



Hello Queen Bee Beautiful. GORGEOUS. Intelligent Frecious, Cady

There was a time when those greetings and compliments, those truths we're not so true to me. My face, nor my image were reflected in magazines and certainly were not the faces of the doll babies I had owned.

As I got older, the doll babies caught up and got put down; on the shelf, in a box--they went. The Magazine's, TV, ads, entertainment and more began to take on a hue. I began to see me in all shades! Me with full lips, long flowing hair....wide hips....oversized rump.... Rump shaker, shaking, shake it, Shake It Fast, Drop It Low-MHOA!!!!!!!

Is this me? Yes. Why, yes it is! This is me! Gotta be, right?! Me on all the ads! Me on all the screens! Exposed! Hugged up with boys, hugged up with the Stars! This is me in the club! Me in the streets. Me in the mirror. I see me! Pretty. Pretty? True, doing all that media, the world, my friends, all that they say "I" do.



Oh. But where is my joy? My peace...I'm a QUEEN after all... Bent over. Posed backward. See my silhouette? Clothes fitted and tight. I gave no room to guess. I thought I was experiencing life and real truths to the matter. "I'm GROWN" Trying to live up to standards of women I've never met. Seen them perform, walk the runway, and rock a style or two. Videos and reality shows, I saw what "real" women do. My behaviors portrayed from images built up [that] gave birth to years of dysfunctional cycles. Fraudulent lovers, abuse of my gift, devaluing myself and diverting my purpose.

GORGEOUS DARLING...

No way no how. Nothing admirable about repeating pains. No glory in walking in a room where others have had the privilege to 'know' you. No dignity in crying behind closed doors, or in a strangers sheets. THIS pretty face was tired. Tired. Looking in the mirror, "this can't be me?" Calling out to God to learn who I was truly called to be. Created in His image to bask in His delight. To be valued far above rubies. A good thing for a husband's insight. Hurt was an understatement at the life I'd given to me.

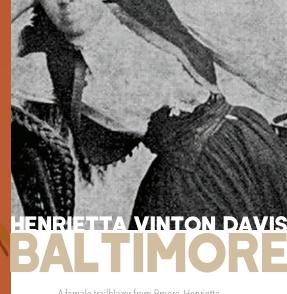
"How??!!! How! How could you be so careless and Reckless with ME!!?"

My attitude needed checking, my reflection, fine tuning. I did not realize I had no longer loved me. Because you see, love doesn't hurt. And after so many cycles of failed relationships, friendships, the same experiences with new people—I was all that was left. The common denominator of a bunch of common-foolishness! Forgiveness was needed, not for them but for ME. Forgiveness allowed for the healing; and when the healing began, I became FREE. Not bound by history or other persons opinions of me. I allowed the Father to restore and shed light on who I'm called to be

So can a simple girl now adjust her Crown? Oh yes, she still is a Queen. Momentarily weighted down by behaviors she could not fully see. On this path we realize, history does not dictate destiny - And we will never allow, experiences on this earthly plain to ever cramp our style. What we need is available, inherited from the best! Take what you need and let God handle the rest.

This is a love letter, from Me, to You.





A female trailblazer from Bmore. Henrietta, a teacher, actress, elocutionist, and political activist provided influence that empowered blacks who were being discriminated against and threatened with deportation to Africa. She was an essential part of the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League, commanding respect and social improvement for African Americans internationally. She was highly regarded by the likes of Marcus Garvey and Frederick Douglas.

SHE DID, SO WE CAN.

I found myself at my nephew's High School football game. It was a pretty nice day. The Sun was shining. Families were out. The weather was good! Both school teams and communities showed out in abundance! There was a DJ, music blasting, cookies for sale, and hot dogs on the grill! It was summer time lit! My family and I sat on a hill among others and it was there that I saw her

Walking amid the crowd of a few teenage boys, Young jocks of the JV team.

No doubt, she was a part of the "crew". Cute face, good stature, and those Poetic Justice box braids - and her boobs were out!!!!!

OH MY GOD, I thought! Does she know? Her shirt was kind of see-through, perhaps she thought it wasn't 'that bad'. I began to look around. Did others see what I saw? I caught wind of the giggles. Saw people wide-eyed and pointing. How embarrassing, a wardrobe malfunction. I'll go and let her know... As I walked over I thought:

16, pretty day, baby girl was being cute...16, pretty day, see-through shirt...16, pretty day, see-through shirt, no bra...16, pretty day, see-through shirt, no bra, crowd of boys...

16, see-through shirt, no bra, crowd of boys, and box braids conveniently placed and replaced and replaced - they kept falling from covering what should have been covered.

Baby girl **THOUGHT** it was cute. This was not a wardrobe malfunction, this was intentional dysfunction!

How is it cute to let your goodies be seen? On display for any and everyone to gawk at, to lay eyes on a private part of you without permission. How is it cute to entice inappropriate thoughts that could lead to inappropriate invitations and actions

"Excuse me?" As I walked amid the crew. "Can I speak to

GOTTHE

you?"... "Do you know that I can see you?" I pointed to her breast. "We all can see you..." I gestured toward the crowd. "We can see the color and shape of you. Men, women, boys and girls, us over there, we can ALL see you."



she bashfully said as she moved her boxed braids into place. Her gesture confirmed my original thought of intention. I looked at her.. "I just thought you should know..."

Baby girl had the goods, but not the grace. The God given Grace is what keeps us safe when we do foolish things. Keeping us from hurt, harm, and danger—because we don't always know how to act. The grace she lacked was to appeal with charm and poise. She didn't have the confidence in just being herself; not enticing with what herself could bring, shake and shimmy at the football game.



"WHEN GOD MADE PRECIOUS THINGS, HE BURIED THEM DEEP, HE MADE IT HARD TO GET TO, HARD TO FIND. **ALL OF HIS PRECIOUS MINERALS ARE BURIED. A PEARL, YOU'VE GOT TO DIVE** TO THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN TO GET. GOLD, YOU GOT TO DIG IN THE SIDE OF MOUNTAIN AND WAY DOWN IN THE GROUND. DIAMONDS, YOU GOT TO **BORE DEEP. THERE ARE NO DIAMONDS** LAYING ON TOP OF THE GROUND, THEY DON'T GROW LIKE COMMON CORN. YOU WANT OIL? YOU'VE GOT TO BURROW MILES INTO THE GROUND TO GET THE PRECIOUS MINERALS OF GOD. HE PUT THEM IN HARD TO REACH PLACES FOR MANY REASONS. THE PRECIOUS THINGS THAT WOMEN HAVE-**OUR BODIES, OUR PRECIOUS JEWEL,** SHOULD BE IN THE MOST HIDDEN PLACE. THINK ABOUT THAT.

GOD IS SMART! THAT'S WHY HE PUT IT WHERE HE PUT IT, BECAUSE IT'S HARD TO GET TO. IT'S VALUABLE! IT SHOULD BE HARD TO FIND! NO ONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET TO IT UNLESS YOU SHOW THEM HOW. THINK ABOUT THAT FOR A MINUTE. DON'T PASS IT AROUND LIKE COMMON CORN AT THE DINNER TABLE. YOU'RE ACTUALLY SITTING ON A GOLD MINE. VALUABLE, BURIED DEEP, AND HARD TO FIND." - ANONYMOUS

