

# Naturally Pink Tree Magazine

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From the  
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the Sidewalk:

Get acquainted  
with that  
girl, plus  
model

**LIRIS CROSSE**

Eat your Way to Clear  
Skin

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# Liris Crosse

By Demara White

If one were to spot Liris Crosse in the crowd - they'd have to do a double take or perhaps utter the question to themselves; "who's that girl?" The statuesque cat-eyed beauty has taken the industry by storm, a well-known plus-sized model - spotted on the glossy pages of *Essence*, *XXL*, *The Source* and *Mode* (to name a few). In addition she has been featured in national ad's for plus brand haven Lane Bryant and is currently appearing in the spring campaign for Ashley Stewart - I've recently gone past my local Ashley Stewart store and admired her large photo hanging in the window like art. Oh, but I bet you remember her face being on a range of runways, music videos, commercials or her acting appearances, most recognizable being "*The Best Man*" and "*Baby Boy*". Liris is not your ordinary plus-sized model, in fact she's possess multiple talents; model, actress, hosting personality and she adds "sportsnista" to her growing list of monikers as well.

The Baltimore native sites her early stages of modeling stemming after a suggestion from a photographer - whom was taking family portraits during her father's run for congress in the city's 23<sup>rd</sup> District. A younger Liris then began doing all she could to learn more about modeling from playing in makeup and heels to studying fashion mags to perfecting her signature walk. Ultimately Liris got

her start when going to a Model Search America convention and on her first go she landed callbacks from four agencies, but there was one thing they each asked her to do; "lose weight," says Liris, "Despite being super athletic, [I was] involved in track, basketball, and cheerleading - they still wanted me to lose weight". The model in training followed their recommendations, going on crazy diets to lose the weight and during her senior year in high school she returned to the convention, smaller - as requested. However, this time she only received one callback, Liris recalls being disappointed but not defeated.

The then 17-year old planned to head to Bowie State University to begin her collegiate career; however, she later decided to move to New York to pursue commercial modeling. After six months of working at her local mall, offering perfume/cologne samples to passing shoppers, she saved up enough to make the move; on Christmas day she made her journey to the concrete jungle. Once in the city, she made a stop to the Model Search America offices, and they suggested she take a visit to Wilhelmina Models, an agency that worked with a plethora of curvy models in their 10/20 division.

And that was all she wrote, Liris was signed on the spot at Wilhelmina - an incidence that doesn't happen all too often unless of course your one of a kind. In recent years, Liris has signed with Dorothy Combs

Models, an agency leader in the plus modeling realm.

Liris has since been one of the hardest working models in the plus industry, citing that no day is the same in the world of LC. Agent check-in's, 4 A.M. call times, test shoots, clothing pulls, events, even lending her voice to modeling panels. In addition, she is online submitting for acting gigs, heading to her computer to check in on her social networks and responding to emails - ah, does this woman ever get a moment to breathe! However, the one thing she affirms stays the same in her daily routine - "I wake up every morning and thank GOD".

The feature I find most incredible about Ms. Crosse, besides what we all see on the surface - is that she remains 'real' in an arena that can turn her into something otherwise. "To me, I'm ME...me being me helps me continue to work and be around" states Liris. As mentioned, you can always catch her Tweeting, Instagram-ing, and on Facebook connecting with fans. The model is using social media consciously to extend both herself and the Liris "brand" while being very intentional about what she posts. "I know my brand and know that certain stuff would not be cool". "I don't curse, nor do I tear people down," firmly states Liris.

In actuality, Liris empowers.

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**E**qually displaying and promoting her philosophy of “Healthy Curves”, the belief that one doesn’t have to have the ‘perfect’ body but should do their part in order to be mentally, physically and spiritually healthy. Positioning that moderation is key and that one should have a healthy balance of diet and exercise.

She’s also gearing up to hold her own modeling

seminar to educate a new generation of models on the secrets of getting into the industry. “Watch me work & you can learn” Liris says with a laugh, but unquestionably I hear the seriousness in her words. In the meantime, Liris has rationed a few tips to me – “Expect more no’s than yes’s”. “You have to see past all the fun stuff – the runways, the photo shoots; it takes a lot of hard work”. And one that you may not want to hear – “You have to spend money to make money,”

which includes spending bucks on portfolio updates, hair, makeup, prints, etc.

Lastly she urges aspiring models to do their modeling homework (aka research) and to use the internet to their advantage. While on the subject of modeling, when chatting about her stand on the industry, Liris offered some plus industry insight stating that there is currently more comradery than competition but that doesn’t mean that this isn’t subject to change.

“Plus is becoming the hot ticket, based on [the creation] of Full Figured Fashion Week, Curves Rock [Weekend], with more action being created it will become more competitive” declares Liris. In addition, Liris expresses, “We can’t tear each other down because we’re all plus and in this thing together”.

Next on her roster includes development on a TV show concept created by none other than Liris Crosse herself (I mean what *doesn't* this woman do!), which gives room for her to get back into acting. At press time, the

beauty couldn’t give out any details on the show - but she did confirm that she is doing this all in an innate way – (myself and other staffers at NPT, and our readers can’t wait to watch!) Certainly she will continue to serve as the face of Jimmy Jazz’s plus online shop while also lending her face to an abundance of other modeling endeavors. She will also be showcasing, hosting (and modeling) abilities during ‘Curves Rock Weekend’ in her hometown of Baltimore. All in all she maintains her excitement about continuing to tap into her skills.

During our conversation I felt like I was talking to one of my girlfriends, it included laughs, real talk, advice and other sidebars. I appreciate Liris’ stance in and on the modeling game, her take and use of social media but most of all, her realness. I for one look forward to seeing more from the quadruple threat but in the meantime we can all keep up with Liris via her Twitter feed @LirisC and get a glimpse into her life on her Instagram page of the same handle.

Follow Liris on Facebook at [Facebook.com/LirisCrosse](https://www.facebook.com/LirisCrosse) and visit her personal site [www.LirisCrosse.com](http://www.LirisCrosse.com).