing how beautiful you are to us. One amazing fact about me is that no matter how many times I fall, slip, or hit a minor bump, I always get back up and try again. I've never been one to sit and wait for a hand-out. I've been ambitious my whole life. I don't know what it means to be idle, stuck or incapable. I've always had expensive taste and wasn't born with a silver spoon. So, I had to learn at an early age what was the definition of independent.

Give an encouraging word to fellow darker skinned models looking to make a career in this business. I would have to say, "Stay positive." And, for every time someone tells you, "You can't do it," make that motivate you. Take care of your body! Invest in your body, your smile, your life—invest in your mind. Stay active. Remember bags and shoes are cute now, but after the season is over, it's on to the next one. So, invest in things that you will carry with you throughout your whole life.

Web:
Instagram: @Jadorejayanna
Of Followers: 9900





JAYANNA

Photographer Alcole Studio

Name: Jayanna
Nickname: Jae
Hometown: East Oakland, Calif.
Zodiac: Libra
Sizes:
Bust: 34D
Waist: 26
Hip: 39



Favorite food/Restaurant:

I love all types of food, but my favorite is Jamaican Escovitch Fish. Matros, Red O and Waffle House are my favorite go to restaurants.

Favorite drink: Belaire Rose, iced coffee and Capri Suns.

This being our second time, how do you feel about *Black Men* magazine dedicating an issue to browner skinned models?

First, I want to say thank you for dedicating this issue towards browner skinned models, because many times we are overlooked. I think it's great and very inspirational, and I hope in the future more issues like this are released.

Do you think darker skinned models are booked less?

Why?

Dark-skinned models are defiantly booked less than any other skin tone. I think it's because our culture worships woman with lighter skin tone more than ever. If dark-skinned girls were praised and uplifted in music videos, in movies, and just on an everyday basis as much as lighter skinned woman are, things would be a lot different.

JAYANINA



Describe your type of man.

Hardworking, successful, fun, understanding, affectionate, patient, loving and honest. A man that has my best interests, and won't steer me in the wrong direction. A man who can help me better myself physically, mentally and emotionally. A man who's been through and understands the struggle of growing up on the streets.

Name five things a man should never say to you.

1. "You remind me of my ex."
2. "How many guys have you slept with?" *[Laughs.]*
3. "You talk like a 'white' girl."
4. "You shouldn't wear makeup."
5. And, just tells lies.

Girls night—you and your girls sip wine and the subject most commonly discussed is...

Plans about the future, and being happy.

Besides Kerry Washington, Michele Obama and Jennifer Hudson, name five famous, beautiful dark-skinned women.

1. Miracle Watts
2. Naomi Campbell
3. Lupita Nyong'o
4. Keke Palmer
5. Vivica A. Fox

Tell people what you feel when you hear: "You're pretty for a dark-skinned girl."

I hear you're "pretty," and that's enough for me. We all have different ways to express our thoughts, and for the most part, I don't think people say this to make darker skinned girls feel bad. I believe the phrase is actually used as a term of endearment—so for me, I embrace the statement in a positive way.

Tell us something amazing about you that we wouldn't know besides seeing how beautiful you are to us.

I'm shy when you first meet me, but once I'm comfortable, you'll see I'm one of the most warm-hearted, understanding, goofiest people you will ever meet. I, also, love giving back to others when I can.

Give an encouraging word to fellow darker skinned models looking to make a career in this business.

Everything starts with a dream, followed by having confidence and believing in yourself.



JAYANIA





SUPAWMNI

(SUPA-WO-MAN)

Photographer Brendan Forbes
Wardrobe Marcus Blassingame
Make Deyona M
Hair Deyona M

Name: Pattie
Nickname: Supawmn
Hometown: Detroit, Mich.
Zodiac: Leo
Sizes:
Bust: 38
Waist: 28
Hip: 50



Web:

Instagram: @i_supawmn

Of Followers: 123k

Resume:

Magazine: *Straight Stuntin*, *Bare Arms*, *Urban Gun Culture*, *Grinde House* (Issue #2) and *Show* (issue release TBA).

Runway: I've done a few fashion shows for a couple local clothing stores in my city.

Video: Tone Tone – "Where I'm From" / Artist BM (Africa and London) – "Ebebi"

TV: Contestant for reality show "Skin Wars."

Advertisement: Body paint model for Felle

Favorite food/Restaurant: I love all Caribbean food and Sushi.

Favorite drink: Ginger tea

This being our second time, how do you feel about *Black Men* magazine dedicating an issue to browner skinned models?

I think it's cool, but would have been more excited if the number were higher. Women of darker complexion like myself aren't really showcased as much as women of lighter skin.

Do you think darker skinned models are booked less? Why?

Yes, of course! Reason is because we as a people are brainwashed into believing lighter skin is more beautiful. Women of lighter skin are mainly promoted. It's really all you see in most music videos and hear in music—no hate. I just think there's beauty and ugly in all skin tones.

Describe your type of man.

A man who is strong and powerful. He's not ashamed of all the responsibilities he has to master when it comes to taking care of his queen and his home. He is very romantic and believes in monogamy. He is worldly and very cultured.

Name five things a man should never say to you...

1. "You're fat." He better mean "P-H-A-T!"

[Laughs.]

2. Anything disrespectful or degrading.

3. "What's up with your hair?"

4. "My ex used to..." It's okay here and there, but not all the time.

5. "Where you going?" or "Where you been" during the "getting to know me stage." I will cut him off!

Girls night—you and your girls sip wine and the subject most commonly discussed is...

Sex, sex and more sex! [Laughs.]

Besides Kerry Washington, Michele Obama and Jennifer Hudson, name five famous, beautiful dark-skinned women.

