



## Straight Walk: A Supermodel's Journey to Finding Her Truth

By Patricia Velasquez

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### Straight Walk: A Supermodel's Journey to Finding Her Truth By Patricia Velasquez

In this intimate, inspiring, empowering and heartfelt memoir, the “world’s first Latina supermodel” Patricia Velasquez reveals the naked truth about her life.

The riveting story of a Latina actress and supermodel and her rise from a poor neighborhood in Venezuela to the fashion runways of Milan, Paris, New York, and London. Patricia Velasquez worked tirelessly to help lift her family out of poverty, but she spent years feeling isolated, living a lie, and hiding her true self from those she loved most.

As a child, Patricia Velasquez watched her mother struggle to make ends meet and put food on the table for their large family. In her unprivileged community in Venezuela, food and water were scarce. It pained her to see her mother work so hard, often denying herself food or clothing for the sake of her six children, and Patricia was determined to escape this impoverished life. Straight Walk is the story of how this courageous young girl found a way to earn money for her family—and ultimately became a supermodel and Hollywood actress.

When Patricia was in her late teens, a friend groomed her to enter the Miss Venezuela pageant, which opened the door to the modeling world. From there, her story weaves its way onto the runways of Milan, Paris, London and New York working for designers like Isaac Mizrahi, Karl Lagerfeld, and Carolina Herrera. By some people’s estimation, she was the first Latina Supermodel, living life in the Glamazon era. Patricia landed on the cover of most every major fashion magazine in the world and posed for the Sports Illustrated’s Swimsuit Edition and Victoria’s Secret.

For many years, Patricia used her professional success to compensate for a secret she hid from her family. She convinced herself that her family’s happiness was more important than her own, and she spent years feeling achingly alone. Worse, she didn’t know the price she’d pay for keeping a secret and living a lie, preventing not only herself from walking her journey, but those she loved most. Now she shares her story to empower others to live authentic lives and find their truth.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

“This book is proof of the collective clout and power of strong women. When we all stand together and stand up for each other, we, like Patricia, can change the world.” - Katie Ford, Freedom for All Founder; and Ford Models, Former CEO and Chairwoman

Patricia’s soulfulness and spirit is inspiring. Her story is both moving and empowering, and proof that we can come from nowhere, with nothing but love in our hearts and a good head on our shoulders, and do something to make the world a better place.” - Russell Simmons, Philanthropist, Music Mogul, Business Leader

“It is not easy to tell your story and especially difficult when a secret lays heavy on your heart . . . but the courage to open up and talk can free your soul and that is what Patricia has done in this wonderful story of her journey. I am so proud of her for writing this book and hope it invites others to feel free to share their own paths.” ? Mariel Hemingway, Actress and Author

“Patricia is one of the most impressive, determined people that I've ever met. Through her extraordinary life, both personal and professional, she has positively impacted and inspired the lives of so many - myself included.” - Narciso Rodriguez, Fashion Designer.

#### About the Author

Patricia Velasquez, known as the “world’s first Latina supermodel,” has walked runways for Chanel, Gucci, and Carolina Herrera, and has appeared on countless magazine covers. She posed for Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Edition and Victoria’s Secret several times. Velasquez is also an internationally recognized actress and activist. She’s appeared on the big screen in the box-office successes *The Mummy* and *The Mummy Returns* and starred in and produced many independent films including *Liz* in September. Her television credits are *Ugly Betty*, *CSI: Miami*, *Arrested Development*, *Rescue Me*, *Ed*, and *American Family*, among others.

Patricia also built and runs her charity, The Wayuu Taya Foundation, which is dedicated to improving the living conditions of Latin American indigenous groups while maintaining respect for their culture. She competed on NBC’s *Celebrity Apprentice* in 2012 to raise money for the organization. She’s a UNESCO Artist for Peace and has been frequently recognized for her charity work by multiple organizations including the United Nations.

Patricia launched a line of organic hair care products called Taya Beauty, using ingredients from the indigenous communities of the Amazon through environmentally friendly and sustainable programs. Patricia now lives in Los Angeles and New York.

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