

#0005

Spring 25

IMBUE

Fashion Magazine

Creative Feature:

Brandy

Penelope

DEMI BASTON

DYSTOPIAN GARDEN

Fashion

**Dystopian
Dress Code**

Curated by:
Ellie Mariyo



The image features a large, bold, black graphic of the lowercase letters 'r' and 'B' in a stylized, calligraphic font. The letters are set against a background of a heavily distressed, textured surface that resembles old, scratched paper or weathered metal. The texture is composed of various shades of grey, black, and off-white, with numerous fine scratches, scuffs, and mottled patches. The 'r' has a thick vertical stem and a rounded, open-bottom bowl. The 'B' has a similar thick stem and two rounded bowls, one above and one below the stem. The overall aesthetic is gritty and industrial.

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The background of the entire page is composed of three overlapping images of blue denim jeans. Each pair of jeans features prominent orange-colored stitching along the seams, pockets, and waistbands. The jeans are arranged in a way that they appear to be layered, with one pair in the foreground and two others slightly behind it. The lighting is even, highlighting the texture of the denim and the contrast of the orange thread.

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On the cover: Demi Baston wears Black Dandelion





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Editors Note

Spring is here, and with it comes the perfect time for fresh starts and bold moves. For our sixth issue of Imbued Fashion Magazine, we're stepping into a dystopian garden right in the heart of the city—a space where resilience and reinvention collide, and fashion takes root as the symbol of something bigger.

This issue isn't just about looks or trends; it's about rebirth—for our magazine, our creative community, and Chicago itself. Just like wildflowers pushing through the cracks in concrete, this city's fashion scene is unstoppable, vibrant, and full of surprises. Every shoot, every story, every piece in this issue reflects the determination to build beauty where it's least expected.

At the core of this issue is an exclusive conversation with Brandi Penelope, a creative director who understands that transformation in fashion is more than just fabric—it's storytelling, identity, and power. Our fashion editors, curate key pieces to transition into spring, proving that style is not just about what we wear, but how we evolve.

Bringing our Dystopian Garden to life is cover star Demi Baston of Select Model, captured by the talented Alina Gofman. This editorial fuses structure with organic movement, where futuristic undertones meet raw, untamed beauty—a reflection of the world we live in, and the world we're building.

But beyond fashion, this issue is a statement. As a Latino-owned publication, we stand with those who push forward despite the odds, those who are seeking a better future, and those who refuse to be overlooked. Fashion, like humanity, knows no borders. Chicago's streets are our runway, its voices our muse.

Six issues in, we're still learning, still growing, and still finding ways to build a community that will catapult Chicago onto the global fashion map. It's not easy, but if there's one thing we know, it's that this city's strength is unmatched. Chicago knows how to adapt, innovate, and thrive—and that's exactly what we're here to celebrate.

Thank you for being part of this journey. We're not just watching Chicago's fashion scene bloom—we're making it happen together.

Stay Fly, Stay Imbued.


@stiletto0b0ss_

Marlene's Edit

EDITORS CHOICE

Every season brings a new wave of style, but true fashion is about curation—selecting pieces that stand the test of time while embracing the now. As Imbued Fashion Magazine's Editor-in-Chief, I've handpicked a collection of standout pieces that reflect innovation, craftsmanship, and individuality. From bold accessories to elevated home essentials, these selections are more than just trends—they're statements. Consider this your guide to investing in style that lasts.



Chisel Lounge Chair, \$1,695; dwr.com



Vintage Emerald, \$110; antiqlux.com



Paloma Heel \$225; brandonblackwood.com



Silk Scarf, \$110; alwaysgrevi.com



Alston Chain Top \$95; innovaredenim.com



Coinbag; \$48; hobobags.com



Speedcat OG \$100; us.puma.com



Fringe cuff, \$48; productionmodechicago.com

Photo courtesy of brand/website

Trending



THE SHADES

Billy Aviators, \$85; www.freyrs.com

Photo Courtesy of Brand



THE BAG

Signature Mini Tote, Kwenti \$202; www.kwentico.com



THE SHOE

Speedex 23 Shoes, \$180; www.adidas.com



ADORNED IN POURPOSE

Photographer: BLAKE MARTIN
Model: Kenya Rodriguez
Hair: Flawless Beauty by Nicole
Makeup: Chassidy Mickale
Styling: Marlene Anzaldúa
Accessories: coco + peach jewelry







Creative Feature:

BRANDY PENELOPE

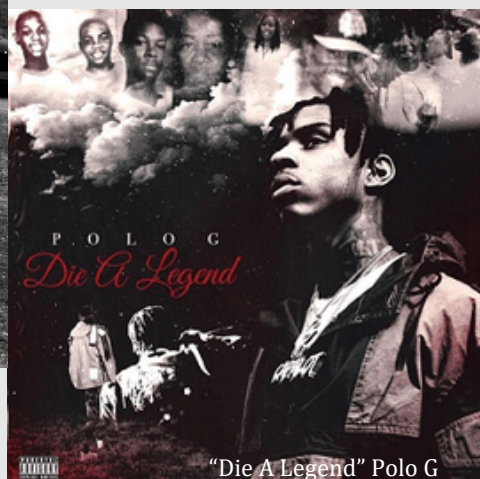


On Fashion, Culture, and Building a Legacy

Brandy Penelope is a trailblazer whose work as a creative director transcends fashion and delves deep into the heart of culture. Raised amidst the vibrant streets of Chicago, Brandy's love for style and storytelling was sparked at an early age, thanks to her mom's impeccable fashion sense and stacks of Jet and Ebony magazines that inspired her pride in the city's rich culture. Today, her passion, vision, and dedication to her craft have earned her recognition in major publications like Billboard, GQ, and XXL.

