

CIRCLE OF BOSS SISTERS C.O.B.S.

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Kings COURT

LAZARUS LYNCH

CHEF & AUTHOR
OF SON OF A
SOUTHERN CHEF

WOMEN'S INNOVATOR

**LAQUITA
TATE**

FOUNDER
OF LAQUITA
TATE DESIGNS

Queen's COURT

**MONIQUE
RODRIGUEZ**

CEO/FOUNDER
OF MIELLE
ORGANICS

WOMEN'S WERK

**PALOMA
ELSESSER**

PLUS SIZE
MODEL/CHANGING
THE FACE OF
THE FASHION
INDUSTRY

Spotlight

**CHARMAINE
WILKSON**

CREATOR OF
THE HIT SERIES
"BLACK CAKE"

FASHION

**ELIZABETH
LAINE**

CEO OF
ELIZABETH
LAINE BRAND

London Ward

CEO/FOUNDER OF SNOBNAILS TECHNICAL SCHOOL

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UNDERSTANDING YOUR VALUE: EMBRACING REJECTION AS A CELEBRATION OF SELF-WORTH

In the journey of life, we encounter countless moments of rejection. Whether it's a job opportunity that slips through our fingers, a relationship that doesn't blossom as hoped, or a dream deferred, the sting of rejection can feel like a blow to our self-esteem. However, what if we reframed rejection not as a sign of inadequacy but as a celebration of our inherent value and potential? What if hearing "no" was not a setback but an opportunity for growth and self-discovery?



REFRAMING REJECTION AS A CELEBRATION

In a society that often equates success with never hearing the word "no," it can be tempting to view rejection as a personal failure. I've been there believing that don't take no as the final answer. However, what if we shifted our perspective and saw rejection as celebrating our courage and resilience? What if every "no" was not a closed door but a stepping stone to our true purpose?

When we embrace rejection as a celebration, we reframe it as a sign that we are daring greatly and pushing beyond our comfort zones. Each rejection becomes a badge of honor, a testament to our willingness to take risks and pursue our passions wholeheartedly. Rather than allowing rejection to crush our spirits, we can use it as fuel to propel us forward, knowing that every setback brings us one step closer to our goals.

TURNING REJECTION INTO OPPORTUNITY

One of the most powerful aspects of understanding our value is the ability to turn rejection into opportunity. Instead of allowing rejection to derail us, we can use it as a springboard for growth and self-improvement. Each rejection provides valuable feedback and insights that can help us refine our approach, deepen our self-awareness, and hone our skills.

For example, I have been passed over for a job opportunity. Still, my leadership ability as a senior executive assistant disqualifies me from an associate position for which I am well qualified. I'm working in a company that sees my title and not the gifts or talent I can bring to the table. However, instead of wallowing in disappointment, I decided not to quit on me. In that case, we can use the experience to assess our strengths and weaknesses, identify areas for growth, and explore new avenues for advancement. Likewise, if a relationship doesn't work out, we can reflect on what we've learned about ourselves and our needs and use that knowledge to cultivate healthier connections in the future.

Understanding our value and embracing rejection as a celebration of self-worth is a transformative mindset that empowers us to navigate life's ups and downs with grace and resilience. We can cultivate confidence and purpose by recognizing our inherent worth, reframing rejection as a celebration, and turning setbacks into opportunities. My grandmother would say take the bitterness of lemonade and make it sweet. So the next time you hear the word "no," don't view it as a rejection; see it as a celebration of your courage, tenacity, and unwavering belief in your own worth.

Dr. Trevi Booker-Pershay

Dr. Trevi Booker Pershay

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LONDON WARD: FROM NAIL ARTISTRY TO EMPOWERING FUTURES AS CEO/FOUNDER OF SNOBNAILS TECHNICAL SCHOOL”

Meet London Ward, CEO/Founder of SnobNails Technical School. London Ward is a modern-day Renaissance woman, effortlessly juggling multiple roles with grace and determination. London's journey has been inspiring, from her humble beginnings as a nurse to her current success as a mother of three, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. With a drive to succeed and a heart to give back, she continues to shine in every endeavor she undertakes. Her story is a testament to the power of hard work, dedication, and unwavering passion.



C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE: Can you tell us about the inspiration behind starting Snob Nails? What sets Snob Nails apart from other nail salons in the industry?

LONDON WARD: It wasn't an inspiration, more like a luck of chance to produce viable income as a special needs mom. As a knowledge and skill-based salon, we go above and beyond when servicing our clients and ensuring the highest sanitation and service procedures.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE: What do you think has been the key to your success in the nail technician industry?

LONDON WARD: I am my own biggest cheerleader. I remain humble and authentic. I am willing to show and speak on the good and the bad for career growth and inspiration to aspiring nail technicians. I am also willing to take chances even when I don't know the outcome.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE: Can you share a memorable success story or achievement from your journey with Snob Nails?

LONDON WARD: Yes, the day I became an approved educational institution. Schools are not easy to open, let alone trade schools. As we journey to year 3, we have kept a 100% pass rate for our students. Another achievement I am grateful for is our partnerships with various educational institutions.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE: Can you tell us your inspiration for starting the first black women-owned nail technician school?

LONDON WARD: There is a need for vocational and trade

training in our community. The notation is instilled in us to attend college, get a job, and work up. You are leaving them happy and in debt. With trade training, a person becomes recession-proof and can take a chance at entrepreneurship, utilizing the skillset acquired.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE: What challenges did you face while establishing and running the school?

LONDON WARD: The biggest hurdle was walking away from my thriving career as a nurse but doing it unapologetically as a mom for my kids. Being a minority and entering a space where you are not represented in such a way that allows you to climb the ladder of success quickly can be disheartening.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE: How have the students benefited from attending your school?

LONDON WARD: The students who have attended my school have benefited in terms of growth, ambition, mindset, skill level, and income, to name just a few.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE: How have you overcome challenges in building and growing your business? What advice would you give entrepreneurs looking to start a nail technician business?

LONDON WARD: I constantly tell myself I can and will win. I would tell future entrepreneurs that I understand it's not easy, but it's more than doable.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE: How important is networking and building relationships in the success of your business?

LONDON WARD: Building relationships is significant in the success of the nail business. Developing strong connections with clients, other professionals in the beauty industry, suppliers, and potential collaborators can help you attract new clients, gain referrals, stay updated on industry trends, and access resources to enhance your business. Building a loyal clientele base through positive interactions and word-of-mouth recommendations can significantly contribute to the growth and sustainability of your nail business.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE: How do you prioritize self-care and well-being while managing a successful business?

LONDON WARD: I prioritize by establishing boundaries, practicing stress management & setting realistic goals.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE: Can you share any lessons learned or valuable insights from your experience as a business owner? What are your future goals and plans for your businesses?

LONDON WARD: Adaptability. Flexibility and willingness to pivot when necessary are crucial in navigating changing market conditions and customer preferences. Expansion and to place a lasting impact in the nail-tech business and overall upcoming women entrepreneurs

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE: How do you give back to the community or support other aspiring entrepreneurs in the nail care industry?

LONDON WARD: I'm constantly contributing to the growth and success of the nail care community while supporting the next generation of entrepreneurs. This can be via mentorship, providing information free of charge, or finding many ways to offer discounted school tuition.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE: How do you see the future of the nail technician industry evolving, especially for women of color?

LONDON WARD: Representation and Inclusion: There is a growing awareness of the importance of diversity and representation in all industries, including the beauty sector. Women of color are increasingly recognized and celebrated for their contributions to the nail care industry as technicians and entrepreneurs. This trend will likely continue, with more opportunities for women of color to showcase their talent and expertise.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE: How do you hope to continue to impact the beauty industry with your school? Can you please share your business website and social media platforms? We wish you continuous success in all your future endeavors.

LONDON WARD: Currently, my most significant focus is community engagement. I'm looking forward to engaging with the local and national community and industry partnerships to provide opportunities for students to gain their nail tech licensure.