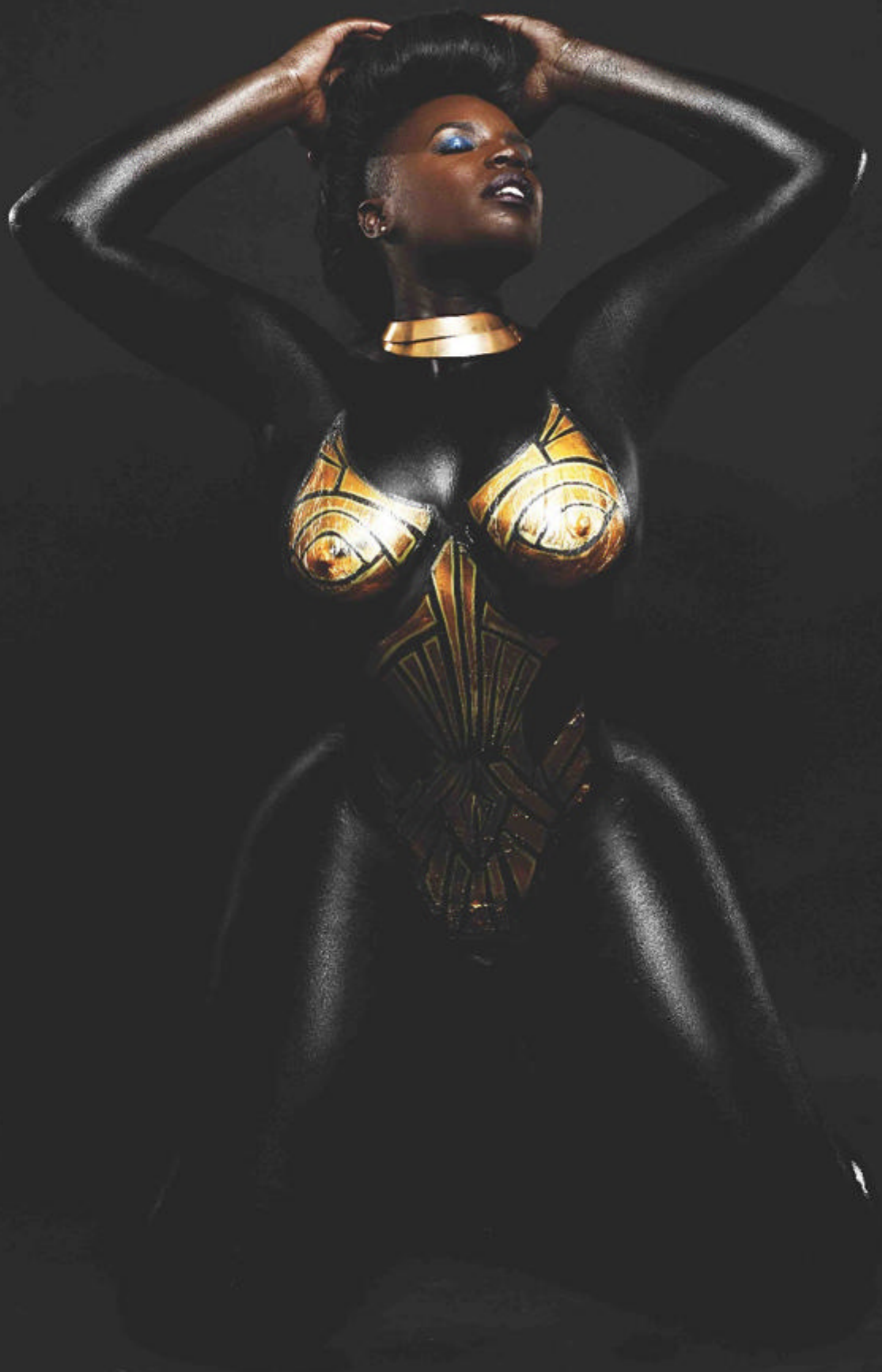
Lupita Nyong'o, Grace Jones, Naomi Campbell, Jessica White and Serena Williams.



SUPAWMINI



Body Paint-Ed The Artist
Shoes-Je'Taime Shoes Paramus NJ
Jewelry Of Hope Jewelry



SUPAWMINI

Tell people what you feel when you hear: "You're pretty for a dark-skinned girl."

Ignorance is still very much alive—contrary to the evolving times. Even when we thought dark skin was in, the memo must have only been about the "brothas," because "sistas" have still been getting the most cringe-worthy compliment ever to be spoken: "Wow! You're pretty for a dark girl!" What? As a dark-skinned "sista," let me speak for every other dark girl out there when I say, I thought pretty was determined upon your features and the way you carried yourself, not by the shade of your skin. A woman is never "pretty for a dark girl," she's beautiful because that's simply what she is inside and out. This by any means is not a compliment! I'm very annoyed when I hear this type of foolery. I absolutely hate when people say this to me. It's a major insult and an ignorant statement. It's very sad when I still see grown ass men and women debating and perpetuating this ugly thing called colorism. We did not create this, but we help spread it, and fund it. Dark skin women are so beautiful. I love that I am a dark-skinned woman. I used to hate being dark-skinned, and most people don't know I used to get teased and bullied for it—but now, I can honestly look back and say "thank you" to those who placed those insecurities upon me, because it pushed me into loving myself and believe that I am a beautiful, black, chocolate woman, and I am not ashamed of it.

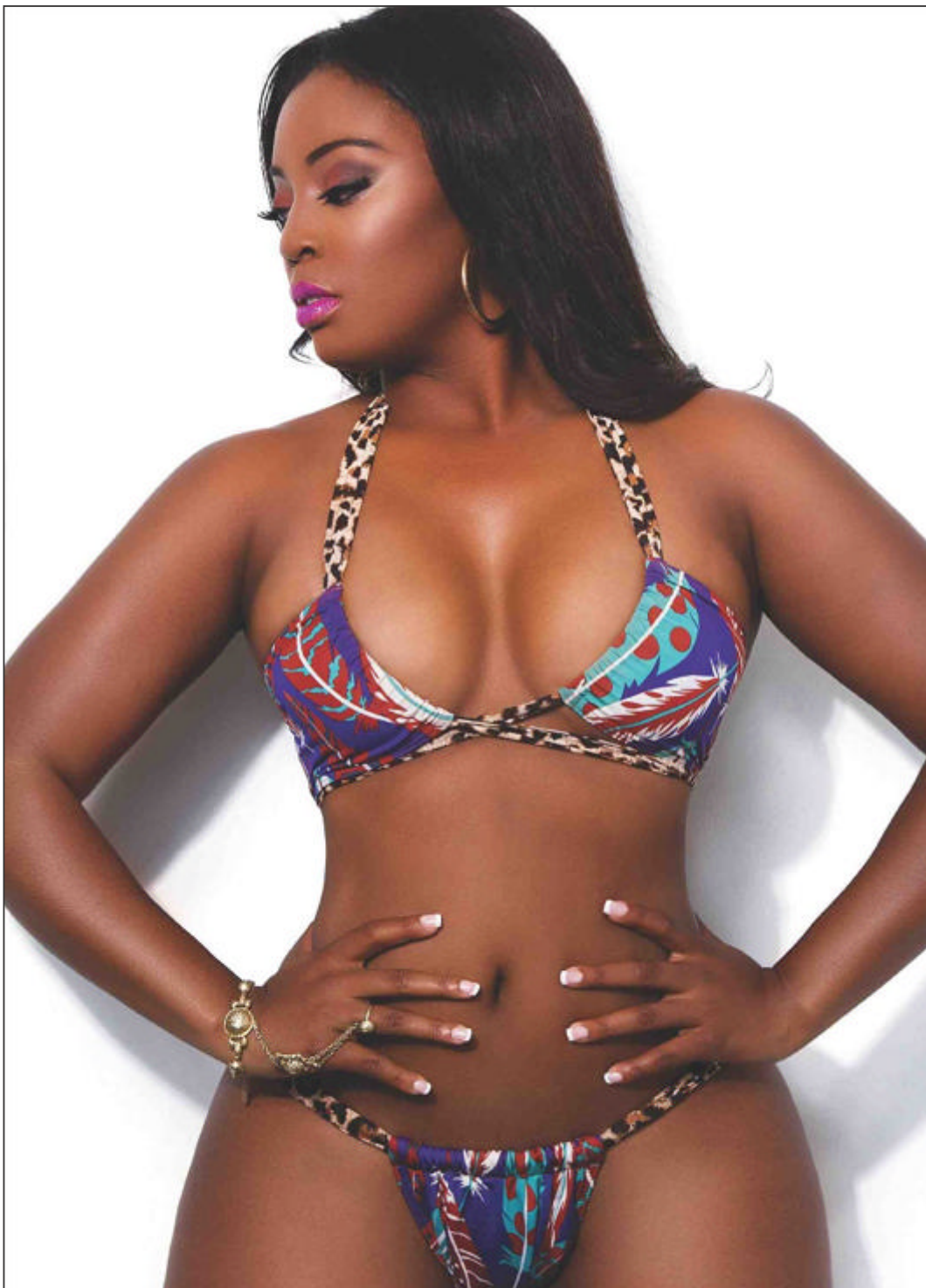
Tell us something amazing about you that we wouldn't know besides seeing how beautiful you are to us.

