



Makenna Onyambu





YOU CAN'T AFFORD HER

Makenna Onyambu's path to the fashion industry wasn't planned, but destiny had its own designs. Growing up in Minnesota, she found herself drawn to fashion, yet never imagined she would one day be signed to **Ford Models**. Balancing modeling and nursing school, Makenna embodies ambition, discipline, passion and loves a ki!

Her modeling journey began in 2020, sparked by boredom during the pandemic. Like many, she was searching for creative expression, but what started as a simple outreach to agencies turned into a life-changing opportunity. Agencies responded enthusiastically, and Makenna soon found herself navigating a world she had only dreamed of. While some might assume modeling is just about looking good, Makenna emphasizes the mental and physical preparation that goes into every shoot and runway. "Good sleep, healthy meals, and confidence are essential," she says. She approaches every assignment with a mix of professionalism and excitement, bringing an open mind and adaptability that set her apart.

Beyond just being in front of the camera, Makenna is fascinated by the behind-the-scenes aspects of fashion. Set design, lighting, and directing are areas she hopes to explore more deeply. "I love watching how everything comes together,"



she shares, proving that her creative interests extend far beyond just being the subject of a shoot. She also dreams of walking in major runway shows, especially for designers like Schiaparelli, whose avant-garde creativity inspires her. With a passion for vintage fashion, she embraces timeless pieces—her beloved fur coat being a staple in her wardrobe.

Despite the glamour, Makenna remains grounded. She defines beauty as something internal, a confidence that radiates outward. This perspective has shaped her as a model and as a role model for young aspiring models. Her advice? "Walk into every room like you're supposed to be there." That mindset has carried her far—and she's just getting started.



The modeling industry is evolving, and Makenna Onyambu is at the forefront of this change. For her, beauty isn't just about appearances—it's about confidence, versatility, and authenticity. Her definition of beauty has evolved, transitioning from a focus on physical looks to an appreciation of inner confidence. "Beauty radiates from within," she says. "When you feel good about yourself, it shows." This philosophy drives her work, whether she's on set for a photoshoot or preparing for a runway show.

As a Black model with African heritage, Makenna embraces diversity in fashion and wants to see more representation on and off the runway. She is inspired by legendary makeup artist Pat McGrath and designers who push boundaries. Her personal style leans vintage, but she's open to experimenting with bold colors and new textures. Her love for fashion extends beyond modeling—she hopes to explore creative direction and styling in the future. With a bright future ahead, Makenna's message to aspiring models is clear: confidence is key. "Believe in yourself, because if you don't, no one else will."



Balancing Two Worlds

In a world where many struggle to manage one career, Makenna is balancing two demanding paths—modeling and nursing.

Her journey into modeling happened unexpectedly in 2020, when she reached out to agencies and was quickly signed. While many would abandon other career aspirations, Makenna chose to pursue both. She is currently in nursing school, proving that success in one industry doesn't mean giving up on another dream. "It's a lot of work, but I love both worlds," she shares. "I want to be part of the fashion industry, but I also have a passion for healthcare." Managing long hours on set while keeping up with coursework is no easy feat. Organization and discipline are key, but Makenna makes it work. "You have to prioritize and know when to rest," she says. "It's all about balance." Her experiences as a student and model complement each other in unexpected ways. Modeling has taught her patience and adaptability, while nursing has strengthened her ability to remain composed under pressure. Her story is proof that you don't have to choose just one passion.











FUCK THE NOISE

Social media has transformed nearly every aspect of society, from shaping beauty standards to redefining self-worth and influencing activism. As a model and social media enthusiast, Makenna Onyambu has a unique perspective on this evolving digital landscape, recognizing both its advantages and its pitfalls. While platforms like Instagram and TikTok have opened doors for creatives and models, they have also fueled unrealistic expectations, misinformation, and an overwhelming emphasis on aesthetics over authenticity.