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NURSE TO BEAUTY MOGUL: THE REMARKABLE RISE OF MONIQUE RODRIGUEZ AS CEO OF MIELLE ORGANICS



I am always searching for Black Women who have inspirational stories and how they turned their pain into power. Essence Magazine did an article on Monique Rodriguez, and I was so inspired by her story that I wanted her to be featured in our anniversary issue. I had to do some digging and research to write an article on the triumph of the queen of beauty.

In beauty and entrepreneurship, there are individuals whose stories resonate far beyond the products they create. Monique Rodriguez, the CEO of Mielle Organics, is a beacon of empowerment and inspiration in the beauty industry. With a dedication to natural hair care and a commitment to uplifting her community, Rodriguez has transformed Mielle Organics into a powerhouse brand celebrated by millions worldwide.

THE GENESIS OF MIELLE ORGANICS

Monique Rodriguez's journey to becoming a trailblazer in the beauty industry is a testament to perseverance and passion. It all began with a personal struggle that many women of color face: the quest for healthy, nourished hair. Frustrated by the lack of effective products tailored to her natural hair texture, Rodriguez embarked on a mission to develop formulations to address her hair care needs and resonate with women everywhere.

In 2014, armed with a background in nursing and a deep-seated entrepreneurial spirit, Rodriguez founded Mielle Organics. The brand's mission was clear from the outset: to provide high-quality, natural ingredients that promote healthy hair growth and overall hair wellness. What started as a labor of love in her kitchen quickly blossomed into a burgeoning beauty empire, thanks to Rodriguez's unwavering dedication to her vision.



A COMMITMENT TO QUALITY AND INNOVATION

At the heart of Mielle Organics lies a commitment to excellence in every aspect of product development. Rodriguez places a premium on sourcing the finest natural ingredients, ensuring that each formulation is effective but also safe and nourishing for diverse hair types. From moisturizing hair treatments to styling essentials, every Mielle Organics product undergoes rigorous testing to meet the brand's exacting standards.

What sets Mielle Organics apart is its relentless pursuit of innovation. Under Rodriguez's leadership, the brand has continuously introduced groundbreaking formulas that address the evolving needs of consumers. Whether it's pioneering the use of exotic ingredients like Mongongo oil or harnessing the power of biotin for hair growth, Mielle Organics remains at the forefront of natural hair care innovation.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES AND INSPIRING CHANGE

Beyond the realm of beauty, Monique Rodriguez is a champion of empowerment and community upliftment. She understands the transformative power of entrepreneurship, particularly for women of color who have historically been underrepresented in the business world. Through Mielle Organics, Rodriguez provides products that enhance natural beauty and serve as a source of inspiration for aspiring entrepreneurs worldwide.

Rodriguez's commitment to giving back is evident in Mielle Organics' philanthropic initiatives. From supporting educational programs to promoting economic empowerment, the brand actively invests in initiatives that make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. Rodriguez's vision extends far beyond the bottom line, reflecting her belief in the importance of using business as a force for positive change.



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

As Mielle Organics continues to expand its global footprint, Monique Rodriguez remains steadfast in her commitment to authenticity, quality, and community engagement. With an ever-growing lineup of innovative products and a loyal customer base, the brand shows no signs of slowing down. Rodriguez's leadership serves as a guiding light for aspiring entrepreneurs, proving that anything is possible with passion, determination, and a focus on empowering others.

In Monique Rodriguez, the beauty industry has found a visionary leader and a beacon of hope and inspiration. Her journey from humble beginnings to entrepreneurial success is a testament to the transformative power of following one's dreams and making a positive impact. As Mielle Organics continues to flourish under her guidance, Rodriguez's legacy as a trailblazer in natural hair care and community empowerment will endure for generations.

Monique Rodriguez's journey from a registered nurse to the CEO of a leading global beauty brand is not just a story of business success; it's a narrative filled with personal growth, community impact, and the power of resilience. Through Mielle Organics, Rodriguez has created a legacy that extends far beyond the products it sells, touching the lives of countless individuals with her story, passion, and commitment to making a difference.

A MOTHER'S DAY TRIBUTE: CELEBRATING WOMEN STRIVING AGAINST ALL ODDS

BY DR. TREVI BOOKER PERSHAY



As Mother's Day dawns upon us, it's a moment to reflect on the remarkable women who navigate the complexities of life with unwavering strength and determination. For many, motherhood is about nurturing children, overcoming adversity, defying odds, and carving out a better future against all challenges. This Mother's Day, let us pay tribute to the resilient women who inspire us with their courage, perseverance, and indomitable spirit.

My mother, a strong black woman, taught me to be fearless and face adversities regardless of the challenges. My mother raised four daughters alone and never asked the baby daddies who were alive for a dime. She figured I could do bad alone and didn't need the stress. My mother was a stay-at-home mom making so sure we did not experience rape, molestation, or abuse. I firmly believe that my mother had been there and done that and didn't want that for her daughters. Being the first-born daughter was the most challenging role I had been given. I had to learn to be the second mom in the camp and the protector in the hood. I am grateful that my mother gave me the knowledge/wisdom to grow up unafraid. Motherhood is a journey that often tests one's resilience, but for some, the challenges they face are amplified by circumstances beyond their control. From single mothers battling socioeconomic barriers to refugees rebuilding their lives in unfamiliar lands, women worldwide confront obstacles with unwavering resolve. Despite the odds stacked against them, these mothers exhibit extraordinary resilience, proving that love knows no bounds and adversity only strengthens the human spirit.

Overcoming Personal Struggles - Behind every mother's smile lies a story of triumph over personal struggles and hardships. Whether it's battling mental illness, overcoming addiction, or rebuilding lives after trauma, these women embody the resilience of the human spirit. Through their courage and determination, they teach us that it's not the challenges we face but how we rise above them that define us. This Mother's Day, let us honor their resilience and celebrate the big and small victories that make them true heroes in our eyes.

For mothers striving against all odds, the dream of a better future for their children is a driving force that propels them forward. From working multiple jobs to provide for their families to sacrificing their dreams for their children's aspirations, these women embody selflessness and sacrifice. Their unwavering commitment to nurturing the hopes and dreams of the next generation is a testament to the transformative power of a mother's love.

As we celebrate Mother's Day, let us pause to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to the women who inspire us with their strength, resilience, and unwavering love. Let us honor their sacrifices and celebrate their victories, whether they are mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, or friends. Let us stand in awe of their courage and determination, knowing that their legacy of resilience will continue to inspire generations to come.



KALILA AYN, MY MOTHER NAMED
ME BELOVED, 2021.
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST.

PALOMA ELSESSER: EMPOWERING DIVERSITY AND REDEFINING BEAUTY STANDARDS



In an industry often criticized for its narrow portrayal of beauty, Paloma Elsesser stands out as a refreshing and empowering figure. As a plus-size model, activist, and influencer, she has been at the forefront of a movement towards greater inclusivity and diversity in fashion. With her striking looks, unapologetic attitude, and commitment to representation, Elsesser has inspired many, challenging stereotypes and redefining beauty.



EARLY LIFE AND CAREER

Paloma Elsesser was born in London in a tiny bathtub with a midwife named Berry (riposte-magazine). Raised by her mother, African American, and her father, Chilean-Swiss, Elsesser embraced her mixed heritage and unique identity. From a young age, she was drawn to the world of fashion and beauty, finding solace and empowerment in self-expression through clothing and makeup.

Paloma said she was always chubby growing up and felt like she never fit in in school, which caused some insecurities. Being of mixed heritage, her mother was black, and her father was Hispanic, finding her identity in school was difficult. The black community felt she was black but spoke like a white girl. Paloma's experience with drugs at the age of 12 helped her cope with her internal insecurities. She tried cocaine and drinking, which she felt would ease her pain. When Paloma accepted her identity and embraced her curves, she could journey on the road to healing (riposte-magazine).