Most people are shocked when they find out what I do for a living. Most would guess that I'm a stripper or bartender. I am in fact a steel worker. I've been working in a steel factory for 11 years now. I started out as a crane operator and carried around 300 tons of molten steel, which is about 2,900 degrees. Throughout the years, I stepped up to positions where I was the first and only female to qualify in the history of steel making, which is actually pouring and casting the steel. It gets really hot and it's hard at times, but I enjoy it [laughs].

Give an encouraging word to fellow darker-skinned models looking to make a career in this business.

I would like to offer a word of encouragement to any young lady and adult right down to seniors, because it's so pervasive in our community. A lot of times people suffer in silence. I would say stay true to who you are and know that your color doesn't make you nor does it take anything away from you. When you love yourself, the world has no choice in loving you back. When you hate who you are, the world laughs. With that being said, my dark-skinned ladies love yourself and know your worth! Don't let anybody put you down because of the color of your skin! Once this is embedded in your brain, there's no stopping you.





NICHELLE

Photographer Alcole Studios

Name: Nichelle
Nickname: Mookie
Hometown: Los Angeles, CA
Zodiac: Cancer
Sizes:
Bust: 36
Waist: 27
Hip: 43

Web:
Official Web/Fansite:
Nichelledxo.tumblr.com
Twitter: @_nichelled
Of Followers: 16k and counting
Instagram: @MsNichelleD
Of Followers: 30k and counting



Resume:

Magazine: *SHOW* (Cover), *Black Lingerie* by *SHOW* (Cover), *Straight Stuntin*, *Wheels*, *Girls of Lowrider Magazine*, *XXL Web Candy*, *King Web Girl*

TV: Wale ft J. Cole – “Bad Girls Club” / Day 26 – “So Good” / Roscoe Dash – “The Impossible” / Dizzy Wright – “The Perspective” / Kid Ink – “LA LA LA” / Ne-Yo – “Champagne Life” / Nick Cannon’s “The Dummiez” / Day 26 – “Girlfriend” / Travis Porter – “Bring It Back” / Wiz Khalifa feat. Too-Short – “On My Level” / Wiz Khalifa – “Black & Yellow Remix” / Russell Brand – “Just Say Yes” / E40 feat. Snoop Dogg – “Can’t Stop A Boss” / Eros Ramazzotti – “PARLA CON ME/Talk To Me” / “Lincoln Heights” - Trey Songz DJ / Snoop Dogg & Tha Dogg Pound – “Boss Life Skit”

Advertisement: Visa Industrial, Caribbean Reggae Party CD, Mercedes Benz Industrial, Bank of America Industrial, Price Tag clothing store advertisement

Favorite food/Restaurant: BBQ / Del Frisco’s

Favorite drink: Water

This being our second time, how do you feel about *Black Men* magazine dedicating an issue to browner skinned models?

First of all, thank you! I absolutely love it. It angers me when I notice how magazines dedicate issues to just Latinas, Asians or Caucasian girls on the regular, but refuse to dedicate regular issues to just women of color. Also, if they decide to dedicate them to women of color, it’s never the women who have a browner skin tone. Like, are we not sexy? Do you think people wouldn’t pick up the issue? I believe women in general are beautiful no matter what! I love that fact that *Black Men Magazine* isn’t afraid to showcase our beauty and don’t believe the myth that an issue wouldn’t sell with all browner skin models.

Do you think darker skinned models are booked less? Why?

I think we are booked less to an extent. When it comes to the general market, which is the commercial market and glamour market, we are. When you see a commercial or print advertisement, you typically see light skin with green eyes and blonde hair. When a model of a darker skin tone is requested, they often book girls who are a bit darker, but still on the lighter skin tone side, and assume that this would pass and the general public wouldn’t notice. I believe people still have the notion that Black women are the least desired race, and it’s nowhere near true. When they choose someone to represent us to the general public, it’s either a lighter Black woman or an unattractive Black woman to keep this notion going. I feel as if people want to make us feel as if we aren’t just as beautiful when we are. We generally have beautiful even toned skin, we usually do not develop acne or skin cancer, we look good in pretty much any color; and the list goes on.



NICHELLE



Describe your type of man.
My type of man is ambitious. I love men who go after what they want in life, even if it's out of reach. Goals are very attractive to me. He respects women, especially the women in his life, and he understands the role of a man as well as the roll of his woman. I love confidence!

Name five things a man should never say to you.

1. "You are pretty for a dark skin girl."
2. "You're a model, I can't take you serious."
3. "You have men chasing you."
4. "I'm just chilling and doing me,"
5. "You have to be mixed because you're a pretty dark skin girl."

Girls night—you and your girls sip wine and the subject most commonly discussed is...