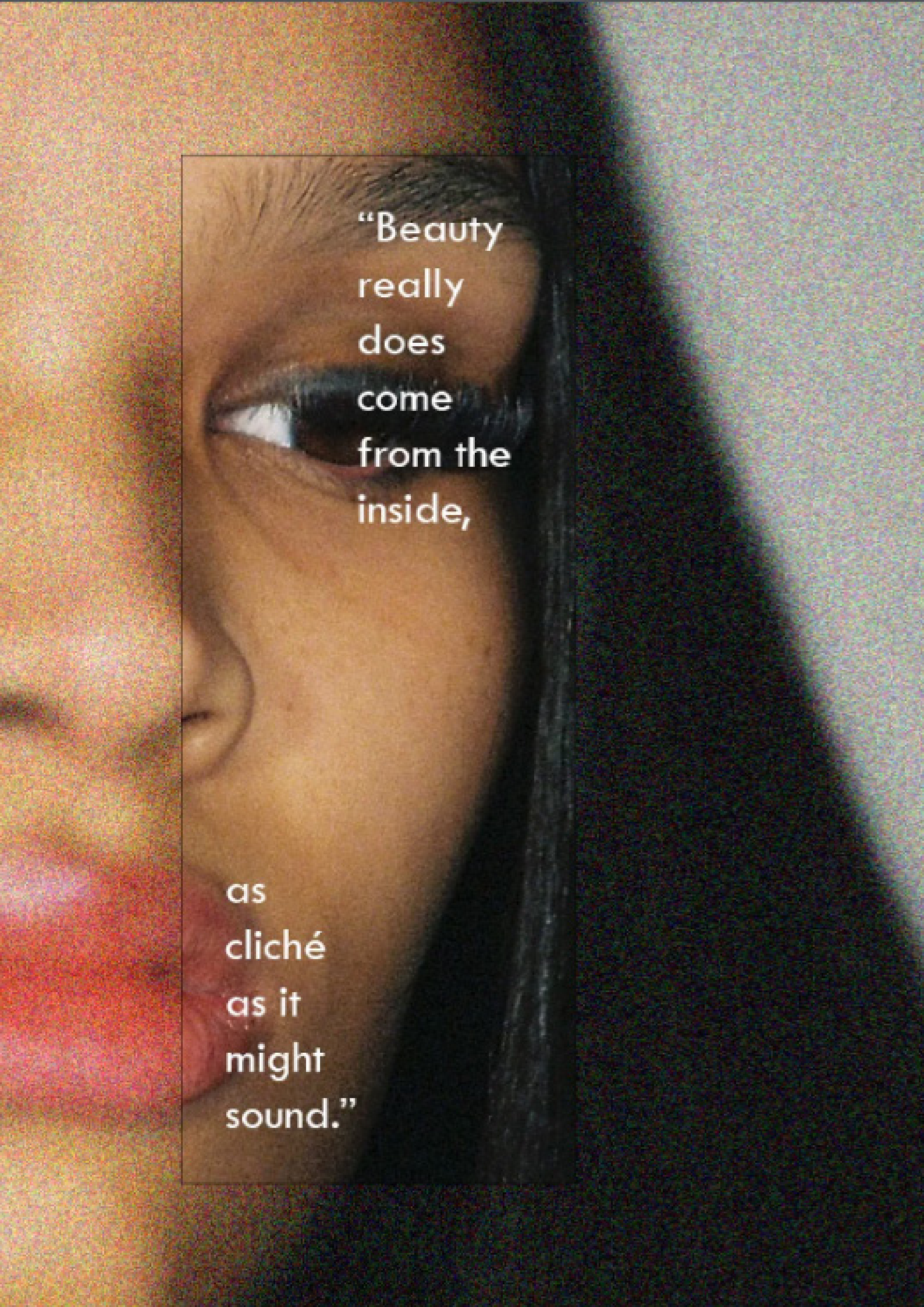
“THE INTERNET IS A CRAZY PLACE,” she admits. “There’s so much misinformation and unrealistic expectations, but it also gives people a platform to showcase their creativity.” Makenna appreciates trends that promote sustainability, like the resurgence of vintage and thrifted fashion, but also acknowledges the downside—endless comparison, hyper-perfectionism, and the pressure to present an idealized version of oneself. The digital world has not only altered personal interactions but has also created a culture where many fear real-world engagement, preferring carefully curated online personas over genuine connection. “People are afraid to approach each other in real life,” she observes, adding that social media has made it easy to interact but harder to form authentic relationships. The growing digital dependency has also influenced society’s ability to process information, as platforms blur the lines between truth and viral narratives, leading to both necessary activism and performative outrage. While social media has propelled discussions on racial justice, climate change, and inclusivity, it has also created an environment where nuance is lost, and individuals are quick to engage in cancel culture. Beyond social issues, the rise of AI-generated influencers and digital beauty filters has further distorted self-perception, making people compare themselves to unrealistic, often computer-generated, standards of perfection. “The beauty standard changes so fast now,” Makenna notes. “One day, it’s about looking natural. The next, it’s about looking like an AI-generated version of yourself.” With artificial intelligence shaping industries, some question whether human influence will become obsolete, yet Makenna believes that authenticity will always hold value. “AI is advancing fast,” she acknowledges, “but creativity will always be human.” The future of influence, she insists, will belong to those who can adapt while remaining true to themselves. As trends and technology shift, she envisions a world where individuals seek meaningful engagement over superficial validation, where creativity is celebrated without the pressure to conform, and where social media is a tool rather than a measure of self-worth. “The world is changing fast,” she says, “but confidence and authenticity will always stand out.” In the end, Makenna believes that navigating the digital landscape requires self-awareness and balance. “You have to decide how much influence social media has over your life,” she reflects. “Use it as a tool, but don’t let it define you.” As society continues to evolve under the weight of digital influence, voices like Makenna’s remind us that while trends and technology may change, self-confidence, creativity, and staying true to yourself will always be timeless.









