



# OUT

**PART 1 OF A ZINE SERIES**

I grew up in a very traditional, conservative, Latino, Christian household.



Nearly everything I owned was pink, and I was expected to know how to cook, clean, and care for a man.



However, as time went on,



I hated wearing dresses.  
I loved my pants.  
I would cry if I wasn't in a pair of jeans.



But I still liked flowers, dolls, and wearing play jewelry.







As time went on, I felt more and more different from the other girls...



And it wasn't until I kissed a girl for the first time that I realized why.





I felt lost. Why did I feel this way?

I knew what I was supposed to feel, and think, then watching movies and how other girls talked about guys-

so I did what they did, and hoped things would click.

But they didn't.

I prayed, and prayed.

I would kiss, and crush, but nothing felt quite right.

Nothing I did made me feel an ounce of the way I did about guys.

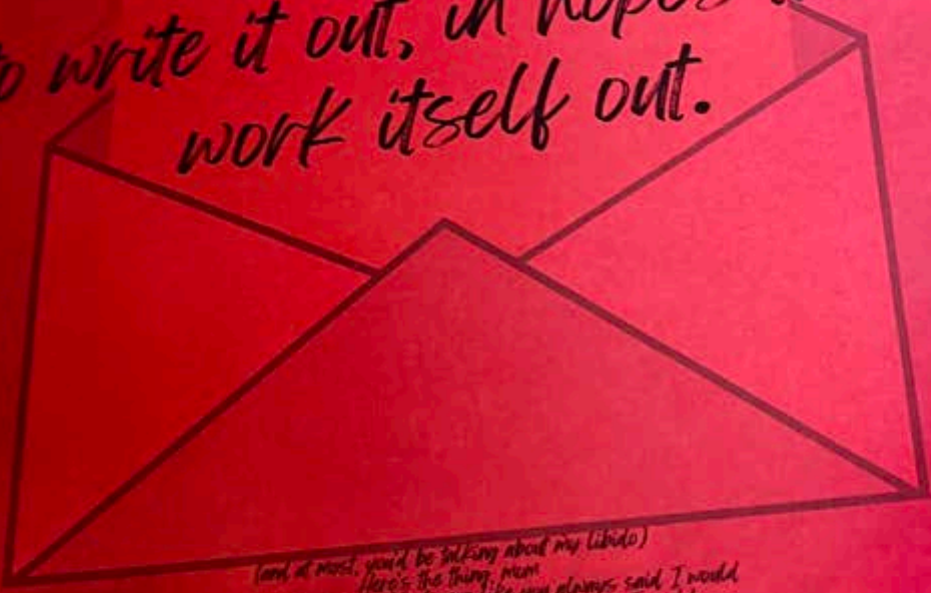
I hated myself, and I hated that I would inevitably make my mother and God angry with me

Why did thousands of girls give me butterflies and thousands of guys give me... well, nothing?



I know that you have had your differences  
 but I hope you will be together  
 for the rest of it all.  
 I'll be there for you and for you  
 and for you.  
 I hope you will be together  
 and I'll be there for you and for you  
 and for you.  
 I hope you will be together  
 and I'll be there for you and for you  
 and for you.

tried to write it out, in hopes that it would  
 work itself out.



(and at most, you'd be talking about my libido)  
 Here's the thing, man  
 I will never bring home a black man like you always said I would  
 I will never marry a Jewish man like you hoped I would.  
 And I'm not telling you this to spite you  
 I have spent countless years, praying to be straight to make you happy  
 But really,  
 I'm about as straight as a slinky.  
 Mm, I am who I am  
 I love you with all my heart  
 And I will never stop.  
 I hope that one day you will accept me  
 And at a future date  
 You can accept the special lady in my life  
 And if we decide to have children  
 I hope you don't cast them  
 Aside as science experiments  
 Because they need a grandma  
 Mmm  
 Please don't forget  
 That I am still your Dimples.