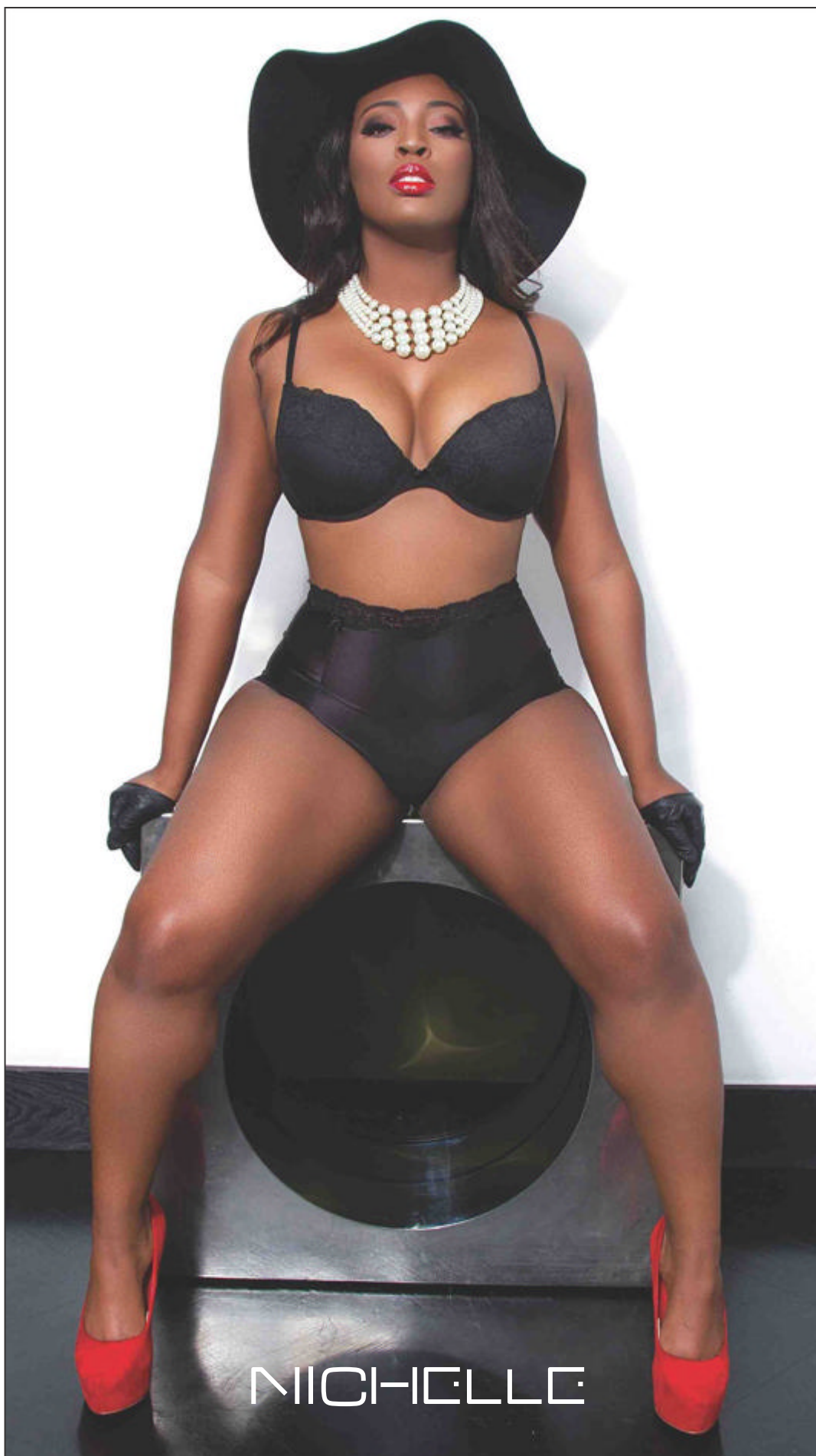
Always men! Exes, current men, men we want, and men who do/don't have a chance. We are usually discussing the crazy things men say and do. Someone always has a real nice body and looks good when it's girl's night. We discuss finance and goals just as much, but men are a bit more interesting to us when we've had a glass of wine.

Besides Kerry Washington, Michele Obama and Jennifer Hudson, name five famous, beautiful dark skinned women.

Naomi Campbell, Tatyana Ali, Foxy Brown, Serena Williams and Angela Bassett.

Tell people what you feel when you hear: "You're pretty for a dark skinned girl."

I used to get really upset when I was a teenager because the guys who used to say it had absolutely no chance with me in the first place to feel as if they could generalize me. Now that I am a little older, I laugh it off. That person is ignorant and



NICHELLE



seems as if he/she has only a certain group of friends. I'm from Los Angeles, and it's a melting pot. When I feel someone is gorgeous, I don't even pay attention to the skin color or tone. So, I really don't waste my time addressing the comment with small minds anymore. I know what type of woman I am and I'm certainly one you cannot label. Funny thing, I never hear that comment from anyone outside of the African race. Those who are not of African decent feel that you are black rather than you are light or dark; they just see a pretty black girl.

Tell us something amazing about you that we wouldn't know besides seeing how beautiful you are to us.

Thank you! Most people don't know that I am really nice and it's just my nature to help people. Growing up, I wanted to be a judge/politician so that I could change the world. It is something that I am still interested in, but in due time. I might come off a bit strong or look mean to some people, but I'm actually one of the funniest girls in the industry. I just love being around good people and positivity. Now, don't get me wrong, my advice is to never cross me because there is no in-between, but most people find comfort in my loyalty and friendship.

Give an encouraging word to fellow darker skinned models looking to make a career in this business.

Whatever it is you set your heart out to do, do it! Do not let anyone or anything get in the way. Rome wasn't built over night. So, have a little faith and some patience because it goes a long way. Don't let anyone make you feel like you are less of a model because you are dark skin. Trust me, we are the exotic ones because there aren't so many of us in the industry.

R

Photographer-2020 Photography

RICHIELLE TAYLOR

Name: Richelle Taylor
Nickname: Apple
Hometown: New Orleans, LA
Zodiac: Pisces
Sizes: 7
Bust: 32D
Waist: 27
Hip: 41





Web:
Instagram: @richbbehavior
Of Followers: 16.5



RICHELLE
TAYLOR





Favorite food/Restaurant: Any type of seafood/Bahama Breeze

Favorite drink: Cranberry juice [laughs].

This being our second time, how do you feel about *Black Men* magazine dedicating an issue to browner skinned models?

I think, as a darker-skinned model, we are overlooked and under-booked because of our skin. I think the dedication was brilliant, and a lot of people will appreciate this issue.

Do you think darker skinned models are booked less? Why?