A close-up, vertical photograph of a woman's face, focusing on her eye and nose. The image is partially obscured by a dark, semi-transparent rectangular box that contains white text. The woman has dark hair and is looking slightly to the left. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of her skin and the details of her eye.

“Beauty
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The Modern Dating Dilemma

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Dating Dilemma

The Modern Dating Dilemma



In an era where relationships often start with a “like” and end with an unread message, navigating love in the age of social media is anything but simple. For Makenna, relationships have been a journey of growth, lessons, and self-discovery. With Gen Z redefining dating norms, Makenna’s experience is one many can relate to: the highs of deep connections, the frustration of inconsistency, and the never-ending battle between real intimacy and digital validation. Social media has given us more ways to meet people than ever before, yet it has also made relationships more complicated. “Social media is an amazing tool, but it can also be incredibly damaging,” she shares. “It’s easy to feel like you’re connected to someone when in reality, it’s just surface-level.” We’ve grown up in a world where dating apps, DMs, and TikTok trends shape relationship expectations. While these platforms make meeting new people effortless, they also contribute to miscommunication, unrealistic standards, and an emphasis on aesthetics over emotional connection. “I think people get so caught up in creating the perfect online image that they forget to actually build something real,” Makenna says. “You can have the best-looking couple photos, but if there’s no substance behind the relationship, what’s the point?” One of the most frustrating aspects of dating today is the dreaded situationship—a relationship that has all the elements of commitment but lacks an actual title. Makenna, like many others, has found herself in these murky waters. “I’ve definitely been in a situationship before,” she admits. “And looking back, it was just an excuse for commitment issues.” “At some point, you have to ask yourself, ‘Is this really what I want?’” she says. **“If someone isn’t giving you clarity, they’re giving you confusion—and confusion isn’t love.”** With experience comes wisdom, and Makenna has developed a sharp radar for red and green flags in dating. “The biggest red flag for me is when someone can’t communicate,” she says. “If you’re avoiding hard conversations or being vague about your feelings, that’s a problem.” . “A healthy relationship should exist beyond Instagram stories and TikTok trends.”









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makeup by **mario** blush

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fenty mascara

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On the flip side, her **Biggest green flag is attention to detail.** “It’s the small things that count,” she says. “If someone remembers little details about you—your favorite coffee order, a random story you told weeks ago—that’s real effort.” Unlike many of her peers, Makenna has never used dating apps. While she understands their appeal, she remains skeptical about finding real connection through an algorithm. “I get why people use them—it’s convenient,” she says. “But for me, I’d rather meet someone organically.” Many Gen Z daters share Makenna’s sentiment. “I feel like dating apps sometimes make people treat relationships like a shopping experience,” Makenna reflects. “You’re constantly swiping, thinking, ‘There might be someone better out there.’ But at what point do you stop and actually invest in someone?”

Beyond just dating, social media has had a profound impact on how Gen Z views self-worth and relationships. The constant exposure to curated, picture-perfect couples can create unrealistic expectations and comparison traps. “I’ve had moments where I’ve scrolled through Instagram and thought, ‘Wow, everyone seems so happy in their relationships. Why don’t I have that?’” Makenna shares. “But then I remind myself that social media isn’t real.

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No one posts their arguments or bad days.” This pressure extends beyond just relationships—it affects how people perceive themselves. The beauty standards perpetuated online can create insecurities, especially when dating. You see these perfectly edited photos, and suddenly you start questioning if you’re good enough,” she says. “It’s exhausting.” Makenna’s advice? Step back and focus on real life. “Social media is cool, but it shouldn’t be the foundation of your self-worth or your relationships,” she emphasizes. “The best connections happen when you’re being your real, unfiltered self.”

As Gen Z continues to navigate modern romance, Makenna hopes for one thing: a return to real connection. “I think we need to stop overcomplicating love,” she says. “We make things harder than they need to be. At the end of the day, a good relationship is just two people who genuinely want to be together.” For those struggling with the chaos of modern dating, she offers one final piece of advice: “Know your worth. Don’t settle for half-hearted effort, and don’t let social media tell you what love should look like. Real love is out there—it just takes patience to find.”