Elsesser's journey into modeling was unconventional by industry standards. While studying psychology and literature at The New School in New York City, she gained attention on social media for her bold fashion choices and unfiltered self-portraits. Her distinctive style and confident presence caught the eye of influential figures in the fashion world, leading to her first modeling gigs and eventually signing with a major agency.

BREAKING BARRIERS IN FASHION

Elsesser quickly made an impact as a plus-size model, challenging the industry's long-standing obsession with thinness and promoting body positivity. She has graced the covers of prestigious magazines like Vogue, Elle, and Glamour, breaking barriers and paving the way for greater inclusivity in mainstream media.

Elsesser's rise to prominence coincided with a growing demand for diversity in fashion. Consumers increasingly demanded to see themselves represented in advertising campaigns, runway shows, and editorial spreads. In response, brands began casting a wider range of models, including those of different sizes, ethnicities, and gender identities.

Elsesser has been vocal about the importance of authentic representation, advocating for models of all shapes, sizes, and backgrounds to be celebrated. She has used her platform to address issues such as body shaming, racial discrimination, and mental health stigma, sparking important conversations within the industry and beyond.

BEYOND MODELING: ACTIVISM AND ADVOCACY

In addition to her work as a model, Paloma Elsesser is known for her activism and advocacy efforts. She has collaborated with organizations like the National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA) to raise awareness about body image issues and promote self-acceptance. Through candid interviews, social media posts, and public appearances, she has shared her own struggles with body confidence and encouraged others to embrace their individuality.

Elsesser's influence extends beyond the fashion world, reaching communities around the globe. She has been celebrated for her authenticity, humility, and willingness to speak out on behalf of marginalized voices. Whether walking the runway, attending red-carpet events, or engaging with her followers online, she remains committed to empowering others and effecting positive change.



Photo from FMD Model Agency



THE FUTURE OF INCLUSIVITY IN FASHION

As Paloma Elsesser continues to make waves in the fashion industry, her impact on beauty standards and representation cannot be overstated. With each campaign she fronts, each magazine cover she graces, and each social media post she shares, she challenges the status quo and inspires others to embrace their uniqueness.

Paloma Elsesser is a beacon of hope and possibility in a world where beauty is often narrowly defined. Through her talent, resilience, and unwavering commitment to authenticity, she has shattered stereotypes and opened doors for future generations of models and activists. As the fashion industry evolves, her legacy will undoubtedly endure, reminding us all that beauty comes in many forms and should be celebrated without limitations.

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LAZARUS LYNCH: A CULINARY TRAILBLAZER BRINGING JOY TO THE TABLE

In the vibrant tapestry of the culinary world, few voices resonate with as much passion, creativity, and flair as that of Lazarus Lynch. Born and bred in New York City, Lynch has carved out a unique niche for himself as a chef, author, and media personality, captivating audiences with his infectious energy and innovative approach to cooking. From his roots in Southern cuisine to his bold experiments with flavors and textures, Lynch has emerged as a true culinary trailblazer, inspiring food lovers around the globe.

EARLY LIFE AND INFLUENCES

Lazarus Lynch's journey into food began early, nurtured by a rich tapestry of culinary influences and family traditions. Growing up in a household where food was central to celebration and everyday life, Lynch deeply appreciated the power of good food to bring people together and evoke memories of home.

Raised by his mother, a talented cook with roots in the American South, Lynch was exposed to various flavors and ingredients from an early age. He fondly recalls the sights, sounds, and smells of his childhood kitchen, where he would eagerly watch and learn as his mother worked her magic, transforming simple ingredients into mouthwatering dishes that would leave a lasting impression on him.



CULINARY CAREER AND RISE TO FAME

Lynch's passion for cooking continued to grow as he honed his skills in the kitchen and explored new culinary horizons. After studying culinary arts at The Culinary Institute of America, he embarked on a journey of self-discovery, drawing inspiration from his Southern roots while also embracing a spirit of experimentation and innovation.

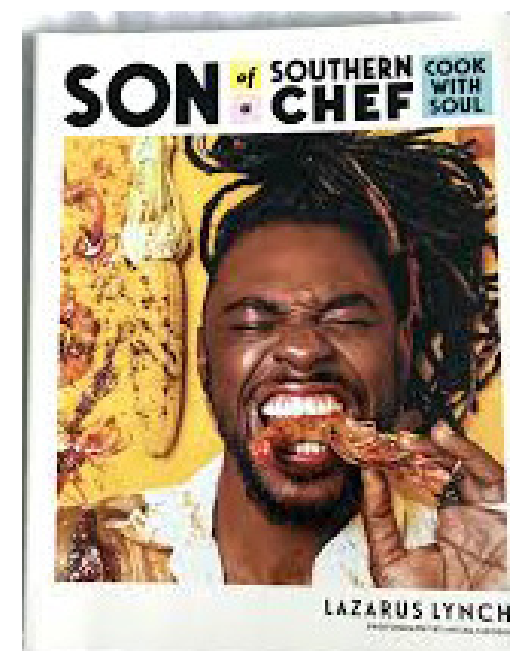
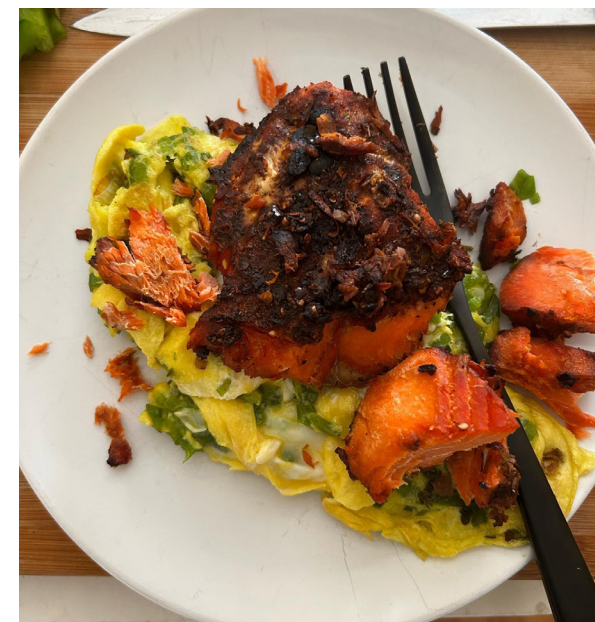
In 2017, Lynch burst onto the national stage with the release of his debut cookbook, "Son of a Southern Chef: Cook with Soul." Filled with vibrant recipes and heartfelt stories from his upbringing, the book struck a chord with readers and critics alike, earning rave reviews and cementing Lynch's reputation as a rising star in the culinary world.

Since then, Lynch has continued to build on his success, branching out into new ventures and exploring new creative avenues. He has appeared on numerous television shows, including Food Network's "Chopped" and "The Kitchen," where his dynamic personality and culinary prowess have won him a legion of fans.

BEYOND THE KITCHEN: ADVOCACY AND INSPIRATION

But for Lynch, food is more than flavor and presentation—it's a powerful tool for connection, empowerment, and social change. As a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community and an outspoken advocate for diversity and inclusion in the culinary world, Lynch has used his platform to shine a spotlight on underrepresented voices and champion causes close to his heart.

Through his work as a chef, author, and media personality, Lynch seeks to inspire others to embrace their creativity, celebrate their heritage, and explore the boundless possibilities of the culinary arts. Whether he's whipping up a batch of his signature sweet potato biscuits or sharing stories from his upbringing in Harlem, Lynch's passion for food and life shines through in everything he does, leaving a lasting impression on all who have the pleasure of experiencing his unique brand of culinary magic.



THE FUTURE OF FOOD: A BRIGHT AND FLAVORFUL JOURNEY AHEAD

As Lazarus Lynch continues to blaze a trail through the culinary world, his star shows no signs of fading. With each new recipe, television appearance, and cookbook release, he reaffirms his status as one of the most dynamic and influential voices in food today, inspiring countless home cooks, aspiring chefs, and food lovers to follow their own culinary dreams.

