

LATE CITY FINAL



Ward

A 'closet monster'

By TOM SYKES

TO say Robyn Heiberger has too many clothes is like saying New York has too many cockroaches.

The closet in her palatial Midtown apartment is the size of a small East Village studio and it's full to bursting. She has more than 300 pair of shoes, 30 purses, 80 pairs of smart pants and 15 pairs of jeans, not to mention dozens of dresses, T-shirts, vest tops, jackets, flip-flops and skirts.

A whole load of this stuff has got to go.

It's an impossible job to undertake on your own, which is why Robyn, 32, put Danna Weiss — a self-confessed "closet monster" — on the case.

Weiss, 29, is a celebrity stylist whose clients have included Lenny Kravitz, Molly Sims and Jenna Elfman. Today, she's taking a day out from showbiz to do her old buddy Robyn a favor and help her sort the fabulous from the frumpy and frankly forgettable.

Robyn's husband, Andrew, 35, is the multimillionaire founder and CEO of the New York residential real estate agency Citi Habitats. As a regular fixture on his arm and on the New York social scene, Robyn needs to look glamorous, stylish and funky.

"I say, 'A top a day keeps the fashion police away,'" Robyn explains. "Even if I am just meeting a friend for sushi, I have to be dressed up."

But no one needs this many clothes.

We start with the shoes — more than 300 pairs of Manolo Blahniks, Jimmy Choo, Christian Louboutins and Gucci wedges. Imelda Marcos would approve. Danna doesn't. "OK, when d'ya last wear these, Robyn?" she barks, holding up a pair of DKNY sequined strappy numbers.

"Can't remember," says Robyn.

"OK — then resell!" Danna cries as she throws them on the floor. We keep the Jimmy Choo mini-heeled slides. We chuck the Gucci flip-flops. We argue about the Chanel wedge espadrilles.

"They've got dust, so they're not a must!" yells Danna, flinging them to the floor. Every shoe has a story. Take the high-heeled, pewter Costume National sandals, for example. One is size 7, the other is size 6 1/2.

"I bought them after we'd had a few glasses of wine in L.A.," says Robyn. They make the cut, however, and are reinstated with the surviving 50 pairs Danna has put on the shelf, now color-coded, black first, one shoe facing in and one facing out, to make the most of the space.

Robyn's dazed housekeeper shuttles piles of rejected shoes from the closet to the bedroom. The first big fight is over purses. Robyn has 30 handbags, Chanel and Gucci figuring heavily among them. A lot of them are still in their outer dust-cover bags. Danna begins slinging the covered bags onto the reject pile.

"What are you doing?" screams Robyn.

"How are you going to know what you have if it's hidden?" replies Danna.

"I just know," says Robyn balefully.

"Toss 'em out!" orders Danna.

"NO!"

"YES!"

Danna wins the argument when Robyn finds a vintage Fendi handbag she'd forgotten about it.

Keep it!



Sell it!



Toss it!



Robyn Heiberger and her 'closet monster' Danna Weiss.

-robbed

saves a fashion addict from herself



Weiss tried to convince Helberger to ditch the mules.

And so we continue. There are pants. The bewildered housekeeper is again needed to remove 30 unwanted pairs from the closet.

There are skirts. Robyn rescues one silk print skirt. "I bought that on my honeymoon in Paris."

There are sweaters. "This was a gorgeous sweater when I bought it," says Robyn. "Was, yeah," replies Danna witheringly, consigning it to oblivion.

Four hours later, it's over. Surveying the huge pile of clothes in Robyn's bedroom, it seems impossible to think they all came out of that closet. Robyn and Danna hug like trauma survivors in a self-help group.

So what was wrong with Robyn's wardrobe?

Danna reels off the mistakes. "It's crazy to have stuff in bags and boxes and dry-cleaning wrap because you can't see what's there. She was in self-denial about the old stuff, which just had to go — which she hoped she would wear again, but was clearly never going to. She had too many duplicate items. Once you get rid of all that, and you've color-coded it, you can see what you've got, and your closet is a much better place."

But what does Robyn think?

"It's just been fantastic having somebody whose judgment I really trust to help me clear out," she says. "But it's been a big deal doing this."

She beams. "I can't wait to start getting some new stuff."

7-step program to cleanliness

When cleaning out your closet, stylist Danna Weiss suggests you make seven piles:

- 1** **Trash:** Stinky tennis shoes, old socks, sweat pants with holes, clothes that don't fit and never will. Nobody wants 'em, so toss 'em out.
- 2** **Salvage:** Get creative. That old black cocktail dress can be your new miniskirt and those knee-high nude boots can be this summer's ankle boots.
- 3** **Downtown resale:** Any clothes by funky designers — McQueen, Imitation of Christ, Stella McCartney, etc. — go to resale shops like Ina on Prince Street. Remember, they work by season.
- 4** **Uptown resale:** Big designer names — Gucci, Chanel, Jil Sander, Prada — should be carted off to Kavanagh's on 49th Street where they'll fetch a good price.
- 5** **Off-beat resale:** For funky clothes, or items with obscure labels, try Tokyo 7 or Tokyo Joe, 33 E. 11th St.
- 6** **Thrift shops, Salvation Army:** Anything else wearable can go to Housing Works at 143 W. 17th St. You'll get a tax deduct; they'll even refund your cab fare.
- 7** **Bag, store and forget:** Sentimental items that will never be worn again.