SPOTTED:

Makenna stuns in a vibrant lime-yellow blazer dress that perfectly combines boldness and sophistication. The structured silhouette, with its plunging neckline and playful side tie details, exudes confidence while adding a modern twist to classic tailoring. She pairs the look with sleek pointed-toe heels, grounding the outfit with timeless elegance. Her straight, sleek hair with blonde highlights frames her face beautifully, while her glowing makeup—with soft contouring, neutral lips, and a touch of drama around the eyes—complements her poised yet powerful presence.

Minimal accessories, add just the right amount of sparkle, allowing the outfit and her natural elegance to take center stage.



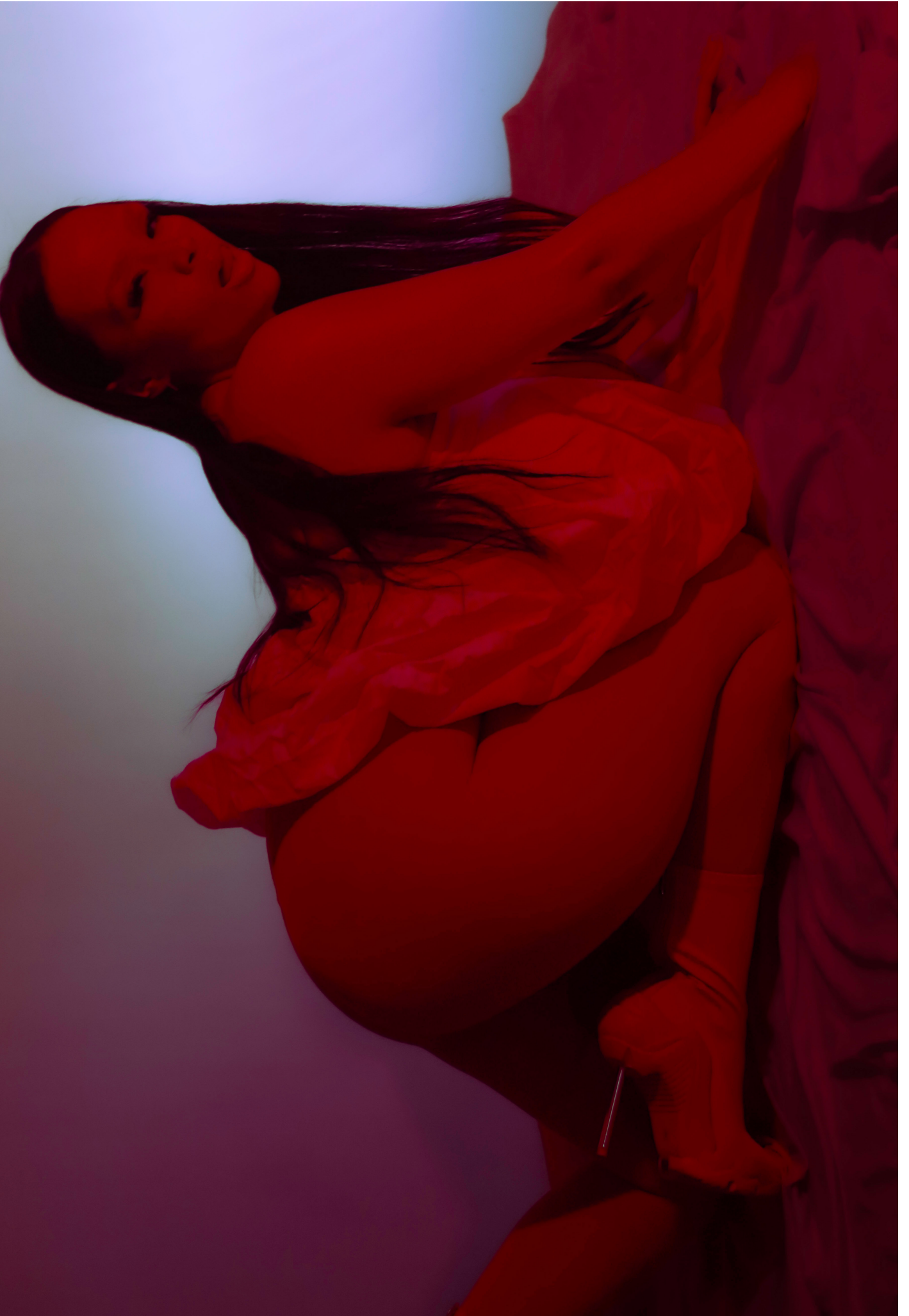


















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Happy **24th** birthday

Makenna

To know you is to

love you

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glad **i have**

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able to do both in this

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