From styling chart-topping artists like Polo G to reigniting her career momentum during the pandemic with G Herbo, Brandy's journey has been as authentic as the city she calls home. Her ability to merge streetwear with high fashion and her commitment to empowering Chicago's next generation of creatives make her a pillar of the city's artistic community.

In this interview, Brandy opens up about her personal style evolution, the influence of 90s hip-hop and Chicago culture, her challenges in the industry, and her upcoming project, *Homecoming*, which aims to unite Chicago's creative community. Join us as Brandy shares her story and vision for the city that shaped her.







DJ Spin King 50 Cent / NYC Radio DJ

Q: Growing up, what sparked your interest in fashion and creative direction?

Brandy: Absolutely, my mom was a total fashionista! She was a full-time accountant but worked part-time at Marshall Fields for many years. So, I was exposed to a lot of brands early on that other kids didn't necessarily wear. I had access to designer pieces like Jean-Paul Gaultier and DKNY at a huge discount through the employee shop. Growing up in the heart of Chicago, I'd walk to Michigan Ave and Water Tower to people-watch and soak in the city's diverse styles. I also loved my mom's Jet and Ebony magazines—those were Chicago staples that made me feel proud of our culture. Later, I got into VIBE magazine, and 90s hip-hop became a huge influence on me

Q: Which projects stand out as pivotal moments in your career?

Brandy: Looking back, they all feel pivotal in some way, but two moments stand out. The first was my early work with Polo G. We both come from the same general area and were experiencing a lot of firsts together—his first press photos, first major-budget video, and first album cover were also my firsts. We were learning and growing together. The second was after my son was born and during the pandemic. I was struggling to get my momentum back, but then I was asked to work on G Herbo's album rollout. That opportunity helped me reclaim my confidence and reestablish my momentum.

Q: How does Chicago influence your creative process?

Brandy: Chicago is the singular influence of my creative process. I have so much pride in my city and its unique styles. Chicago isn't boastful; it's prideful. We don't just copy other places—we adapt and make trends our own. Even during the 90s, when NY hip-hop influenced style, Chicagoans added their own twist. The drill era and artists like Chief Keef helped re-popularize brands like Polo and Moncler. We've inspired a lot of global trends but don't always get credit for it—and honestly, I don't think we care.

Q: Can you walk us through your creative process?

Brandy: Each project is different, but I always start with the ask: What's being asked of me? What do I want to achieve? I work backward from there, focusing on deliverables and timelines. I'm not a big fan of mood boards—they're usually someone else's images, and I'd rather spend my time bringing my own ideas to life. My process is deeply tied to how I feel. I love to interact with fashion physically—touching, feeling, and experiencing pieces. I'm not a computer girlie; I'm outside.

Q: What challenges have you faced as a creative director, and how have you navigated them?

Brandy: I don't like to acknowledge "obstacles," but I've definitely had learning experiences. Differences of opinion with artists or employers have taught me to take more control of my art. I understand that art is subjective, and there's no right or wrong, but my taste level comes from my lived experiences. I've seen things in real life that others might have only Googled. My solution has been compromise, but ideally, I'd like to work with people who trust my vision completely.

Q: How has your approach to choosing collaborations evolved?

Brandy: In the beginning, they chose me—I took whatever work came my way and made the best of it. Now, I'm much more intentional. I want to align myself with brands that value art and want to give back to Chicago. My focus is on building a legacy, creating work that I can look back on and be proud of.

Q: How would you describe your personal style, and how does it influence your work?

Brandy: My style is diverse. I've always been drawn to menswear, but I'm also very girly. Shows like *Sex and the City* influenced me greatly—it made me want to pursue a fashion career. I'm also inspired by anime, the Jetsons, 90s hip-hop, and, of course, Chicago. The Jordan/Bulls franchise, Kanye, and Virgil have all impacted my style. A lot of men love the way I dress, which is cool because it speaks to the versatility of my personal style.

Q: Do you engage in mentoring or community work in Chicago?

Brandy: Absolutely! I love working with students and giving back. I used to teach art and music in a program I curated in Englewood, which was so rewarding. Recently, I worked with Timberland and SocialWorks to set up an in-kind store on the West Side. I also do panels and hire local talent for my projects. I'm currently working on a new program curated by me, which I'm really excited about.

Q: What advice would you give to aspiring creatives in Chicago?

Brandy: Start now. Be prepared for trial and error—things won't always go as planned, but pivoting is part of the process. Envision your destination and take steps that align with it. It's okay to work a job while pursuing your dreams, but always leave time for your passion. Have values and integrity—stand for something. You'll be tested, but those tests will make you stronger. Happy dreaming!

**Follow @brandypenelope |
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CHICAGO IS THE
SINGULAR
INFLUENCE OF MY
CREATIVE PROCESS. I
HAVE SO MUCH
PRIDE IN MY CITY
AND ITS UNIQUE
STYLES.

-Brandy Penelope





Ticara Devone

Walking the Walk: Ticara Devone's Journey Through Sneakers and Style

From the streets of Chicago to working with some of the biggest names in footwear, Ticara Devone is redefining sneaker culture—one step at a time.

01

Introduction



Ticara Devone is a powerhouse in the sneaker world. A Chicago native with an eye for style and an undeniable passion for footwear, she's carved a space for herself as a respected sneaker reporter and content creator. Having collaborated with industry giants like Nike, Jordan, and Timberland, Ticara's journey is a testament to dedication, resilience, and a deep love for the culture. In this exclusive interview, she shares insights into her path, inspirations, and what's next for her.

Ticara Devone

Reflecting on Your Journey: Looking back, would your 7-year-old self be proud of who you've become and the path you've taken?

Seven-year-old me probably wouldn't pay me much mind—I was just a kid in second grade! But high school me? She'd be over the moon. Back then, I was all about getting early sneaker releases and making sure I had the hottest pairs. Who would've thought that same passion would turn into a career?