In an industry often defined by tradition and convention, Lynch stands out as a beacon of creativity, innovation, and joy, reminding us all of the transformative power of food to nourish the body, uplift the spirit, and bring people together in a spirit of love, laughter, and shared humanity. As he continues to push the boundaries of what's possible in the kitchen and beyond, one thing is sure: the future of food is bright, flavorful, and deliciously unpredictable, thanks in no small part to the indomitable spirit of Lazarus Lynch.



**NISHA
PERSHAY**

2024 TRENDY SUMMER HAIRSTYLE AND MAINTENANCE TIPS!

Summer is quickly approaching, and if you don't know any summer hairstyles to try or how to maintain those beautiful looks. Summer hairstyles are essential for several reasons; lightweight and easy-to-manage hairstyles can help keep you cool during hot summer days. Protection of certain hairstyles, like braids or updos, can provide protection from the sun's UV rays and reduce damage caused by exposure to heat and humidity. Versatility is another important reason, as summer hairstyles often need to transition seamlessly from day to night, from beach to party.

Versatile styles allow you to adapt to various activities and occasions. Most importantly, it's for the fashion. Just like clothing, hairstyles reflect current trends and personal style. Updating your hairstyle for summer can help you feel fresh and on-trend. Maintenance: With increased outdoor activities, low-maintenance hairstyles are practical and time-saving. Styles that require minimal touch-ups throughout the day allow you to enjoy your summer activities without constant fussing.

Overall, summer hairstyles play a significant role in maintaining comfort, protecting hair, expressing personal style, and adapting to the season's demands. Here are some looks and hair ideas for your summer looks and how to upkeep those looks with the right products.

1. BEACH WAVES

Effortlessly tousled waves for a relaxed, beachy look. One of the most popular ways to get impromptu beach waves sans the beach, as it mimics what salt-water does to the hair. To enhance the natural wave in your hair, simply spritz your sea salt spray throughout your mane and scrunch to ramp up the texture; also, you can use wave rods or flexi rods to help maintain curl patterns.

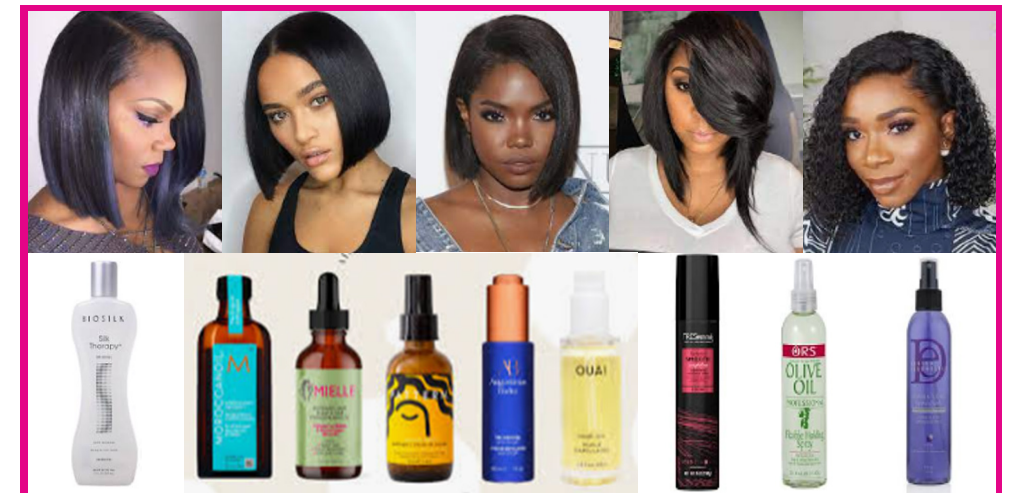


2. BRAIDED UPDOS

Intricate braided styles like fish-tail braids or braided crowns for a chic and practical option. These styles can last up until two to eight weeks, which is a general rule of thumb, with styles like jumbo cornrows staying in for less time and styles like box braids (that you can wash easily) staying in longer.

3. SLEEK BOBS

Sharp and polished bob cuts for a sophisticated yet low-maintenance style. Maintenance is simple: keep up with the looks with sleek products such as sheen, heat protectant, edge control, and holding spray to contain the fuzz.





CRAFTING TIMELESS ELEGANCE: LAQUITA TATE, INTERIOR STYLING VIRTUOSO

In the world of interior styling and design, some individuals possess a rare gift for transforming spaces into works of art. Laquita Tate is a visionary known for her unparalleled creativity, impeccable taste, and dedication to crafting environments that captivate the senses. As the founder and creative force behind Laquita Tate Interior Styling and Designs, she has earned a reputation for redefining luxury and elegance in the realm of home decor.

A PASSION FOR BEAUTY AND CREATIVITY

A lifelong passion for beauty and aesthetics drove Laquita Tate's journey into interior styling and design. From a young age, she enjoyed arranging spaces and experimenting with different color palettes and textures. What began as a hobby soon blossomed into a full-fledged career as Tate honed her skills and refined her unique sense of style.

With a keen eye for detail and an innate understanding of spatial dynamics, Tate approaches each project as a blank canvas waiting to be transformed. Her signature style blends timeless sophistication with contemporary flair, creating spaces with warmth and refinement. Whether it's a cozy family home or a luxurious penthouse apartment, Tate's designs consistently leave a lasting impression.



CRAFTING EXPERIENCES THROUGH DESIGN

At the core of Laquita Tate Interior Styling and Designs is a commitment to creating immersive experiences that resonate with clients on a personal level. Tate understands that the spaces we inhabit have the power to influence our mood, productivity, and overall well-being. As such, she collaborates closely with clients to understand their unique vision, lifestyle, and preferences, ensuring that each design reflects their individuality.

From concept development to final execution, Tate approaches every project with meticulous attention to detail and a relentless pursuit of excellence. She believes that great design is about aesthetics, functionality, and comfort. By seamlessly integrating form and function, Tate's designs elevate everyday living to an art form, enhancing the quality of life for her clients.

INNOVATION AND INSPIRATION

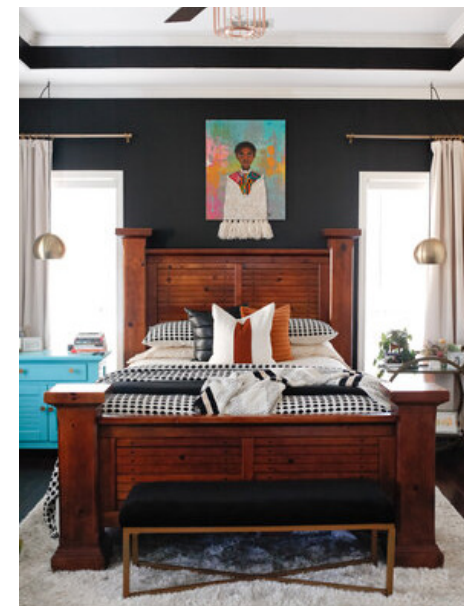
Her unwavering commitment to innovation and creativity sets Laquita Tate apart in interior styling and design. She draws inspiration from diverse sources, from art and architecture to nature and travel. This eclectic blend of influences infuses her work with vitality and dynamism, ensuring that each project uniquely reflects her client's personality and lifestyle.

Tate's portfolio boasts impressive projects, from chic urban lofts to sprawling countryside estates. Her ability to seamlessly transition between different design styles and aesthetics speaks to her versatility and adaptability as a designer. Whether creating a cozy retreat or a glamorous entertainment space, Tate approaches each project with the same passion and dedication, resulting in genuinely unforgettable interiors.