Yes. Music, television and social media has brainwashed "us" into thinking that lighter skin is better.

Describe your type of man.

I absolutely love an intelligent man—someone that I am able to learn from. I love a man that's outgoing, strong-willed and a protector. One who is sweet as gold, but will still put me in my place.

Name five things a man should never say to you.

1. "Is that your hair?"
2. "Lemme hold something."
3. "Are you really going to eat all that?"
4. "What color are you panties?" I don't wear any.
5. "B-tch shut the f--k up!"

Girls night—you and your girls sip wine and the subject most commonly discussed is...

Of course men, money, goals, ass and vacations that we never get to take.

Besides Kerry Washington, Michele Obama and Jennifer Hudson, name five famous, beautiful dark-skinned women.

Gabrielle Union, Megan Good, Eva Pigford, KeKe Palmer and Lupita Nyong'o.

Tell people what you feel when you hear: "You're pretty for a dark skinned girl."

I'm very numb to ignorance, but it's very disturbing. It's exasperating, degrading and offensive. I despise

that "Debbie Downer" phrase. Beauty is beauty no matter what skin color it's covered in. A rose is still a rose no matter if it's white, pink or red.

Tell us something amazing about you that we wouldn't know besides seeing how beautiful you are to us.

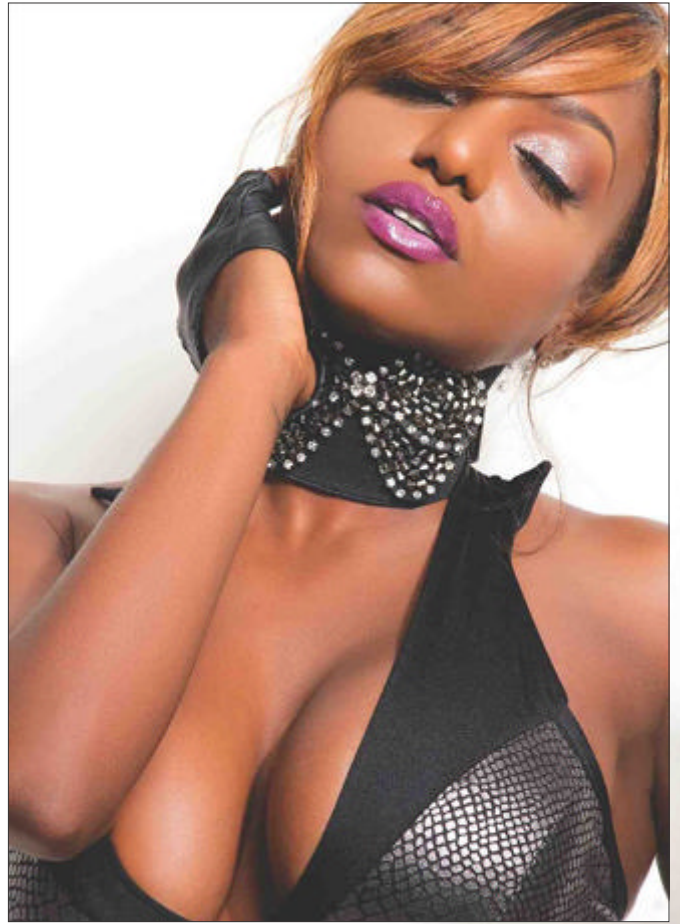
I can solve any math problem. I love the innocence of our youth and I love giving.

Give an encouraging word to fellow darker skinned models looking to make a career in this business.

As black women not only are we smothered by society, but we are also smothered and degraded by our own kind. Even guys with darker skinned mothers and sisters discriminate against us. Women need to embrace their beauty no matter what color skin God has chosen to cover it in. Being beautiful comes from within. Don't let the "No's" discourage you or make you stray away from your dreams. Don't ever think because of your skin color you are not good enough. You are beautiful, baby.

RICHIELLE TAYLOR





ZIA DAVIS

Photographer Alcole Studios
Wardrobe Marcus Blessingame
Make Up | Hair

Name: Azia Davis
Nickname: Azia D.
Hometown: Los Angeles, Calif.
Zodiac: Sagittarius
Sizes: Small
Bust: 34 D
Waist: 26
Hip: 37

Resume:

Magazine: r, , (Digital), (featured 5xs), (Black Lingerie #21), , , 's Web Candy of the Week, , (Cover Model)

TV/Radio: Power 106 Radio Guest Host, GSN's "Baggage" TV Appearance

Video: DJ Khaled – "Take It To The Head" (Lead), TYGA – "Make It Nasty" (Lead)

Advertisement: Chynna Dolls Swimwear (spokes model), Tecate Trade Show Host, JC Cognac Ad, T.I.T.S Brand T-shirt Model, Seductive Complexions

Favorite Food/Restaurant: I'm definitely a foodie! I'm not the girl who watches her figure or counts her calories. I love Mexican, Italian food and pastas, steak and potatoes, and I can't forget seafood. But, a good old summertime backyard BBQ will never go out of style. A home-cooked meal will always be my first choice.


Favorite drink: I assume you mean alcohol, so I'm going to say champagne—Ace Of Spades to be exact. But, on a regular, I'm a sucker for strawberry soda. I know it's horrible, but I think I drink that more than water.

This being our second time, how do you feel about *Black Men* magazine dedicating an issue to browner skinned models?

I think it's great, and I'm honored to be part of this issue. Black is beautiful period. People need to realize that's what makes us unique and why we are so diverse and exotic. There are so many shades of our brown skin, and it's about time somebody focused on how beautiful it actually is.

Do you think darker skinned models are booked less? Why?

Sometimes I do, but I try not to focus on the negative of thinking it's still about skin, complexion because if it is, we have not moved forward at all in this world or industry. I would hope that's not the case and in my opinion it would be absolutely ridiculous for that to be a reason to hire a model. Beauty is beauty. Who cares what color you are? Everybody has a type, and I feel like sometimes this society is brainwashed into believing what they want them to "think" is beautiful. If it's hot at the moment then it's hot to "everybody." Prime example in the media today is having a nice, big ass real or fake. When it was only about ten- to twenty-years ago that having a big ass was looked at as "gross" or "unattractive." But the moment it becomes glorified in another culture, it becomes "cool" to embrace it in ours? That's the type of thing that irritates me. Black women (dark-skinned, light skinned or brown skinned) have had big asses, big lips, big hips, big



Web:
Instagram: @msaziad
Of Followers: 6k+

everything for years! But it's never "honored" until somebody else says its "cool." It's very sad, but we don't even realize how powerful we really are as black people and we all need to do better at uplifting ourselves first. Embracing the beautiful qualities in ourselves that deep down most people want and envy. We are all beautiful. All complexions of us!

