

Goodwill Glamour

On the eve of his wife's 40th birthday my best friend asked me to help him out with a surprise for her. He said he wanted to do a photo shoot to document her beauty, but needed me to put together some outfits to make her feel fabulous about it. Of course I said "yes", and proceeded to hatch the idea that I would put together a number of options for her from casual to glam. I of course went to my local Goodwill Retail Store & Donation Center and dug right in. I knew she already owned some great jeans and had just purchased a new short leather jacket. So I started with a few tops. I always look for two things when shopping for blouses or tees.

Does it look like it would pair up well with other things?

I chose an Old Navy Ramone's style sleeveless black t-shirt, another black sleeveless tee with burnished gold lettering on the front that said LONDON and a black and white letter blocked v-neck tee from Forever 21. They will look great with her jeans and under the new leather coat.



Does it have a rich color, texture and detailing?

I also chose an AGB black knit smock top with black jewels and shirring at the bust line, as well as a beautiful teal green knit, 3/4 length sleeve tunic with gold embellished keyhole neckline detail from MODA International.



With the casual wear out of the way, I focused my search on finding some cocktail dresses and gowns. Since the woman I was dressing is a hairstylist, I knew she could wear knits, and tailored things with confidence. After all looking the part of a star is what that business is all about.



First thing I found was a BCBG Max Azria cocktail dress! It was made of a sheer black lace over a nude lining. With its vintage details like a nipped in bodice and a fuller a-line skirt, I knew it would be classy and sassy too. Plus, for \$14.99, I just spent 5% of what this dress originally cost.





Next on my search, I found a Laundry by Shelli Segal flirty chiffon cocktail dress in tones of lavender and teal. Another designer label for an incredible \$14.99! Nearby I spotted a Rampage black knit halter dress with tiered asymmetric ruffled hem, perfect for a night out to dinner. Now I really had my motor running for this "make under" for one of my dearest friends. In quick succession I discovered a Banana Republic knit gown with a tank type styling, a bias cut ivory long gown from Maurice's and another black velvet cocktail dress with leather piping detail on the bust line from Byer Too.



With the shopping out of the way, I headed home to set up my "stylist" room for her to try on the things I got for her "glamour shoot". Believe it or not every single thing I bought not only fit her well, but she absolutely LOVED! The following afternoon we headed out to photograph her in front of some of her favorite "dream houses". It was a great afternoon and she truly felt like a princess. I received a note the following day that said, "Thank you again for all these wonderful additions to my wardrobe, and for "outfitting" me."



When all was said and done, the Goodwill Retail Store & Donation Center came through for me once again! The total for my "make under"? A whopping \$68.11 for everything I described. Not only did she appreciate the gift, but I had fun too! Your local store can help you do the same for you or a dear friend of your own. Get inspired and use their great selection to put together your own fashion shoot, or just shop like the style savvy star you truly are.