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

As Laquita Tate's Interior Styling and Designs continue to garner acclaim and recognition, Tate remains focused on pushing the boundaries of creativity and innovation. With a growing roster of satisfied clients and a portfolio that speaks volumes, she is poised to make an indelible mark on the world of interior design. With her visionary approach and unwavering commitment to excellence, Laquita Tate is undoubtedly a name to watch in the realm of luxury interior styling and design.





ELIZABETH LAINE: CRAFTING ELEGANCE AS C.E.O. OF ELIZABETH BRAND, RENOWNED HANDBAG AND JEWELRY DESIGNER”

Meet Elizabeth Laine, C.E.O. of Elizabeth Laine Brand. A visionary designer whose creations transcend fashion trends and embody timeless elegance. Her Grandmother's legacy inspired her. Elizabeth Laine's pieces exude sophistication and elegance, establishing her brand as a coveted name in the industry. Join us as we explore the artistry behind her creations, which defines Elizabeth Laine as a visionary in the world of fashion.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What inspired you to start your women's handbags and jewelry brand? How would you describe the design aesthetic of your products?

ELIZABETH LAINE:

Growing up, my mother and Grandmother made clothing for my sister and me as children. Being around crafty women introduced me to a world of being creative, and seeing the creation process sparked something in me. After graduating from school with a degree in Fashion Design, I decided to create my handbag line; it is the one piece of an outfit that I've always enjoyed the most. I've always been more passionate about my accessories than the clothes when getting dressed. I'm an entrepreneur at heart, and I love telling my story about what fashion is. All my designs have a geometric element and clean lines.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Can you tell us about the significance of your Grandmother's influence on your creative process?

ELIZABETH LAINE:

My Grandmother has a significant influence on my creative process. She was highly organized, and everything she touched was detailed and presented beautifully.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What sets your brand apart from others in the fashion industry?

ELIZABETH LAINE:

What sets my brand apart from others in the fashion industry is that every piece is an original design and focuses strongly on customer service and product quality. I want the women who shop with me to know they are not just another transaction but that they have someone

who listens and truly wants to give them the best experience.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

How do you incorporate sustainability and ethical practices into your production process?

ELIZABETH LAINE:

I research factories before working with them and develop products locally within Los Angeles whenever possible.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Can you share any challenges you have faced in building your brand and how you overcame them?

ELIZABETH LAINE:

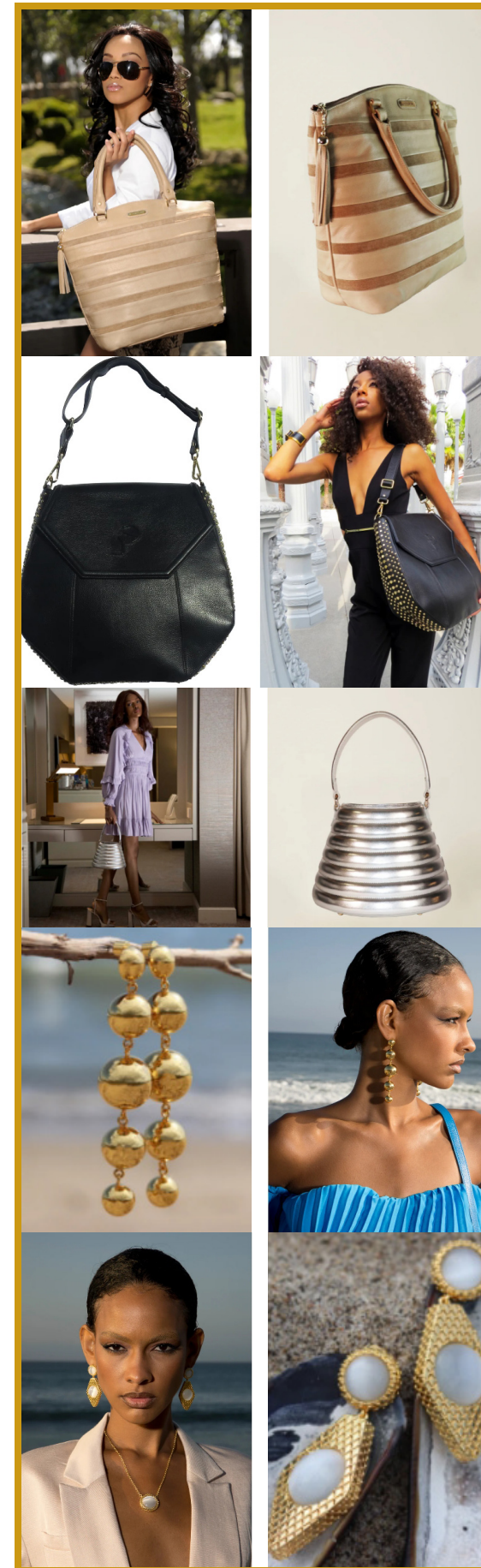
The biggest challenge has been getting my brand into retail stores. I overcame this by not giving up and staying consistent by continually reaching out to new retailers.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Can you share any upcoming projects or collaborations we can look forward to from Elizabeth Laine?

ELIZABETH LAINE:

I am working on my Summer 24 collection, which I will release in June.



C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

How do you stay inspired and motivated in such a competitive industry?

ELIZABETH LAINE:

I stay inspired and motivated by my end goal: the only way I won't succeed is by giving up. I say daily affirmations, surround myself with positive people who help uplift me on those hard days, and treat every opportunity as if it were the one that will take me to new heights.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What do you hope customers feel when they wear your designs?

ELIZABETH LAINE:

I want customers to feel empowered, comfortable, and satisfied with their purchase. Each handbag makes a statement and is made for different aspects of a woman's life.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Is there a particular moment or achievement you are most proud of in your career?

ELIZABETH LAINE:

Selling the very first handbag required me to overcome my fear of not being received or failing in business. The hardest step is taking the first step towards doing what you love.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

How do you see the future of fashion evolving, and how are you preparing for those changes in your brand?

ELIZABETH LAINE:

I see the future of fashion evolving with A.I. I follow industry leaders in fashion on social media and conduct deep research before starting new collections.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What advice do you have for emerging designers on networking and building relationships within the industry?

ELIZABETH LAINE:

Building relationships within the industry is essential. When you need help, these will be the people you can rely on to help or introduce you to the right person. I suggest joining groups that align with your goals.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Lastly, please share where individuals can purchase your designs and social media platforms. Thank you for your time, and I wish you all the best.

ELIZABETH LAINE:

My designs can be viewed and purchased on my website: www.elizabethlaine.com. Your readers can follow me on Instagram @elizabethlaine. Thank you.



MOTHER'S DAY
BRUNCH IDEA

PANCAKE CAKE WITH BERRIES



INGREDIENTS

- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour (see Cook's Note)
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 1/2 cups buttermilk
- 2 large eggs
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted and cooled, plus 2 1/2 tablespoons for cooking
- 1 tablespoon pure vanilla extract
- 4 cups mixed fresh berries (such as blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, and cut-up strawberries)
- 6 tablespoons pure maple syrup, plus more for serving
- One 8-ounce package of cream cheese, cold 1 1/2 cups heavy whipping cream, cold

DIRECTIONS

(SPECIAL EQUIPMENT: A 10-INCH NONSTICK SKILLET)