Describe your type of man.

I'm definitely an Alpha female, so I crave an Alpha male type. That's the type I need. I love a "take charge" type of guy. A man that makes a woman feel like a woman. I need the type that has enough home training to treat his woman like a queen, but still knows how to be assertive and take care of business at work and in the bedroom when necessary.

Name five things a man should never say to you.

"Calm Down." I know that's not five things, but those two words can get a guy into a whole lot of trouble at the wrong time! [.] Although I can't think of five things in particular, I know I have a slick mouth so any level of disrespect I will not tolerate—coming from males or females.

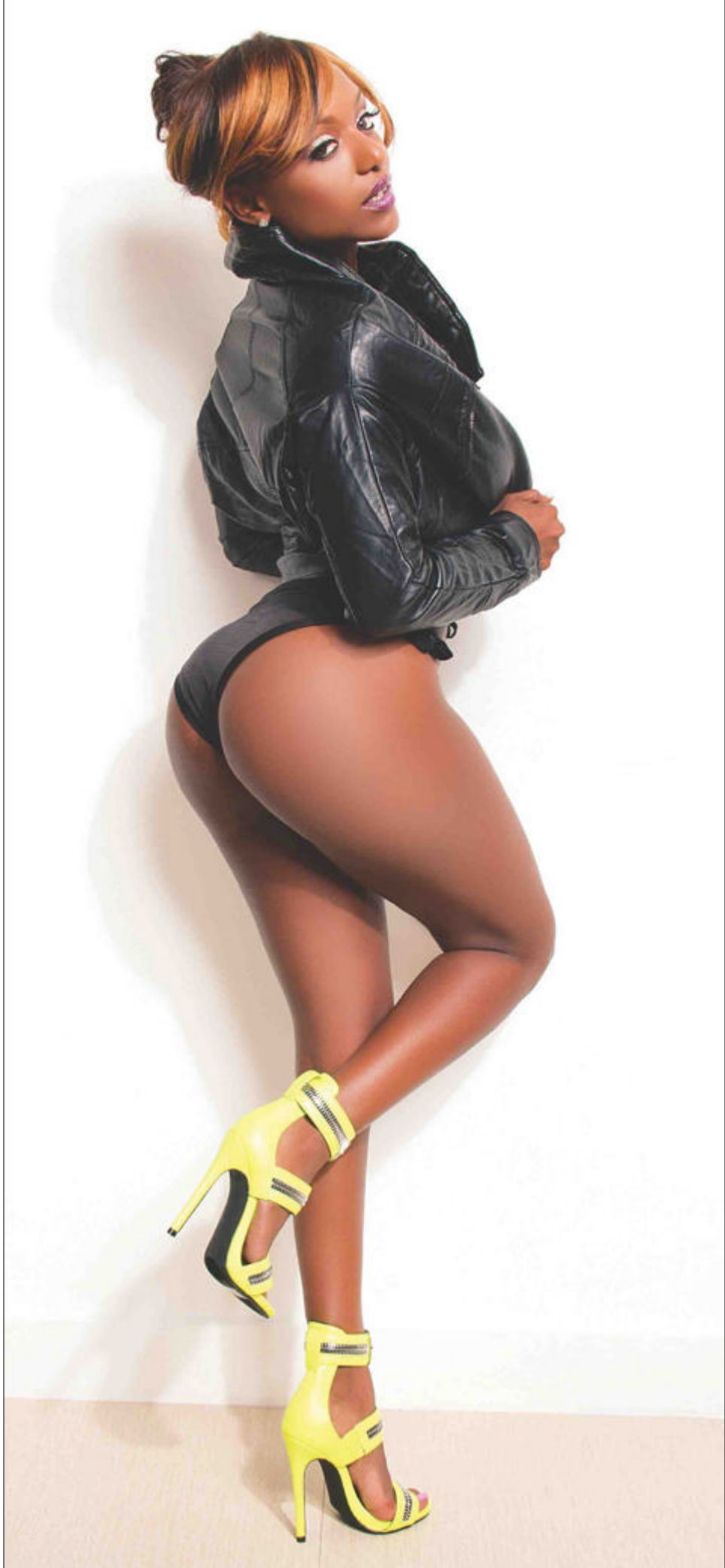
Girls night—you and your girls sip wine and the subject most commonly discussed is...

[.] Oh, to be a fly on the wall at my house. Honestly, my girls are like dudes. No subject is off limits, especially if there's wine around. We are all free spirits who laugh at lot and don't take too much of this world too serious. The subject to most likely come up in our conversations would of course be about guys and sex. And, then about how we can't trust these hoes because they ain't loyal. And, traveling options, because we feel like nobody gets us and we need to get away []. We just like to have fun. We are definitely the tomboys, the "cool" girls that real dudes like to hang with. I think by having more male friends than female you start to smarten up, sit back, watch and chill. That's the type we are. All my girls are all business owners, bosses and lady bosses in the making, and we keep it real with ourselves, guys and the reality that are some men. Some people get us and some people don't. We're a rare breed of females.

Besides Kerry Washington, Michele Obama and Jennifer Hudson, name five famous, beautiful dark skinned women.

Well, I have to say me, of course... famous or not []. Tika Sumpter, Kelly Rowland, Keisha Knight-Pulliam, Gabrielle Union, and there are plenty more.

Tell people what you feel when you hear: "You're pretty for a dark skinned girl."





Honestly, it makes me want to slap people—it's so ignorant. Who's to say that just because your skin is lighter you're automatically prettier? It really disgusts me to hear people say that or "You're pretty for a Black girl." This scenario just happened to me a few weeks ago in Vegas where a (drunk) guy tried to compliment my friend by saying, "You're pretty for a Black girl." She was very offended, and she was "light skinned!" At the end of the day, ignorance is ignorance, and it's extremely funny to me how people (including ourselves) sometimes try to divide and put down our race, our colors, and features that probably 95% of the world imitates—especially in today's world.

Tell us something amazing about you that we wouldn't know besides seeing how beautiful you are to us.

I've always been a writer over everything. Although I didn't complete it, I went to college for Journalism and was a straight-A student in English. It's just something that soothes me. It comes easy, and I can most definitely say that it is my first passion. I have a long list of goals, but stay tuned—maybe one day I'll sit down to write the story that is me. And trust me, I may be quiet, but my life is like a movie.

Give an encouraging word to fellow darker skinned models looking to make a career in this business.

