

2012 is proving to be a busy and exciting year for me. I earned my Associate degree in May and have begun working toward my Bachelor's degree in psychology through the University of Phoenix. This accredited online school provides me with an intense and rigorous academic schedule while giving me the flexibility I need to balance my career and personal life.

My studies and my work here at Glitzy Girls leave me with little time to do something else I love, competing in pageants. This year, however, I managed to squeeze in a couple of pageants. Not having competed since 2009, I will admit I was a little nervous. Nerves quickly turned to excitement as I began preparing and I was reminded once again of how much I love pageantry.

My first competition was the 2012 Beary Special National Pageant held in Nashville, TN in February. Expecting only to do my best and reacquaint myself with pageants, I was shocked and elated to be crowned the new 7+ Glitz Grand Supreme Winner. (\$1,000 Cash prize, a girls best friend) After getting my feet wet again with the victory I thirsted for more. So began the preparations for Stars & Guitars Nationals in Indianapolis, IN. The competition was in April which coincided with my final exams, but through the support of my family and friends I managed to pull them both off.

Because older girls rarely pull the Mega Grand Supreme titles at glitz systems, I was hoping to at least secure the Mini-Supreme title. With only 3 days till the pageant I experienced one of every competitor's worst nightmares: my Hair & Make-up artist cancelled.

I knew Madonna was completely booked, but my supporting mom called anyway. As expected, Madonna was full but she told us she would get back to us if there were any last minute cancellations. My heart ached as I wanted to compete.

My parents were scheduled to leave for the pageant on Thursday, as they had booked Fashion Shoots at 8:00am on Friday, and I knew I was not leaving with them without a Hair & Make-up artist. When Madonna got back to me on Wednesday I was so excited! I worked so hard to get ready for this pageant. (As I had to fit into my Rock Wear!)

I am a certified master personal trainer, so working out is part of my everyday life, it's like breathing to me, I don't think about it - I just do it. However, I was challenging myself to do my personal best at Stars & Guitars.

Words cannot express what an honor it was to hear my name called by Max as the, \$10,000 MEGA Grand Supreme winner. It was and remains very surreal.

I have been competing in pageants for a very long time but never one with such a high payout. So I could not believe I was actually hearing my name called.

It was a very proud and touching moment for me and my family. Without their support it would not have been possible. I love you mom and dad!

I would like to extend my congratulations to all the girls competing that day on their individual success. It was a great weekend and I look forward to returning next year to crown the 2013 Mega Grand Supreme winner. Thank you Max and Ashley for this amazing pageant.

I want to also thank Tara and Tim for coming to cheer me on in the ballroom, I really do not know many people in pageantry anymore, and it was great having your support and laughs.

As with most great reward comes equally great a price. After winning this amazing title I was verbally attacked by a North-east pageant coach who is also the mother of a former competitor of mine. Normally I would not say anything but this person attacked me in such a way that could affect my professional reputation.

I would like to defend the accusations by stating the following; I am a "22 year old" Certified Master Personal Trainer. My body image is the representation of my knowledge and hard work.

Often times people tip-toe around the lies and bullying. As a victim of years of bullying in high school, I now stand up and say NO MORE! I am a young adult, full time student with a full time career and a bright future ahead of me, I will NOT let anyone bully me or the people I know. The only way to stop bullying is to stare it in its ugly face.

Lets stand together and **STOP BULLYING** today!

When you see and hear it, don't walk away. Come to the aid of the victim and call the bully out. It's a fine line not to cross to become a bully yourself, just unmask these people for who they are. Bullies are typically people of low self-esteem and are unhappy, or I could be completely wrong and they are just on power trips. (lol) Either way, it needs to stop.

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- editor-in-chief

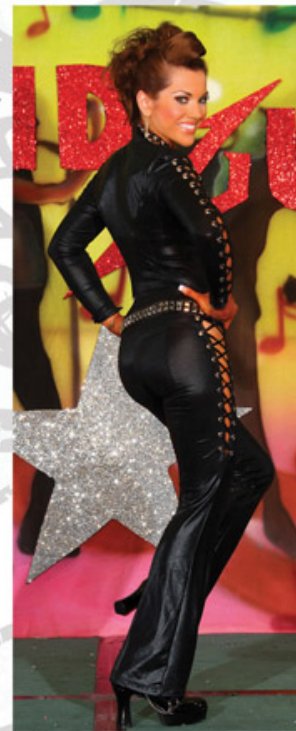


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