Growing up in Chicago, how did the city's culture and fashion scene influence your passion for sneakers and fashion?

Being from the West Side of Chicago, you had to have clean kicks for back-to-school—that was the time to step out. As Jim Jones recently put it, I saw the neighborhood guys rocking fresh Air Force 1s every week. We didn't want to follow their path, but we definitely wanted to match their fly. The Pelle Pelle coats, Timberland boots—it was all a big part of our style, and it definitely influenced my love for fashion. I didn't even get my first Pelle until college!

What challenges did you face as a sneaker reporter and content creator, and how did you overcome them?

When I started, the sneaker space was heavily male-dominated. Most blogs and platforms were run by men and catered to a male audience. But I entered at a time when women were starting to carve out their own lanes, launching their own platforms and sharing their perspectives. We had to be the change we wanted to see, and that work is still ongoing.

Among your partnerships with brands like Nike, Jordan, and Timberland, which project stands out the most and why?

Two projects stand out. First, being part of the inaugural Jordan Women's Collective in 2020. That moment was major—Chicago's All-Star Weekend was the launch of the first Jordan Women's line, and I was part of it. The pandemic slowed down the momentum afterward, but the experience itself was special.

Second, working with Nike as the digital host for Nike School Chicago. It was an incredible program where a small group of creators went from weekly sessions to a full-on trip to Nike's headquarters in Portland. That experience was unreal.

Do you have a favorite shoe designer or brand that you admire? What about their designs resonates with you?

Two brands immediately come to mind: Nike and Maison Margiela. Nike's ability to evolve and stay relevant across generations is inspiring—they started as a running brand and are now deeply woven into every aspect of culture. And Margiela? I used to be a Tabi hater! But after really exploring my style, I grew to love their unique, artistic approach to footwear. When I wear their shoes, I feel like I'm wearing art. I actually have three pieces in my cart right now!

What are your go-to spots in Chicago for fashion inspiration, shopping, or just unwinding?

How much time do you have?! Laughs A few of my favorites: Monday Coffee for an amazing Dirty Chai—tell them Ticara sent you! The Pop Up for unique global fashion finds at fair prices. And Semillas for stunning floral arrangements. I could go on and on!

You've mentioned wanting young girls to look at you and say, "I can do it too." What advice would you give to aspiring fashion enthusiasts from Chicago?

Try EVERYTHING. Explore every style that catches your eye. It doesn't have to be designer—find an affordable version, thrift if you need to! The key to discovering your style is experimenting and having fun with it.

What's next for you? Are there any upcoming projects or goals you're excited about?

In February, I'm hosting my first women's business owner dinner in Chicago, and I'm so excited to bring this group together. Beyond that, I'm always brainstorming new projects, so hopefully, you'll see some of my ideas come to life throughout the year!

How has your personal style evolved over the years, and what influences your fashion choices today?

I've learned to embrace change and take risks with my wardrobe. Early on, my style was very tomboy/girl, and while I still love that, I've started incorporating more feminine elements. I even wear heels on nights out now! The pandemic had us all living in sweats and sneakers, so I use special occasions as a chance to switch it up. But don't get it twisted—I still rock my sneakers!



**EXPLORE EVERY STYLE THAT CATCHES
YOUR EYE. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE
DESIGNER—FIND AN AFFORDABLE
VERSION, THRIFT IF YOU NEED TO!**

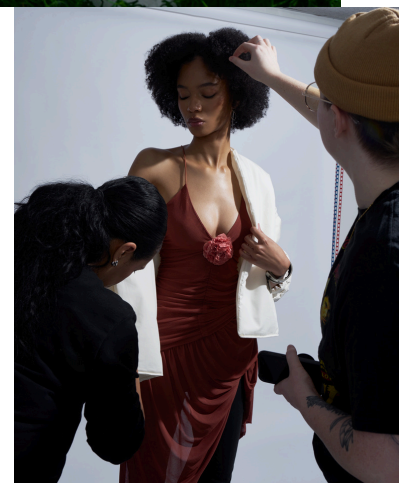
Ticara Devone

DYSTOPIAN GARDEN

Photographed by ALINA GOFMAN
Model DEMI BASTON / SELECT MODEL CHICAGO
Styled by MARLENE ANZALDUA &
Fashion Assist by NATALIE POTACH
Hair & Makeup MO DRENNON
Moss Arrangement by PALA.FLORAL
Space by BOX STUDIO CHICAGO



Puffer Jacket: Parsoul
Boots: Steve Madden
Cuff: Oath Tech
Sunglasses: Stylist owns
Pants: Cider
Dress: Stylist owns
Earring: Forever21





Vest: Oath Tech
Bralette: Scottie By Design
Dress: Cider
Gold cuff: Stylist owns
Earcuff: Stylist owns
Glasses: Stylist owns
Flower ring: Stylist owns





SWEATER: PALESTINE
HEADSCARF: PALESTINE
JACKET: PALESTINE

Jacket: Mycra Pac
Bodysuit: Parsoul
Legwarmers: Oct-br
Shoes: H&M





Dress: Rosevelvet
Choker: Oath Tech



STUDIO CITY
LA COUR

Dress: Rosevelvet
Choker/Cuff: Oath Tech
Shoes: Donald Pliner



Dress: Sisumoir
Harness: Oath Tech
Shoes: Steve Madden



BRAND FEATURE

Vintage Dreams In Full Colors

The Heart & Soul of Chicago's Most Vibrant Vintage Shop

By Chau The Curator

There's a saying: if you want to look inside a person's brain, look at their living space. Well, stepping into Jennifer Kelly's brain must be one hell of a ride—because that's exactly what it feels like when you enter Vintage Frills, the first (and so far only) color-coordinated cubby vintage shop in Logan Square, Chicago.

