





Force One Nike brand continued to flourish; Jordans continued to flourish; and Adidas continued as well. Classes got slightly harder so I focused more on having good grades than anything.

### **Eighth Grade**

My guy Nick started the trend of wearing Vans at my school all because of the popular rap group The New Boyz. Nick had his red Vans that he bought right before the school year started. His shoes made a bright impression every time he stepped in the room. Vans weren't popular amongst the African American culture because Vans were a skateboarding brand shoe. After seeing The New Boyz Jerk Dance, everyone hopped on the bandwagon to become the next best jerker. Some people didn't dance because they weren't coordinated enough, but they still wore Vans. Even though Vans were the trend at the moment, my classmates still kept pairs of Jordans and Air Force Ones in the backs of their closets.

### **Ninth Grade**

Coming into high school, the guys and girls found designer apparel more appealing to wear to school. Along with Jordans, there was a new addition for the guys to have Gucci belts, Louis Vuitton belts, and Ferragamo belts on their waists. The freshman guys only did it because they saw the upperclassman guys doing it. It showed that they had money, but most of the people who wore designer were asking their friends for money. Jordans were a must, but wearing a high quality brand shoe was something that also made you relevant too. Shoe brands like New Balance, Nike, Adidas, Puma, Timbs, and Converse were decent to wear. Practically wearing anything else made people consider you lame. It's a shame that people think like this because I had so many friends who were actually great people and they didn't have the best shoe on their

feet. I accepted them for who they were because of their personality. One of my good friends named Roberto always came to school with these old Reebok shoes on. I treated him like he was

I arrived at the scene and I saw some of the most elegant, lavish footwear known to man on this night. I peeped some Christian Louboutin, Versace, and Louis Vuitton. Everyone was so well dressed; I felt like I was about accept an award on the red carpet. I wore a white suit complemented with a mint green vest and bow tie with white Stacy Adams dress shoes. The night of all nights, and I spent it dateless, but I still had a good time. Every female had pumps or high heels; it was great. I got a chance to show off my cool dance moves and I got to drive my Granny's Van. My night was smooth, but the next day I discovered that a good friend of mine died in a car accident on Prom Night.

### **Epilogue**

Over time, different tastes started to affect how people perceive you, but actually what defines you is substance. A real friend doesn't care about what you wear on your feet. It's about how good of a friend you are towards people in the long run. I never switched up on a friend over any type of shoe. I still had friends who wore the off brand Jordan Flights, which is a torn down version of the regular Jordan shoe. It didn't bother me. What bothered me is how cruel people are towards others who don't have enough money to keep up with today's trends. A nicer society comes from fairness and equal opportunity and some people weren't given that chance.