

Halloween in heels.

Sarah has had quite a year, with the highlights to date being two separate appointments with Ophelia. With all the fun and excitement of those outings I was very keen to take advantage of an opportunity to head out on Halloween, and as Ophelia was also free we quickly developed a plan for the night. In America, Halloween is often used as an excuse for cross-dressing at parties, so it seemed appropriate that we should head out to some clubs and pubs. I knew that I had the perfect outfit for a night on the town, so soon it was just a matter of waiting for the night to come around.

I arrived a bit earlier than originally planned at Ophelia's, so I took some time to work on my nails. I had tried adhesive nails previously, but found that they wouldn't stay on very well. As an experiment, I had been letting my nails grow a bit and now I started to file them to give a nice oval shape. By the time Ophelia had arrived, I was quite happy with the look. We went upstairs and I quickly changed, putting on my corset and a beautiful black cocktail dress I had bought many years ago but had never worn outside of my house. With a pair of black heels and a waspish waistline, I just needed to do my make-up and hair and I would be ready for fun.

Ophelia was ready with a glass of wine, and after complimenting the look, we sat down and started on my make-up. I put on some primer and Derma-blend, and then let Ophelia work her magic on my eyes. As always, we had a great time just catching up as two girlfriends, and she was taken by my nails. I did my lipstick while Ophelia grabbed a frosted pink nail polish, my brunette wig and a velvet wrap – in just a few more minutes Sarah was admiring her overall look, complete with her painted nails! As it was Halloween, Ophelia had decided to show her masculine side, so after putting on her suit we were ready to head out.

Down on the street, Ophelia (or should I say 'Phil') spotted a taxi and we headed off to Taylor's Square. As I only had a clutch handbag to complete my look, I had given Ophelia some money for drinks and the taxi previously. Hence I had two new experiences for the night – firstly not having to pay for a thing all night, and secondly mastering the art of getting out of a taxi without showing too much leg (a girl has to leave something to the imagination)!

We first headed to Kenesha's to check out the 'Tranny Trivia' night. When we got there, things weren't exactly popping, so instead of sitting down for some trivia, we sat down at a table where we could see the passer-by's walking along Oxford Street. Between rating various outfits, we talked about how both of our lives had changed since the start of the year and the different perspectives that Sarah had gained from venturing into the outside world and that Ophelia had seen from others experiences. We next stopped off at The Stonewall Bar (where Sarah was one of only three girls present). Downstairs was busy but upstairs we could find a free booth to sit down for another drink. Whilst the area was quiet, I didn't take Ophelia up on her suggestion to try out the go-go cages (Sarah is not quite that outgoing – definitely not in that cocktail dress anyway)!

After a final stop off at third pub (which I think just showed that a Wednesday night is not the biggest partying night in Sydney) and doing a bit of window shopping (and what a

variety of shopping Oxford Street presents), it was time to head back to Ophelia's. But how do you get a taxi on Oxford Street late on a Wednesday night? You have to show a bit of leg, don't you! Well, after Sarah posed for a couple of photos showing a bit of leg, we had our taxi. On arriving at Coogee, I felt that there was still a little bit left in the night so Ophelia and I headed down to the Coogee foreshore for some final photos. With a full moon rising off the ocean on Halloween, it made for some great shots and really finished the night on a fantastic note.

This was Sarah's last opportunity to step out of the house for this year, and once again Ophelia had excelled in organising an amazing outing. At no time during the night was I treated as anything but a woman having a night out with a close girlfriend. Ophelia has helped me gain confidence in taking Sarah into public, knowing that I can comfortably pass as a woman whether I am at a café, shopping for clothes or having a night on the town. It has been an incredibly liberating year for me: in understanding and accepting who I am, in improving my presentation skills and in meeting other girls in similar situations. I owe Ophelia a great debt for holding my hand through this and giving me the encouragement to allow Sarah to express herself. I hope that someday I will be able to repay her for this.

Sarah C.