



ALWAYS BE CHIC

by Miss Kayce

Looking chic is as easy as ABC

KC LEYCO

ALWAYS BE CHIC BY MISS KAYCE

Dedication

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Mama,
you are and will always be
my sunshine.

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KC Leyco Mempin

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Published by HS Grafik Print

Pasig City, Philippines 1611

Telfax: +63 2 77483551

Mobile Number: +63 905 2160836

Email: kceustaquio@gmail.com

Website: www.paperkatbooks.com

Editing, Book Cover, and Inside Layout: Kath C. Eustaquio-Derla
Images from Pexels.com

Published in the Philippines

ISBN 978-621-8232-14-3 (epub)

ISBN 978-621-8232-16-7 (pdf)

ISBN 978-621-8232-15-0 (Mobi/Kindle)



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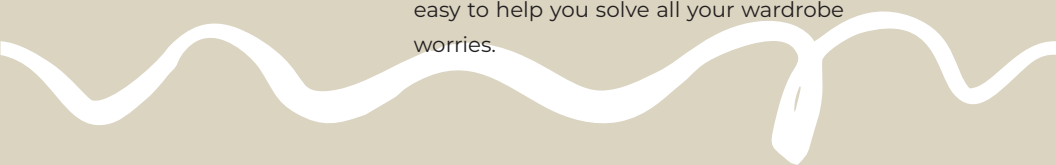


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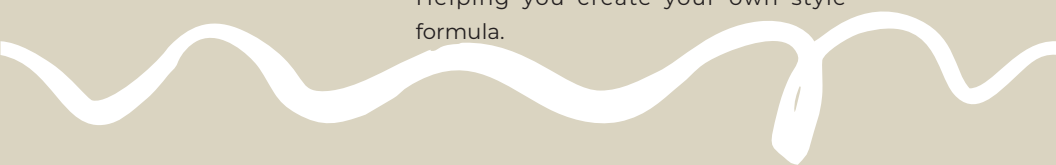


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ALWAYS BE CHIC BY MISS KAYCE

INTRODUCTION

THE SHIFT



TO CHIC

Where do I begin? What do I wear?

I often hear myself—and most people around me—say “I have nothing to wear!” Then, my husband would remind me about a top that I probably had stashed in my closet for a long time. And I can’t even remember it! Have I acquired that many clothes for me not to remember that I do have something to wear?

As a fashion and wardrobe stylist by profession, it is quite natural for me to have a ton of clothes, I guess. Part of the job is shopping. I used to shop for myself, along with my clients’ list of wardrobe requirements. If I see something unique, I’d grab it even if I don’t need it...yet. I’d tell myself, it’s good to have it already so when I need it, it’s already there. How often do I get to use those purchases? Well, quite often, especially for photoshoots and for some of my celebrity clients back then.

I like to have a well-curated collection of clothes and accessories even when I don’t need them yet. Of course, I keep them in model sizes, which was also my size back then. I’d always say to myself, well, if I don’t use it for work, I can always wear it because it is in my size anyway. Justification for every purchase was there each time my eyes lit up, reaching out for that fur vest, that pair of leather pants, and those knee-high boots. Heck, even if we are in a tropical country, I always end up buying these kinds of things. It’s **CHIC**, I’d tell myself, already imagining awesome looks I could see my client or myself wearing. Pairing these with just the basics and whatever ensemble I create would instantly be **CHIC**.

I'm good at shopping and sourcing. That's precisely why clients trust me that I could always pull off looks even at the last minute. My work experience made me good at what I do. I've been exposed to almost impossible deadlines to create looks for TV and magazines. There had been many times that I got last-minute calls for a project because clients felt I could deliver. And I always do. Sometimes, even more than what was expected.

I love my job to bits that I didn't mind almost living inside a van for years. I only go home to shower and prepare everything I need for the next shoot or show. I had no weekends and holidays. Even my dates with my then-boyfriend (now husband) had to be during my shopping and sourcing trips.

For those who don't know me or haven't heard of me, allow me to share my background. My career started in 2005. After quitting my job at a modeling agency where I handled professional models, I looked at what I can do to earn money without having to invest a lot of money at that time. I had to be creative and resourceful, so I asked myself, "Why not be a stylist?" It was something I liked to do because I love dressing up. My mom exposed me to fashion and dressing up well when I was younger. She's the one who always tells me to set the trends and not follow them; to be myself and always look good, and to enjoy fashion and express myself. And I always do.

I didn't care what others would say even if they don't understand my fashion statement. I have always been brave when it comes to my fashion choices and never apologized for being "me".

That passion I turned into a career right after I claimed to be a fashion stylist. I told everyone I know that I quit my job and started to offer to style for shoots. I started with some volunteer work. Six months into my career of styling shoots for portfolios and some magazine work referrals, I finally landed a project with a TV network. And yes, the rest is history.

My career picked up from then on. TV work paved the way to styling celebrities. I got to style for endorsements and more magazines. I also did styling for events and ad campaigns. I enjoyed all the work assigned to me. Seven years later, I slowed down by letting go of all my celebrity clients. Yes, I had to choose and prioritize. I got married and knew that for us to make it work, I would have to slow down. I chose work that will make me enjoy life as a wife. But, of course, being the workaholic that I am, I had to surround myself with work that will make me be able to do both—being a wife and a fashion stylist.

While work on the showbiz end slowed down, I put effort into building my menswear brand. We made suits and other custom-tailored menswear pieces. My career shifted as I shifted priorities in life. I not only prioritized marriage but also my health. All those unhealthy eating and sleeping habits had to change. Better meals and better sleep meant less stress and healthier well-being and outlook in life.

Even my taste in fashion changed as my lifestyle changed. My style shifted from what used to be bold, edgy, and colorful, with hands adorned with layers of bangles to a more minimalist one. I chose functional dresses and multi-wear items that I could use over and over. I decluttered my closet and what remained are the ones that are useful and loved. Yes, even before those documentaries and books on decluttering came out, I already started to let go of most of my clothes. They are still bold and edgy, but this time, they are more structured and streamlined. This is coming from someone who used to keep a journal of outfits I wore daily so I won't repeat my clothes for at least two months. I'm now keeping a collection of clothes to a minimum but with maximum style points.

That's what I want to share in this book. *Always Be Chic by Miss Kayce* will help you through your journey in streamlining your closet like a pro so you will never have to say "I have nothing to wear!" Whether you are someone looking for a guide to help you navigate a closet full of practical nice-to-haves; or a *tita* or *tito* who wants to clean out their closets to

welcome more good vibes; or even someone who is in a lifestyle transition (change of career, change of roles, even change in physical goals), it all starts when you want to shift, and begin again. Have that courage to want it for yourself. Open that closet door and let me take you on a journey to show you the power of a good wardrobe.

To look good is to feel good. Cliché as it may be, but we all have that one dress or pair of shoes or lipstick that helps us power through. Sometimes it can even be just playing your favorite song on repeat to get you through the day that makes us feel good. Feeling great gives you more confidence to do more and achieve more. You can focus on what you want, do what you want, and get what you want done.

My goal for everyone who finishes this book is for you to be able to curate your wardrobe in a way that suits yourself and give you a guide that you can use even after years. Throughout life changes, you can keep coming back to this book for inspiration.

Now, enough explaining what to expect. Let's enjoy the book, the journey, and celebrate what we are here for... LIFE! Dress it up the way you want to see it!

Cheers,

Miss Kayce





END OF TEASER

P A P E R K A T B O O K S . C O M