From the moment you walk in, it's like being pulled into a lucid dream at a 1970s disco party. Cotton candy clouds and colorful parasol umbrellas hang from the ceiling, while every inch of wall space is covered with unique framed artwork or hilariously random signage. If there's a place where the memories of the past live on and party until the

end of time, it's Vintage Frills. It's no doubt Jennifer's extraordinary knack for preserving and elevating iconic history with her maximalist touch. But Vintage Frills didn't appear out of nowhere. Its story begins with Jennifer Kelly herself—a generational retail rockstar.



LEFT PAGE

New Year's Eve display section at Vintage Frills

RIGHT PAGE

Jennifer Kelly, owner & manager of Vintage Frills, wearing Chanel beret, Tiffany & Co accessories
Taken by Chau The Curator

Jennifer grew up in Rose-land's resale store, The Sleep Shop, where her mother worked and raised her. That early ex-posure planted the seeds for Jennifer's love of retail and vintage as she spent her child- hood and teenage years roam- ing the store's timeless aisles.

When Jennifer went to then Illinois Institute of Art, she majored in Fashion Business and wasted no time crafting her path. It was during this time that she drafted the orig- inal business plan for what would eventually become Vin- tage Frills. "It started with the title 'People with Good Taste,' which is way too long, but I was able to create kind of like my business plan there," Jenni- fer recalls. However, she didn't dive into the reselling field un- til more than a decade later.

Instead, Jennifer honed her skills in luxury retail, working at Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue, Gucci, and Tiffany & Co. There, she gained inval- uable experience that she would one day bring to her own ven- ture. "I'm actually thankful that working in luxury taught me about being full circle—going by the book when necessary but also thinking outside the box as needed," Jennifer says.

While climbing the retail at- ladder, Jennifer found herself feeling unfulfilled. As a new mother, she noticed that very few people in luxury retail



had children, and she wanted a better work-life balance. In December 2019, she transitioned to a corporate role at Uber, but once again, God's timing had other plans. "Two months later, everything shut down," Jennifer recalls of the pandemic's onset. Quarantine gave her the chance to revisit the business plan she had drafted years earlier. She envisioned a space that catered to people who love quality and classic luxury without breaking

"I'm thankful that working in luxury taught me about being full circle—going by the book when necessary but also thinking outside the box as needed,"

the bank. One day, she stumbled upon an unconventional storefront with cubicle-like rooms, once used for physical therapy. It was perfect. "It was like it was built for me," Jennifer says. Despite her fears, she took the leap, rented the space, and Vintage Frills was officially born—a decade after its original conception... Today, Vintage Frills houses hundreds of quality vintage clothes, jewelry, accessories, and glassware from the 1940s through the 2010s, all at af-

fordable prices. The shop's color-coordinated cubbies are a crowd favorite, but what keeps people coming back is the unique selection of one-of-a-kind, high-quality pieces that fast fashion can't replicate. Beyond its sustainable fashion impact, Vintage Frills is deeply rooted in the community. Jennifer organizes events like Karaoke Kweens and the Garland and Glamour Holiday Fashion Show, bringing together artists, curators, and local businesses in a fun, sup-

portive environment. "One of my favorite things to do was go to fashion shows and drag shows. So I thought, why don't I have my own? The bottom line is just to have fun and get your customers involved," Jennifer shares. Jennifer's generosity extends beyond events. College students, artists, and creatives often find a helping hand at Vintage Frills. "In college, I didn't have a place like this. I was looking for stores where I could maybe borrow clothes for a fashion show or project, but they didn't exist. So I come with open arms to college students because I know the struggle," Jennifer explains.

“

One of my favorite things to do was go to fashion shows and drag shows.

So I thought...why don't I have my own?

LEFT PAGE

Wicked Fashion Show hosted by Vintage Frills at Chicago Vintage Festival. Styled by Vintage Frills team. Models @pooyea707 @erikajooooo Photograph by @SydAndTheCityPhotography

RIGHT PAGE

Portrait of Jennifer in the store 'Yellow Room'





Red Room



LEFT PAGE

'The Red Room' at Vintage Frills store

RIGHT PAGE

Polaroids of drag queens who has performed at Vintage Frills on the store's wall Taken by Chau The Curator



Vintage Frills is now stepping into its fourth year, and the future looks bright. Jennifer envisions expanding thoughtfully—perhaps with a storefront in Hyde

Park—but staying deeply connected to her community remains her top priority. She has no plans to turn Vintage Frills into a chain, ensuring it remains a uniquely curated space.

More than just a vintage shop, Vintage Frills has become a true third-place for fashion lovers—those

who seek not only one-of-a-kind style but also an un-

deniable appreciation for craftsmanship. Shopping here is an experience in itself, from browsing by color to rediscovering nostalgic treasures that breathe

new life into the present and future.

If that sounds like the perfect shopping date with your bestie,

stop by Vintage Frills

at 2846 N Milwaukee Ave—and don't

forget to say hi to Jen!

In college, I didn't have a place like this...where I could maybe borrow clothes for a fashion show or project,

So I come with open arms to college students because I know the struggle

Jennifer Kelly is living proof that with purpose, patience, resilience, and a little bit of maximalism, you can turn a lifelong dream

into a reality—one that uplifts an entire community.



GILDED RUIN: SPRING AWAKENS IN A DYSTOPIAN GARDEN

A collaborative AI-driven exploration of dystopian beauty, where human creativity and machine imagination intertwine.



Prompt for entire spread: a mixed metals jewelry focused editorial spread where the vibe is an overgrown, abandoned greenhouse. Where dust particles catch the dim, moody light filtering through cracked glass. A sense of forgotten, ultra-detailed, cinematic lighting, high-fashion surrealism. Models in a mixture of muted colors like dusty pink, dusty greens, earthy tones sheer material paired with leather pieces for wardrobe. Models can be seen walking through in search of something important like jewelry. Give different angles of the greenhouse when showcasing models. Give detail shots of wardrobe and accessories.





















