

Part I

What a time to be alive, years from now this year of 2020 will go down in history books. What will not be in the history books however is the effect this year has had on my life, so i'll write it here. This year was much anticipated by me, many good changes were coming, I had gotten a new job that I love as a fragrance vendor, I was in my second year learning interior design and life was great. The Pandemic came to America around March. There was much fear circulating as videos continued to be leaked of thousands of dead bodies on streets of China and other nations. While natural it would be for me to panic, I didn't. I had complete utter peace. The only thing that kept coming to mind was a scripture that says that God takes what the enemy meant for evil, God will use it for good (Genesis 50:20). Yes, there is a pandemic happening and I lost my job, I lost a relationship, I lost friends, my brother even got covid as well as some of our closest friends, but God took care of us in the most amazing way. Every single need I had was met whether it was financial, emotional, physical, they were all met. I was able to receive unemployment that not only helped the financial situation but also the funds I received it going to cover the cost of my mandatory study abroad trip! Beforehand I had no idea where these funds would come from and didn't know what to do since there was no work during the pandemic. When my brother got covid, our friends immediately gathered and started leaving food and groceries at our door. This year people came together, and that was beautiful.

2020 was a very hard year for me, filled with uncertainty at times, and tears, but also much joy, and I can proudly say that I am walking out of this year a much bolder, and stronger person.



Part II

My mother was born November 21st, 1963, one day before President Kennedy was assassinated. President Kennedy's death didn't just affect America, the whole world mourned his death. She was born in Torreon Coahuila, Mexico. It was also a time of much uncertainty in the world. My mother was one of twenty children, she was towards the end and was neglected due to the fact that when she was born, another sibling was born shortly after. She didn't speak until she was five years old. It was a time of machismo in Mexico and women still didn't have all the rights they deserved. Women were quiet and submissive and many topics of conversation were still considered taboo. On top of that, my mother was very ill, she had untreated bronchitis

and no one had noticed she had been sick for quite some while. Everyday a medic would come and give my mom a shot and everyday she would run and hide under the bed and get pulled out by her older brothers as they would crack a whip. To this day my mom is still deeply afraid of needles and injections. Eventually, It got to the point where she was finally taken to the doctor and the doctors said there was nothing they could do. Instead of prescribing medicine or natural remedies, they told her mom to go ahead and buy a casket, the doctor said this in front of my mom. This left a mark on my mom because she believed she would die and was fearful. Thankfully, my mother's grandma took her to live with her and helped in the healing process through teas and natural remedies. My mom loved being with her grandma, she got all the care and attention she was missing out on. The only negative factor is that since she lived with her grandmother for seven years, when she went back home, she almost didn't know who her family was. She had a different upbringing than the rest of them. Today we are all very close, and I am so grateful to her grandma for taking care of my mom. This was almost sixty years ago, and yet so many things are relevant to today. There is a common theme of hopelessness experienced from uncertainty but God still does miracles, then, and today.



Image: My mom in the 90s



image: Her parents and some of the younger half of the siblings