1. Whisk together the flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, and salt in a large bowl. Combine the buttermilk, eggs, melted butter, and 2 teaspoons of the vanilla extract in a 4-cup liquid measuring cup or a medium bowl and whisk until incorporated. Pour the egg mixture into the flour mixture and gently whisk until combined, being careful not to overmix (small lumps are okay). Let the batter rest for 15 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, place 2 cups of the berries in a medium bowl and mash with a fork until relatively smooth. Place the remaining 2 cups of berries in another medium bowl, add 2 tablespoons of the maple syrup, and gently toss to coat. Set the berries aside to macerate.
3. Heat a 10-inch nonstick skillet over medium heat when the batter is ready. Add 1/2 tablespoon butter and swirl the butter in the skillet as it melts to distribute evenly. Pour 1 cup of the batter into the center and cook until large bubbles begin forming on the batter's surface and the bottom is golden brown about 3 minutes.
4. Carefully flip the pancake and cook until the bottom is golden brown about 2 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack to cool. Repeat with the remaining butter and batter to make 4 more pancakes, and allow all the pancakes to cool completely.
5. Meanwhile, whip the cream cheese in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment on high speed until smooth and light, about 3 minutes, scraping the sides of the bowl and the whisk halfway through with a rubber spatula to ensure there are no lumps.
6. Add the heavy cream, the remaining 4 tablespoons maple syrup, and the remaining 1 teaspoon vanilla extract and whip at medium-high speed until soft peaks form, about 3 minutes. Raise the speed to high and continue to whip until stiff peaks form, about 2 minutes more.
7. Assemble the cake by placing 1 pancake on the center of a serving plate. Using an offset or small spatula, evenly spread about 3/4 cup of the cream cheese mixture onto the pancake, followed by 1/4 cup of the mashed berry mixture, spreading both components all the way to the edges of the pancake.
8. Top with another pancake and repeat the process with the remaining cream cheese mixture, mashed berry mixture, and pancakes. Top with 3 to 4 tablespoons of the whole berries and a drizzle of their juices. Serve each slice with some of the remaining whole berries and a drizzle of maple syrup, if desired.

COOK'S NOTE

We spoon it into a dry measuring cup and level off the excess when measuring flour. (Scooping directly from the bag compacts the flour, resulting in dry baked goods.)

RASPBERRY SUNRISE MIMOS

INGREDIENTS

- 10 ounces fresh raspberries
- 1/2 cup grenadine, chilled
- 2 cups pulp-free orange juice, chilled
- One 750-milliliter bottle of sparkling dry white wine chilled



DIRECTIONS

(SPECIAL EQUIPMENT: A 12-CUBE ICE CUBE TRAY, PREFERABLY ONE THAT MAKES SQUARE CUBES; A FREEZER-SAFE PITCHER; A LARGE SERVING SPOON)

1. Make the ice: Fill each compartment of a 12-cube ice cube tray about a third of the way up with water and freeze until solid, about 1 hour. Puree half of the raspberries in a food processor until smooth. Add 1 to 2 teaspoons of puree to each cube compartment, coming about another third of the way up the side. Freeze until solid, about 1 hour. Top off each compartment with water and freeze until solid for another hour.
2. Make the cocktail: Carefully pour the grenadine into a large freezer-safe pitcher so the grenadine doesn't splash sides. Freeze until the grenadine is very cold and thick, about 30 minutes. Place a large serving spoon in the pitcher, holding it so the tip of the bowl touches the side of the pitcher just above the grenadine line. Slowly pour the orange juice into the spoon's bowl, filling it up and letting it overflow and run on top of the grenadine without mixing. Slowly bring the spoon up as the orange juice level rises. Using the same technique, add the sparkling wine, stopping after you've poured about half of the bottle to let the fizz subside. Continue pouring, slowly bringing the spoon up as the wine level rises. Top with half of the remaining raspberries.
3. To serve, stir to combine the cocktail in the pitcher. Add the prepared ice cubes to Champagne flutes. Fill with the cocktail and top off with the remaining raspberries.



STRAWBERRY RICOTTA BRUSCHETTA

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup finely diced strawberries
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh mint
- 2 teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil
- Flakey sea salt
- 12 toasted baguette slices
- 1 cup ricotta cheese

DIRECTIONS

(SPECIAL EQUIPMENT: BALSAMIC VINEGAR
(USE AN AGED BALSAMIC THAT IS THICK AND SYRUPY) FOR GARNISH)

1. Toss the strawberries with the mint, olive oil, and a pinch of flakey sea salt in a small bowl. Spread each slice of baguette with ricotta cheese. Top with a spoonful of strawberries, drizzle with balsamic, and sprinkle with more flakey sea salt.



TINIKA THOMAS-FOREMAN

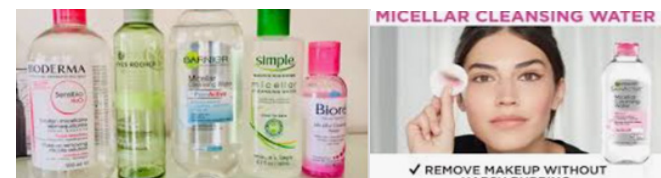
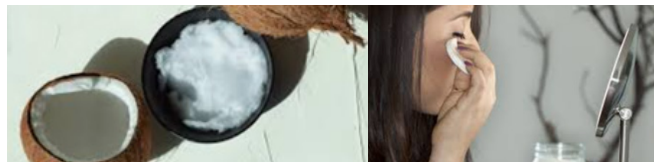
"6 NATURAL WAYS TO REMOVE MAKEUP WITHOUT HARMING YOUR SKIN"

INTRODUCTION:

In a world filled with synthetic chemicals and harsh ingredients, natural products offer a gentle and alternative option for makeup removal. These natural solutions cleanse, nourish and protect the skin from coconut oil to honey. Say goodbye to harsh chemicals and hello to a more natural approach to removing makeup.

1. COCONUT OIL:

Coconut oil is a gentle and effective way to remove makeup without irritating the skin. Coconut oil is an excellent choice for acne-prone skin because of its antibacterial and anti-fungal properties. Simply apply a small amount of coconut oil to a cotton pad and gently wipe away makeup.



2. MICELLAR WATER:

Micellar water is a gentle cleansing option that removes makeup without stripping the skin of its natural oils. Apply micellar water to a cotton pad and gently wipe away makeup.

3. CUCUMBER JUICE:

Cucumber juice is soothing and hydrating, making it a great natural makeup remover. Simply blend a cucumber and strain the juice, then apply it to a cotton pad and use it to remove makeup.



4. OLIVE OIL:

Olive oil is a nourishing option for removing makeup, especially for those with dry skin. Apply a small amount of olive oil to a cotton pad and gently wipe away makeup.

5. ALOE VERA GEL:

Aloe Vera gel is known for its soothing and healing properties, making it a great option for removing makeup without causing irritation. Apply a small amount of aloe vera gel to a cotton pad and gently wipe away makeup.



6. HONEY:

Honey is a natural antibacterial agent that can help remove makeup and nourish the skin. Simply apply a small amount of honey to a cotton pad and gently wipe away makeup.



THESE NATURAL MAKEUP REMOVAL OPTIONS ARE GENTLE ON THE SKIN AND CAN HELP KEEP YOUR MOM'S COMPLEXION LOOKING BEAUTIFUL AND HEALTHY.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL MY BEAUTIFUL QUEENS...



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UNVEILING THE LITERARY BRILLIANCE OF CHARMAINE WILKERSON: A STORYTELLER OF DEPTH AND INSIGHT

In the ever-expansive landscape of literature, certain voices rise above the rest, weaving narratives that resonate deeply with readers and leave an indelible mark on the literary world. Charmaine Wilkerson stands as a luminary, captivating audience with her poignant storytelling, rich character development, and profound exploration of human emotions. In this article, we delve into the captivating world of Charmaine Wilkerson, celebrating her contributions to contemporary literature and illuminating the brilliance of her craft.