Curated by Katie De Luna

SPRING SHIFT

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



- 1. Cropped sweater, \$28.95; [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)
- 2. Chiffon dress, \$188; [asos.com](https://www.asos.com)
- 3. Denim Midi Skirt, \$347; [mytheresa.com](https://www.mytheresa.com)
- 4. Necklace, \$48; [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)
- 5. Sunglasses, \$490; [nordstrom.com](https://www.nordstrom.com)
- 6. Mary Janes, \$775; [net-a-porter.com](https://www.net-a-porter.com)

KEY PIECES FOR THE NEW SEASON

Whether you're going away for spring or running the city with your girl friends. Here are some essentials that are the perfect inspiration for your spring closet.

1.



2.



4.



3.



5.



6.



7.



1. Transperant unmbrella, \$15; hm.com

2. Handbag, \$169; amazon.com

3. Sandals, \$220; seresfootwear.com

4. Scraf, \$48; aritzia.com

5. Trench Coat, \$125; shop-confidence.com

6. Top, \$58; shernettswaby.com

7. Denim pants, \$360; shopbop.com



Style Guide

THE DYSTOPIAN DRESS CODE: PLUS SIZE EDIT

Pieces curated by Ellie Mariyo,
Styled by E.I.C

A rebellion against fashion norms—structured, ethereal, and made for movement.

Fashion is no longer a luxury; it's a form of rebellion, a statement of resilience in a world that demands conformity.

This season, we step into the future. Spring's silhouettes are sharp, fluid, and defiant—corsets as armor, trench coats as shields, sheer fabrics whispering untold secrets. Every look is built for those who refuse to disappear, who reclaim power through presence.

Image credit: Air Vagabond Media



Image credit: Ai, Magic Media

THE WARRIOR PRINCESS (Regal + Battle-Ready)

Dystopian Edge: A royal figure ready for battle.

- **Base Look:** [Kate High Court Dress](#) (\$410)
- **Layering Hack:** [Skirt Belt](#) (\$39) over the waist to break up the volume.
- **Accessories:**
 - [Oversized Gold Necklace](#) (\$890) for bold elegance.
 - [Crossbody Clutch](#) (\$318) for a modern touch.
 - [Slide-on Mid Boot](#) (\$450) for grounding.



NIGHTFALL NOMAD (Sleek + Ready)

Dystopian Edge: The traveler who carries stories in their style.

- **Base Look:** Lace-up Mini Dress (\$69)
- **Layering Hack:** Leather Trench (\$571) for protection.
 - Backpack (\$159) tucked underneath for extra depth
 - Swirl Earrings (\$50) for drama.
 - Laceup Boot (\$1,200) for an adventurer's feel.



Image credit: Ai, Magic Media



Image credit: Ai, Magic Media

EXECUTIVE DISSENTER (Tailored + Rebellious)

Dystopian Edge: A leader who wields influence with every look.

- **Base Look:** Double Breasted Blazer (\$75)
- **Layering Hack:** Corset Top (\$29) for a sheer, unexpected contrast.
 - Track Trousers (\$80) for an ultra-luxe, futuristic feel.
 - Shoulderbag (\$79) for practicality.
 - Lug boots (\$75) for power.



URBAN TRENCH REBELLION (STRUCTURED + TACTICAL EDGE)

Dystopian Edge: A strategist, always prepared for the next move.

- **Base Look:** [Henning x US Park Soft Trench](#) (\$228)
- **Layering Hack:** [Square Neck Black Corset](#) (\$118) over [Wide Leg Pants](#) (\$46)
 - [Oversized Earrings](#) (\$339) for contrast.
 - [Shoulder Bag](#) (\$495) for everyday utility.
 - [Point Te Boot](#) (\$109) for grounding



Image credit: Ai, Magic Media





Image credit: Ai, Magic Media

MESH + LEATHER UNDERGROUND (Dark + Edgy Layers)

Dystopian Edge: An underground rebel blending softness with strength.

- **Base Look:** Mesh Maxi Dress (\$55)
- **Layering Hack:** Faux Leather Leggings (\$49) underneath for layering warmth.
 - Crossbody (\$149) for a sleek finish.
 - Chain Belt (\$79) for waist definition.
 - Fanned Earrings (\$116) for drama.
 - Union Booties (\$109) for grounding



Image by Pogrebko

Beauty Editors Choice

SPRING 2025



Beauty

As the seasons shift, so should your beauty routine. Winter's heavy creams and protective layers make way for lightweight hydration, gentle renewal, and sun-kissed radiance. This spring, we're embracing beauty that is ethical, sustainable, and designed for every skin tone

Beauty Editor Annikah Godard has curated a list of must-have products that check all the right boxes—women-owned, vegan, cruelty-free, sulfate & paraben-free, and gluten-free. From gentle cleansers to SPF-packed glow enhancers, these seven picks will have you stepping into Spring 2025 with fresh, radiant skin.

Curated by Annikah Godard

GLOW INTO THE NEW SEASON WITH CLEAN, CONSCIOUS BEAUTY



Gentle Cleanser: Flora & Noor Rose Renewal Cleanser \$28.00

Transition to a gentle yet effective cleanse with Flora & Noor's Rose Renewal Cleanser, formulated with aloe vera, rose water, lactic acid, and shea butter to nourish and refresh the skin. Designed for melanin-rich skin and those with chronic skin conditions, this Halal-certified brand ensures a soothing and revitalizing cleansing experience.



Deep Exfoliation: Prakti PaviPure™ Warming Detox Mask \$56.00

For thorough exfoliation to combat winter dryness, consider the PaviPure™ Warming Detox Mask by Prakti. This detoxifying clay mask remains luxuriously creamy without drying on the skin, targeting congestion, minimizing pores, and strengthening the skin barrier.