First, forget this whole "dark skin vs. light skin" BS, and go for what you want. When someone tells you "No" in this industry, you got to go harder. I've been told no on plenty occasions. I've been made fun of, manipulated, scammed and lied to, and yet, I still continue to be booked and published because I'm a go-getter. I'd rather people wonder how I'm still here than to think they can easily break me. You have to believe in yourself first before anybody else can. And, those beliefs in myself are why I continue to climb my goal ladder today.

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NETTA LILES

Photographer Alcole Studios
Wardrobe Marcus Blassingame
Make Up "Get Beauty Marked"
Hair

Name: Netta Liles
Nickname: Nettasuperbad
Hometown: Washington, D.C.
Zodiac: Capricorn
Sizes:
Bust: 34 1/2
Waist: 27
Hip: 41/42



Web:
Twitter: @nettasuperbad
Of Followers: 661
Instagram: @nettasuperbad
Of Followers: 6613

Resume:

Magazine: *Pressure, Foreign, iDymes, Aadimes, Dynasty Series, Ggurls*

Favorite food/Restaurant:

Crab cakes. Favorite restaurant is Clyde's because their crab cakes are amazing.

Favorite drink:

If you're talking about alcohol it's Strawberry Patron Margarita with a sugar rim. For regular drink: Half-and-Half, that's a lemonade and sweet tea mix.

This being our second time, how do you feel about *Black Men* magazine dedicating an issue to browner skinned models?

I'm super excited! Not only because I'm in it, but because people can now see us brown skin women got it, too.

Do you think darker skinned models are booked less?

Why?

Yes, I do, but I can say lately we've been doing our own thing. Okay!

Describe your type of man.

In my case, it's a female. I love my women with sexy, brown skin, nice butt and t*ts. Also, they must be funny, nice and have a great personality. And, she must be all about me.

Name five things a man should never say to you.

"Fuck you then, bitch;"
"Bitch, I'll smack the sh*t out of you;" "You look awful in that outfit;" "You look fat;"
"My ex-girlfriend used to do this. Can you do it?"

Girls night—you and your girls sip wine and the subject most commonly discussed is...

Damn, that's so hard... Me and my best friend talk about everything—from these ni**as, to this money, music, sex... Oh, Lord! The list goes on...

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Of Hope Jewelry



Besides Kerry Washington, Michele Obama and Jennifer Hudson, name five famous, beautiful dark skinned women.

Taraji P. Henson, Gabrielle Union, Kelly Rowland, Keisha Knight-Pulliam and Angela Bassett.

Tell people what you feel when you hear "your pretty for a dark skinned girl."

I really don't feel any type of way because I'm mahogany, chestnut-brown-roasted on an almond.

Tell us something amazing about you that we wouldn't know besides seeing how beautiful you are to us.

I'm a 100% dedicated, single mother to an amazingly smart, little boy.

Give an encouraging word to fellow darker skinned models looking to make a career in this business.

It's our time, mother-f*ckers!

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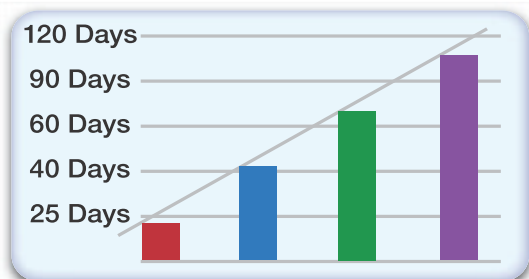
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S TEPHANIE

Photographer-2020 Photography
Wardrobe-Marcus Blessingame

Name: Stephanie
Nickname: Steph
Hometown: Houston, TX
Zodiac: Aquarius
Sizes:
Bust: 34B
Waist: 32
Hip: 42



Web:
Twitter: @facesofsteph
Of Followers: 680
Instagram: @_facesofsteph_
Of Followers: 996



Resume:

Magazine: *Urban Harem*
and *Stunnaz*

Favorite food/Restau-

rant: I love sushi, and
my favorite restaurant is
Miyako's.

Favorite drink: Pine-
apple Malibu

**This being our second
time, how do you feel
about *Black Men* maga-
zine dedicating an issue
to browner skinned
models?**

I feel this is a great way
to showcase brown
beauty, and I am hon-
ored to be part of it.

**Do you think darker
skinned models are
booked less? Why?**

I do think dark skinned
models are booked
less because to society
a dark skinned black
woman does not come
close to the standards of
beauty.

**Describe your type of
man.**

Funny, smart, sweet,
handsome and hard
working.

**Name five things a man
should never say to
you...**

Five things a man
should never say
to me are: "I don't
care," "I'm not in the
mood," "You're cra-
zy," "Relax" and "No."

**Girls night—you and
your girls sip wine and
the subject most com-
monly discussed is...**

Our latest television
shows and our life goals.

**Besides Kerry Wash-
ington, Michele Obama
and Jennifer Hudson,
name five famous,
beautiful dark skinned
women.**

Gabrielle Union,
Tika Sumpter, Lupita
Nyong'o, Naomi Camp-
bell and Meagan Good.

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Jewelry Accessories



STEPHANIE

Bikinis That Create Curves Pink Lace Bikini, Of Hope Jewelry Accessories





Tell people what you feel when you hear: "You're pretty for a dark skinned girl."

I feel insulted when I hear this comment, but I am confident in myself to know that my dark skin complexion is part of my beauty.

Tell us something amazing about you that we wouldn't know besides seeing how beautiful you are to us.

I am a college graduate.

Give an encouraging word to fellow darker skinned models looking to make a career in this business.

Believe in yourself, and never let society define your beauty. Embrace who you are, and be comfortable in your own skin.

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Inspired by a DJ turntable, Kisai RPM Wood is simple to read at a glance when you know how. Press the button to light up the display. Lights showing the current time will flash for several seconds. Hours are shown on the inner-ring in the same position as hours on a clock. Five-minute intervals are shown on the outer ring in the same position as minutes on a clock. Four single minutes are positioned at the top of the display along side the AM/PM indicator.

A Limited Edition Wood Watch Design

Made in very limited quantities, Kisai RPM Wood has been carefully crafted from 100% natural dark sandalwood. Like all wood watches from Tokyoflash Japan, a clear coating has been applied for protection.

Turntable Style LED Light Up Animation

As well as time, RPM Wood has a light-up animation, which sends lights spinning around the display once every 15 minutes from 6 p.m. to midnight that is sure to grab people's attention.

A Rechargeable LED Watch

Kisai RPM Wood is USB rechargeable via your computer. One full charge will take three-and-a-half hours and each charge will last one month. There are 300 charges in one battery, and the battery is replaceable. The links that make up the strap are individually made so the strap can be adjusted like a normal watch to fit your wrist perfectly. Due to the natural qualities of wood, the color and grain may be slightly darker or lighter than shown in the photos.