A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

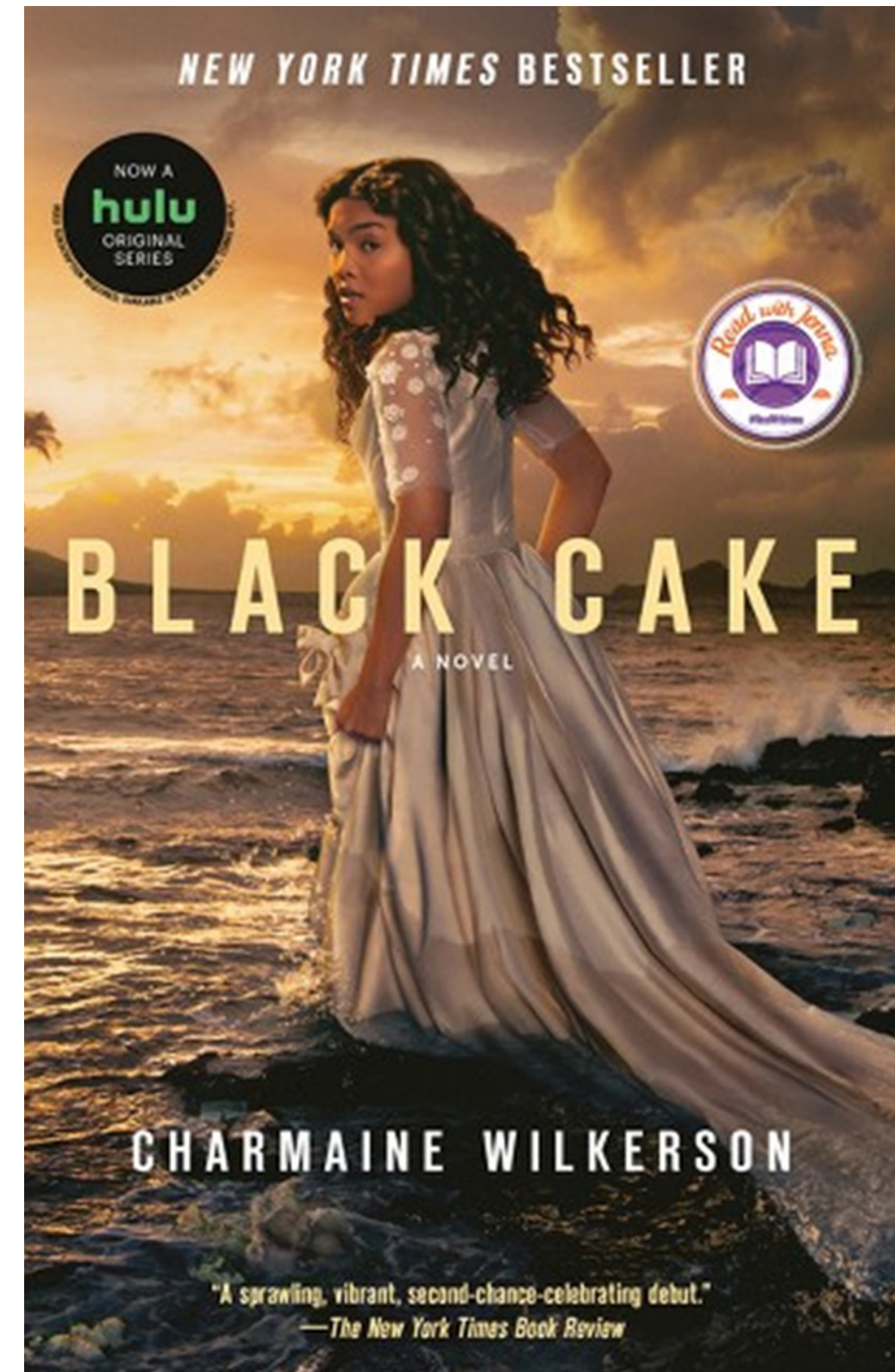
Charmaine Wilkerson's journey as a writer is as multifaceted and nuanced as the characters she creates. Born and raised in the United States, she later moved to the United Kingdom, where she currently resides. Her experiences navigating different cultures and landscapes have imbued her writing with a sense of universality and depth, allowing her to connect with readers from diverse backgrounds.

Wilkerson's path to becoming a published author was not without its challenges. Like many aspiring writers, she faced moments of self-doubt and uncertainty along the way. However, her unwavering passion for storytelling and her commitment to honing her craft propelled her forward, ultimately leading to the publication of her debut novel, "Black Cake."

At the heart of Charmaine Wilkerson's work lies a profound exploration of themes such as identity, family dynamics, and the search for belonging. In "Black Cake," Wilkerson delves into the intricacies of family relationships, weaving together characters' lives, grappling with their pasts, and striving to carve out their own paths.

Wilkerson's keen insight into the human psyche allows her to craft characters that feel achingly real, each grappling with their own hopes, fears, and insecurities. Through her nuanced portrayal of their experiences, she invites readers to reflect on their own journeys of self-discovery and introspection.

What sets Charmaine Wilkerson apart as a writer is her ability to imbue her narratives with a profound sense of empathy and understanding. Whether she's exploring the complexities of race and identity or delving into the intricacies of family dynamics, Wilkerson approaches her subject matter with sensitivity and nuance, inviting readers to step into the shoes of her characters and experience their joys and struggles firsthand.



Wilkerson's work is a powerful reminder of our shared humanity and the connections that bind us in a world that often feels divided and fragmented. Through her storytelling, she bridges the gap between cultures, generations, and lived experiences, fostering a sense of empathy and understanding that transcends borders and boundaries.

As Charmaine Wilkerson's literary journey continues to unfold, one thing is certain: her voice will continue to captivate and inspire readers for years to come. With her keen insight, evocative prose, and unwavering commitment to storytelling, she stands as a beacon of creativity and empathy in contemporary literature.

As readers eagerly await her future works, they can rest assured that each new story will offer a glimpse into the rich tapestry of the human experience, inviting them to explore the depths of their own emotions and connect with characters who feel like old friends. In Charmaine Wilkerson, we find a talented storyteller and a guide who leads us on a journey of discovery, empathy, and understanding.



SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT IN CORPORATE AMERICA

BY ARIELLE PERSHAY

Software development in corporate America is a crucial aspect of many businesses. It involves creating, maintaining, and improving software applications and systems companies use to streamline their operations, enhance productivity, and provide better services to customers.

In corporate America, software development teams typically follow industry-standard practices and methodologies such as Agile or Waterfall to manage projects efficiently. These teams comprise software engineers, designers, quality assurance specialists, and project managers collaborating to develop software solutions that meet the organization's needs.



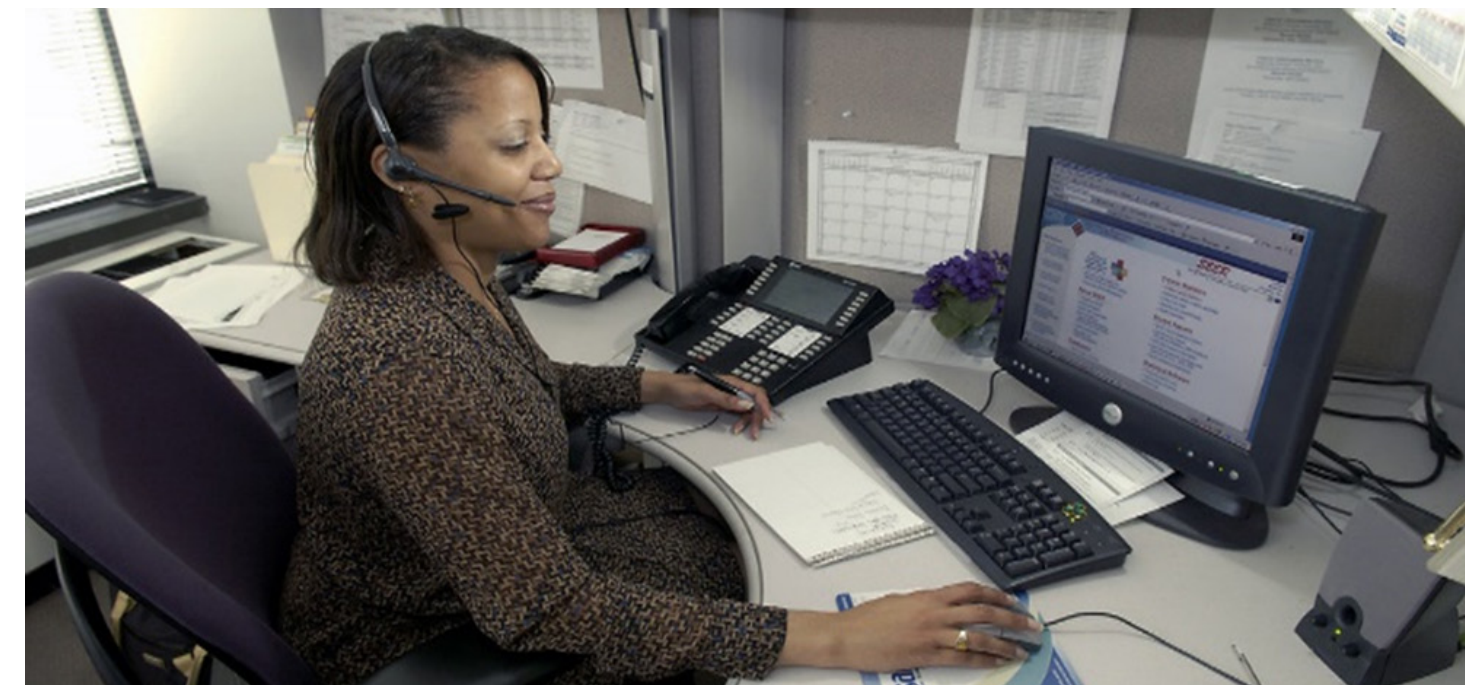
Corporate software development projects often involve multiple stakeholders, including business analysts, product owners, and end-users. These stakeholders play a vital role in defining the requirements, prioritizing features, and providing feedback throughout development.