Body Care: Herbal Everything's Honey Brown Sugar Exfoliating Body Scrub \$15.00

Don't forget to pamper your body with the fragrance-free Honey Brown Sugar Scrub by Herbal Everything's. This scrub is formulated with three simple ingredients and is ideal for ingrown hairs, acne, lips, bikini lines, body, face, and feet. Owned by a Black female scientist, herbalist, and farmer, the CEO is dedicated to promoting a plant-based lifestyle with educational materials alongside her brand's skin care products.

Photo courtesy of brand/website



Lightweight Moisturizer: Bolden SPF 30 Brightening Face Moisturizer \$28.00

Transition to lighter products like Bolden's SPF 30 Brightening Face Moisturizer that will feel light and look bright. Infused with Vitamin C, it applies clear without a chalky residue, making it ideal for melanin-rich skin with additional UVA/UVB protection.



Lip Care: Black Girl Sunscreen Make It Pop™ Sungloss™ Lip Gloss with SPF \$10.99


For those who love a glossy finish, try the Make It Pop™ Sungloss™ Lip Gloss with SPF 50. Formulated with hyaluronic acid, tripeptides, and jojoba, it offers sun protection while keeping your lips glossy and hydrated. 

Photo courtesy of brand/website



Multipurpose Oil: Kreyol Essence Haitian Moringa Oil \$25.00

Are you familiar with black castor oil? Take it a step further with Kreyol Essence's Haitian Moringa Oil. Extracted from Moringa Oleifera seeds, this multipurpose oil is packed with anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and antimicrobial properties, making it a powerhouse for skin and hair care. Often called "liquid gold", this oil not only nourishes but also supports Haiti's economic development and environmental restoration with every purchase..



Sun Protection: Black Girl Sunscreen Make It Glow™ SPF 30 \$22.99

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Spring Awakening: A Fresh Start for Your Beauty Routine

As the seasons shift, so should your beauty routine. Spring is the perfect time to refresh, renew, and embrace lighter, skin-loving essentials that enhance your natural glow. This season, we're spotlighting six must-have beauty products designed to hydrate, protect, and revitalize—because beauty isn't just about trends; it's about feeling your best. Whether it's a nourishing cleanser, a skin-loving SPF, or the perfect multipurpose oil, these picks will have you stepping into spring with confidence.



◀ Hair Towel

Microfiber
Quick Drying.
Hair Towel
\$8.50

Lip Mask ▶

Supercharged
Citrus Lip
Mask
\$9.50



Scalp ▶ Massage

Clarifying
Scalp Massage
Brush
\$9



◀ Body Mist

St. Barts Hair and
Body Mist
\$28

Ice ▶ Roller

CryoRoll
Ice Roller
\$18



◀ Faicial Massager

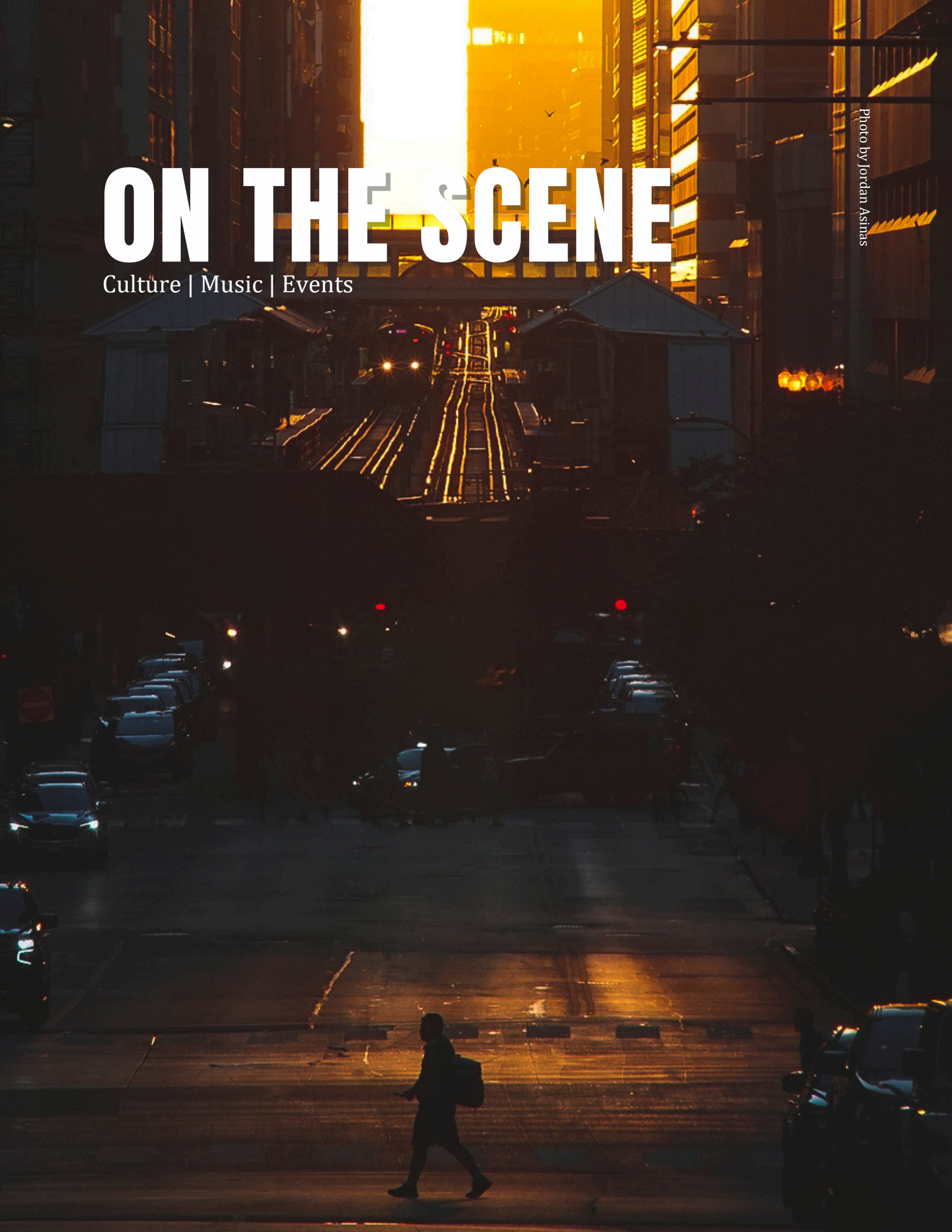
Rose Quartz Gua
Sha Facial
Massager
\$45