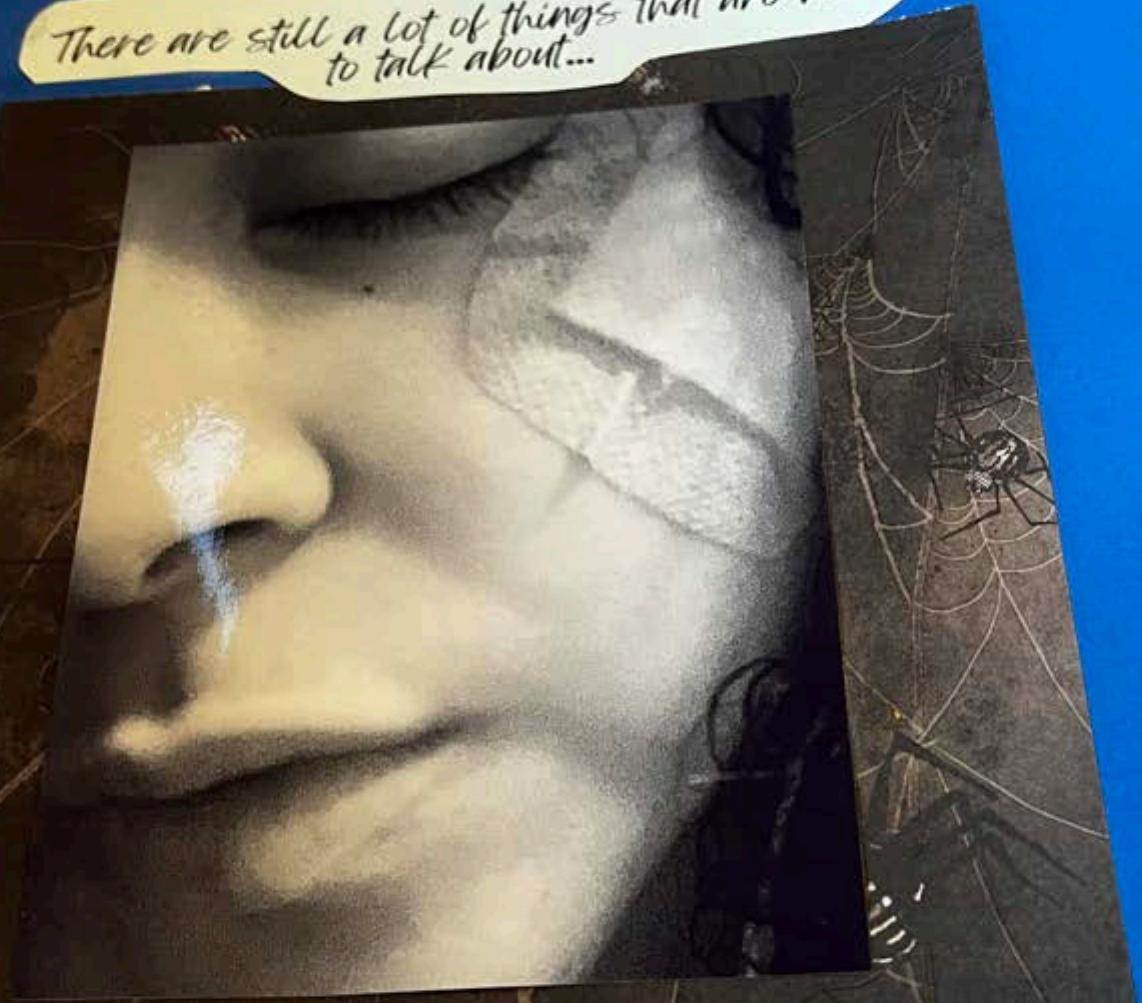


Until I couldn't hide any longer





There are still a lot of things that are hard  
to talk about...







But!

Things are better.

I'm in a healthy, happy relationship.

But everyday is still a journey on self love,  
and acceptance



**BY: KIRA VELAZQUEZ**  
**FILM 223**  
**FALL 2021**  
**HUNTER COLLEGE**