Blog reader and watch designer James Fursdon, from the UK says, "I'm really pleased with the way this watch has turned out. The design team has done an amazing job. I have no artistic skills whatsoever, but had a concept in my head that I hoped would be worthy of being featured on the blog. I sent in a few short paragraphs of how I thought the watch should look and work and kept my fingers tightly crossed. I was so excited to see my concept on the design studio blog. I recognized it immediately, but was blown away by the little touches and design flares that had been added to make it so special. Now, nine months later, to see my watch idea in production and on sale from my favorite watch shop is unbelievable, a dream come true!"

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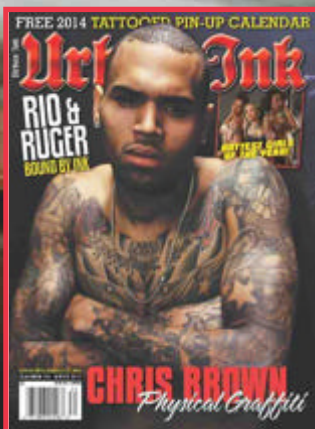
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LIGHT SKIN VS DARK SKIN BREAKING THE MENTAL CHAINS

BY AKIRA X ROBERSON

People often think that stereotypes are made by another race and their view of the race they are labeling. But what most don't think about are the labeling and divisive stereotypes that are used within a race; such as stereotypes often used in the Black community.

This type of division in a race can be poisoning and indirectly divisive.

Stereotypes such as Light Skin Vs. Dark Skin within the Black community are cancerous, dangerous, and shape how we view our people and ourselves. Fortunately, we can solve this problem by teaching and mentally reshaping how we've been trained to think and behave.

This stereotyping is seen as joking and not serious, at least that's what is thought

It is also rare that anyone questions where Light Skin vs. Dark Skin originated. It just exists, and it is somewhat passed on. ... Even young children use these jokes and labels. But the question stands: Where did it get its beginning, and how was it enforced?

Light Skin vs. Dark Skin emerges at least as early as 1712 in the Colony of Virginia on the banks of the James River and Willie Lynch. In the book *The Willie Lynch Letter: The Making Of A Slave*, Lynch spoke of ways to break apart the tightly unified Black man and woman. The unity between the slaves led to revolts. They killed their owners and those families and often ran away. Considering this, Lynch devised a plan that would control the slaves physically and mentally for 300 years or more if executed correctly.

The Lynch Plan:

"Crossbreeding ni**ers mean taking so many drops of good white blood and putting them into as many ni**er women as possible, varying the drops by the various tone that you want, and then letting them breed with each other until another circle of color appears as you desire," the text read. "What this means is this: Put the ni**ers and the horse in breeding pot, mix some asses and some good white blood, and what do you get? You got multiple of colors of ass backward, unusual ni**ers, running, tied to backward ass long-headed mules, the one productive of itself, the other sterile—the one constant, the other dying. We keep the ni**er constant for we may replace the mules for another tool. Both mule and ni**er tied to each other, neither knowing where the other came from and neither productive for itself, nor without each other."

Furthermore, he suggested destroying the mother language of Black people, and he wanted to limit the understanding of the English language.

"Being a fool is one of the basic ingredients of any incidents to the maintenance of the Slavery System," said Lynch.

By making us foolish, small differences like color shade could be used to break our unity—thus creating light skin verses dark skin. Lynch's plan ultimately was to take the small differences between Blacks and make them bigger. Lastly, he has to use a method to instill these differences among Blacks.

Additionally, Lynch had principles for breaking apart unified Black people and turning them into foolish slaves. He used fear as one of the mentally bonding chains. He suggested taking the strongest Black male, tying his arms and legs to two horses,

lighting him on fire and making the horses run in two different directions. He would then make the pregnant women, children, and slaves watch to instill this fear. He would then take another strong Black male and whip him to near death, but not enough to kill him. The pregnant women would pass this fear off onto their offspring and the children would have this image engraved in their brains. It was breaking the strong image of the Black male, making the woman independent of him. The male children would be made strong physically but weak mentally.

This process aided in allowing differences to become problematic. Those differences have created a rift within the Black race.

Such differences and inequalities also manifest in the work place, the criminal justice system, socioeconomic status and education. According to research by Arthur Goldsmith, Darrick Hamilton and William Darity, employers tend to prefer light skinned Black employees to dark skinned black employees.

Similarly, research by Jennifer Eberhardt, Paul Davies, Valeris Purdie-Vaughns, and Sheri Lynn Johnson demonstrates that "blacker-looking" African American males are more likely to receive the death penalty compared to their lighter-skinned counterparts for comparable capital crimes.

This "anti-Black" bias is evident in beauty standards and has caused self-hatred within the Black race. Beauty is measured by how white one looks. During an experiment performed in 2010—similar to the Clark Doll Experiment of 1939—three psychologists found Black children chose a white doll and associated the white doll with good characteristics over the black doll. Also, the black doll was associated with bad characteristics. The age group was four- to five-years of age and nine- to ten-years. At such ages, how do they know that Black is ugly? What images have they been shown that would make them believe that Black isn't beautiful?

It has also come to light, that Black celebrities are bleaching themselves. Some of the most notable Black celebrities accused of bleaching are Sammy Sosa, Rihanna, Beyoncé and many others who are not famous use dangerous skin bleaching creams, according to *Vibe.com*.

But why, what and who have convinced them that their skin wasn't beautiful when it was brown? Unbeknownst to them this self-hatred has been indirectly affecting them.

There is a solution to this Light Skinned-Dark Skinned problem and the issues that come with it, though. The solution to this problem is simple: Educate Black children at an early age about history and how race mixing was used as a weapon of mind control. Once they understand this, all the other issues such as self-hatred and the divisions are erased. This is the only way to ensure these mental chains are broken. Light Skin vs. Dark Skin was created through a process; therefore, education has to reverse that process. This teaching will have to be instilled into young children at an early age all the way into adulthood.

Once these teachings have been correctly executed, the process that Lynch instilled in the Black race will be broken completely. There will be a new enlightenment in the Black community, and there will be more progress as a race. Self-hatred will be a thing of the past. The inequalities that exist because of divisions made by our ignorance will be no more. The Black race will be unified and strong like it once was before our enslavement.

The writer of this piece, Akira X Roberson, belongs to the Muhammad Mosque No. 28 in St. Louis, MO, is a member of the Nation of Islam's Vanguard Class, and attends Francis Howell North High School.

BlackMen

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Merson Narcisse (2011 Int model of the year)

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