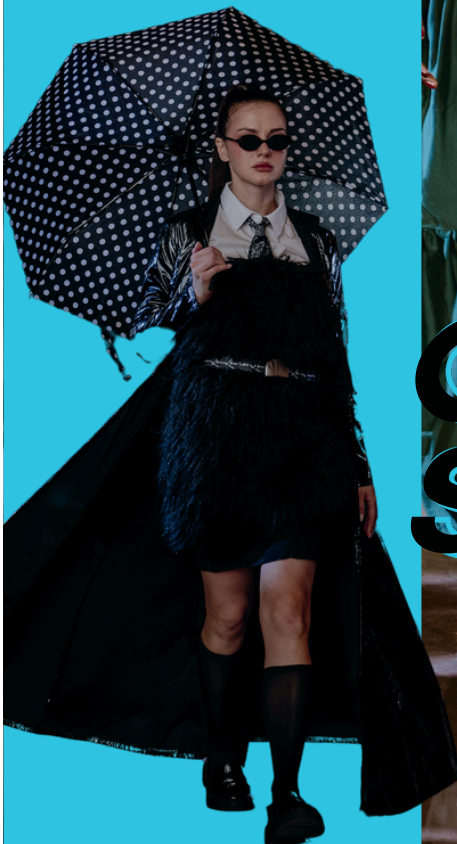
ON THE SCENE

Culture | Music | Events

Photo by Jordan Asinas



CHICAGO FASHION SHOWCASE



OPEN SUBMISSIONS

**BEGIN
FEBRUARY
28TH**

Follow @chicagofashionshowcase for more information



Set a calendar reminder, Chicago Fashion Showcase is back in October at the iconic Union Station. Embrace your inner style enthusiast at the CFS, where creativity intertwines with innovation.

This year, the iconic Union Station is transformed into a dazzling canvas of artistry and flair, as the city's vibrant fashion scene takes center stage. As the sun sets, the architectural beauty of the station will provide a breathtaking backdrop for an evening dedicated to redefining trends and pushing the boundaries of style.

Prepare to be inspired by dynamic panel discussions featuring influential voices that are shaping the fashion landscape today. Discover curated pop-up shops showcasing the hottest local designers, offering you the chance to snag one-of-a-kind pieces that will

CHICAGO FASHION SHOWCASE RETURNS IN OCTOBER

elevate your wardrobe. And don't miss the mesmerizing fashion shows that promise to capture the very essence of Chicago's eclectic spirit, leaving you spellbound.

Now in its fourth year, the Chicago Fashion Showcase is more than just an event—it's a vibrant celebration that weaves together fashion, culture, and community into a magnificent tapestry. So, gather your style-savvy friends, don your most fabulous ensemble, and get ready to dive into the enchanting world of Chicago's fashion scene. This is one trendsetting experience you simply cannot afford to miss!

The Backstory

In Chicago, new things in the world of fashion generate a huge excitement. The Chicago Fashion Showcase, an event that combines art, music, fashion shows, panel discussions and shopping in one place, unfolds like a true celebration from midday until night. Since 2015, when the need for greater fashion became apparent in the city, this event has been created to promote spaces and creativity in the clothing industry.

This event not only showcases clothes, but also celebrates the diversity of culture and art, creating an environment where creators and lovers of fashion come together. An event like this not only provides clothes, but also a forum for the exchange of ideas and collaboration between different players in the world of fashion. Chicago, a city with a rich history and vibrant culture, is now even more prominent on the global fashion scene.

To stay up to date on when tickets will be available and designers updates visit chicagofashionshowcase.com & instagram [@chicagofashionshowcase](https://www.instagram.com/chicagofashionshowcase)





MUSIC

Introducing our music section, where fashion meets the rhythm of the Midwest! As we continue to elevate Chicago fashion, we're also shining a spotlight on the vibrant sounds that shape our city's unique style. From the gritty streets of Chicago to the hidden gems of the Midwest, we're celebrating the artists whose music influences the culture and trends we love. Join us as we explore the sonic landscape of the Windy City and beyond, connecting the dots between fashion and the music that moves us.

Image by: Artist



Scan to Listen



When You Call - Just DC

photo by Juan Osorio



Scan to Listen



Shaggy Head- Emma Ohm

Photo by Ponypics Photography



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Image credit: Ai, Magic Media

SPRING 2025 HOROSCOPES: FIND YOUR CHIC POWER PIECE

This season, fashion blooms in the cracks of a dystopian dreamscape—where raw metal meets untamed nature. Your horoscope isn't just about destiny; it's about statement pieces that embody your cosmic energy. From sculptural jewelry to futuristic silhouettes, let the stars guide you to the perfect industrial-chic accessory for spring. Let your sign guide you to the perfect fashion-forward statement piece, balancing grit with grace.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

Accessory: Steel-Tipped Boots

Soft yet strong, like you, Pisces. These structured boots bring an edge to your dreamy wardrobe, keeping you grounded while you float between realities.