Corporate software development teams often work on enterprise-level applications that integrate with existing systems, databases, and infrastructure. They ensure the software aligns with the company's technology stack, security standards, and scalability requirements. Corporate software development teams often use collaboration tools like Jira, Confluence, or Microsoft Teams to foster collaboration and efficiency.



These tools help them track progress, manage tasks, and communicate effectively. Furthermore, software development in corporate America emphasizes the importance of quality assurance and testing. Teams conduct various types of testing, including unit testing, integration testing, and user acceptance testing, to ensure the software functions as intended and meets the organization's quality standards.

In conclusion, software development in corporate America is a critical process that enables businesses to leverage technology for improved efficiency, productivity, and customer satisfaction. It involves skilled professionals, adherence to industry-standard practices, stakeholder collaboration, and a focus on quality assurance.





FUN & HEALTHY CHOICES

BY ARIELLE PERSHAY

When trying to lose weight, choosing healthy food and snacks that are low in calories and high in nutrients is essential.

BELOW ARE FIVE OPTIONS OF SNACKS OR FOOD YOU CAN TRY IN YOUR JOURNEY OF MAINTAINING OR LOSING WEIGHT.

1. FRUITS AND VEGETABLES: Incorporate a variety of fruits and vegetables into your diet. They are low in calories, high in fiber, and packed with vitamins and minerals.

2. GREEK YOGURT: Greek yogurt is a protein-rich snack that can help keep you feeling full. Choose plain, unsweetened varieties and add fresh fruits or nuts for added flavor and nutrients.

3. NUTS AND SEEDS: Nuts and seeds are a great source of healthy fats, protein, and fiber. Opt for unsalted varieties and enjoy them in moderation, as they are calorie-dense.

4. LEAN PROTEINS: Include lean proteins such as chicken breast, turkey, fish, tofu, or beans in your meals. They provide essential nutrients and help keep you satiated.

5. WHOLE GRAINS: Choose whole grains like quinoa, brown rice, oats, and whole wheat bread instead of refined grains. They are higher in fiber, which aids in digestion and helps you feel fuller for longer. Remember, portion control is vital when trying to lose weight. It's essential to listen to your body's hunger and fullness cues and practice mindful eating.



There are so many great benefits in so many snacks and food other than the five selections above. I suggest making it fun when choosing your food or snacks.



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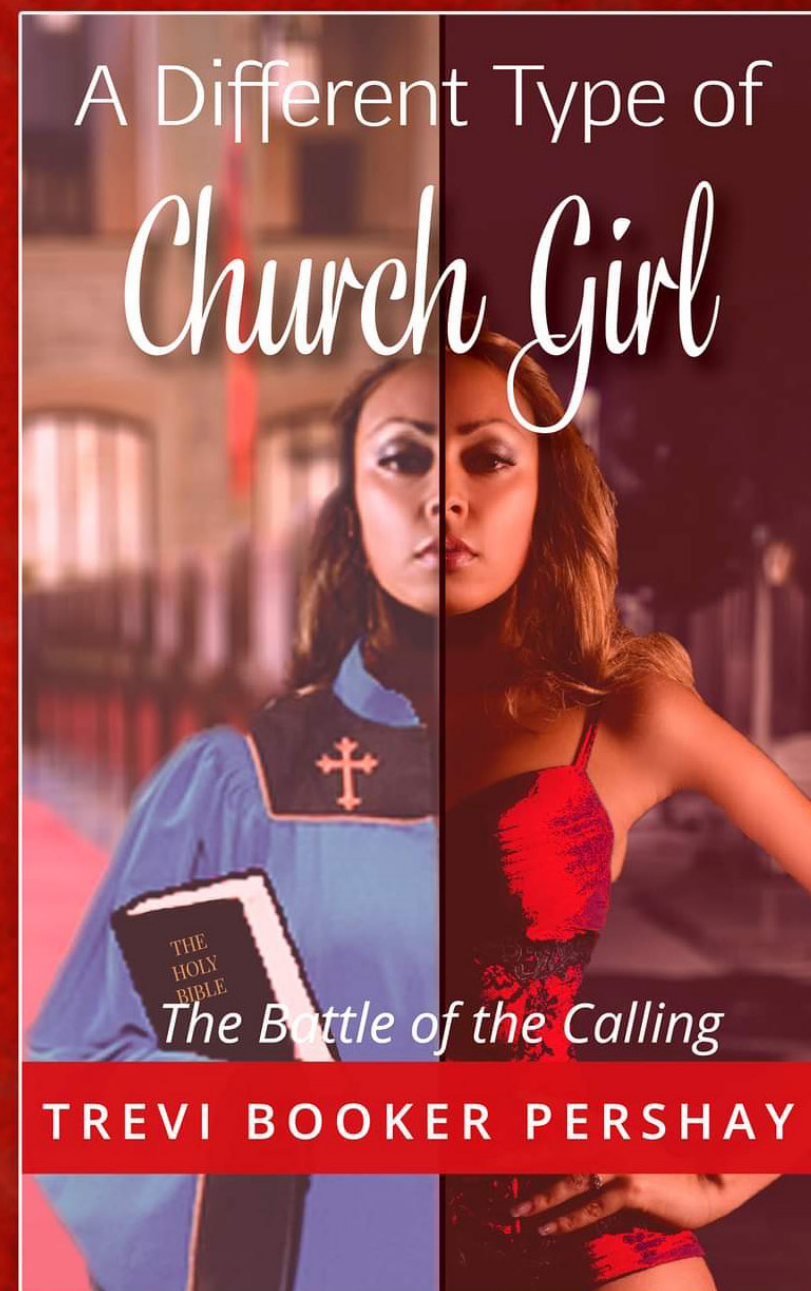
TENNIELLE JONES

"THIS BOOK IS ABSOLUTELY POWERFUL! PAINTS A STORY THAT IS SO RELATABLE ON ANY LEVEL! JAW DROPPING AND YOU WONT WANT TO PUT THE BOOK DOWN OR FOR IT TO END!! A MUST READ"

RACHEL BALDWIN

"I read this book in one sitting...that's how good it was! I just could not put it down! It was more of a short story to me....but it was soooo full! I loved everything about this book, but most of all I loved the JESUS in this book!!!! Awesome job! U knocked it out the park! Will definitely be on the lookout for more books by this author!"

”



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C.O.B.S.