Aries (March 21 - April 19)

Accessory: Metallic Utility Vest

Function meets fearless fashion. A bold utility vest in brushed silver or matte black lets you charge into spring with warrior energy and unmatched confidence.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

Accessory: Concrete-Inspired Handbag

A structured bag in slate gray or muted stone tones embodies your love for stability and luxury. Practical, polished, and built to last—just like you.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Accessory: Asymmetrical Hardware Jewelry

Your dual nature shines in mixed-metal rings, layered chains, and architectural earrings. These pieces add the unexpected contrast your ever-changing aesthetic craves.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

Accessory: Distressed Leather Trench

A tough exterior with a soft touch—sound familiar? This industrial-chic trench gives you an armor-like elegance, perfect for stepping into spring with quiet power.

Leo (July 23 - August 22)

Accessory: Futuristic Statement Sunglasses

Command attention with bold, wraparound frames in metallic hues. These sleek shades scream confidence and mystery—because you were born to stand out.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

Accessory: Minimalist Steel Belt

Your eye for detail meets industrial edge with a sculptural steel belt, cinching your looks with precision. Clean, crisp, and endlessly refined—just like you.

Libra (September 23 - October 22)

Accessory: Industrial Floral Choker

Balance beauty and rebellion with a delicate-meets-industrial choker, blending metal accents with organic floral detailing. A poetic nod to dystopian romance.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

Accessory: Harness-Inspired Shoulder Bag

Mysterious yet practical, this structured bag adds intrigue to your wardrobe. Think matte leather, subtle hardware, and a touch of defiance.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

Accessory: Cargo-Style Jumpsuit

Effortlessly cool and always adventure-ready, a tailored industrial jumpsuit is your spring staple. Utilitarian pockets? Check. Endless styling possibilities? Absolutely.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

Accessory: Sculptural Metal Cuff

Commanding yet refined, a solid metal cuff adds quiet authority to your wardrobe. This piece mirrors your ambition—strong, structured, and undeniably timeless.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

Accessory: Deconstructed Denim Jacket

Raw hems, unexpected cuts, and unconventional layering make this industrial-chic piece your ultimate statement. Because you thrive on standing apart from the crowd.



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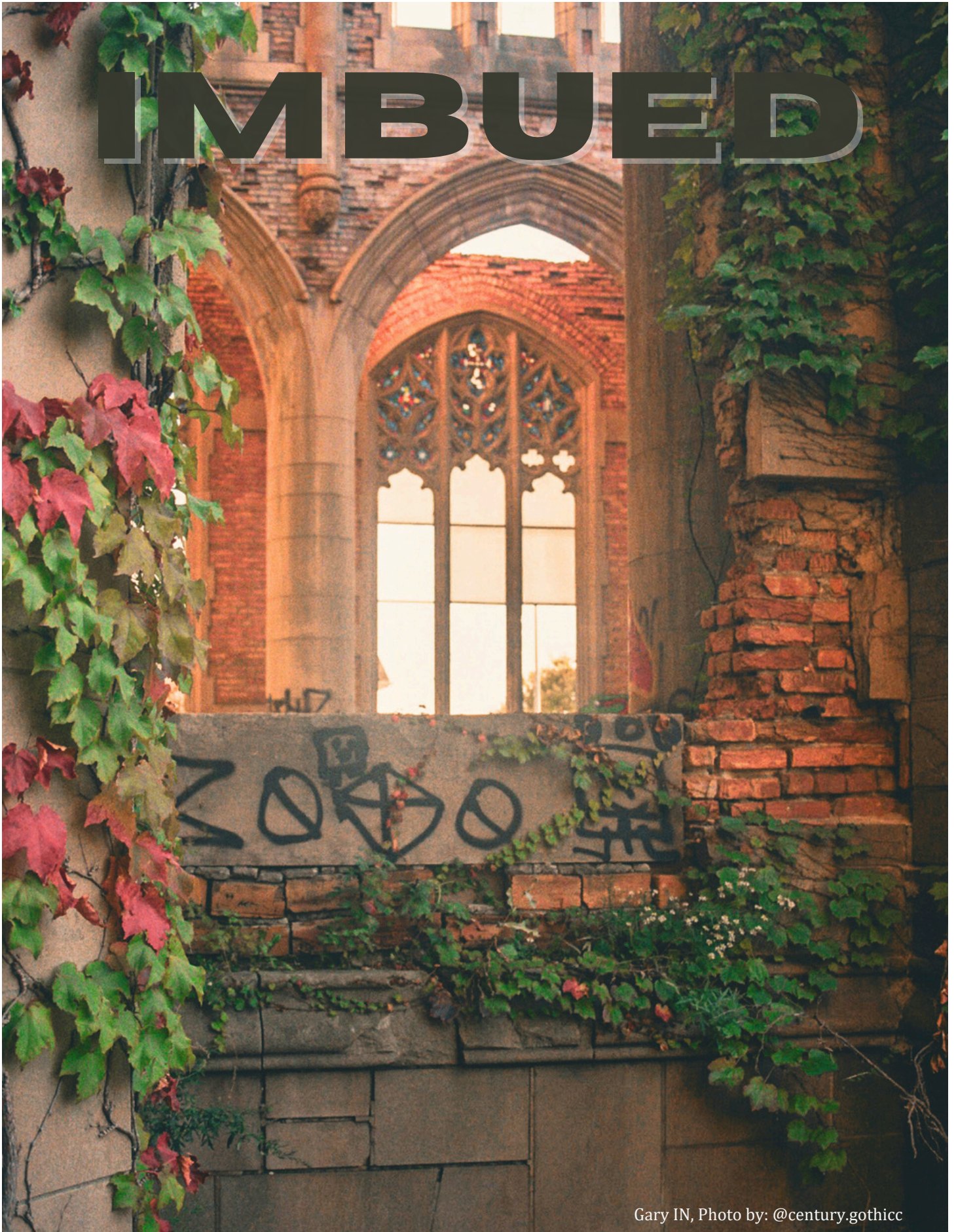
go ahead, have a Sips

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