My Big Sister

A good definition of my big sister, Nora, is a vintage store diva. The composition of her wardrobe is made up of almost entirely clothing that she has bought at thrift stores. She also sometimes buys clothes at garage sales held by residents of our neighborhood. She has even been known to show admiration for a particularly wild print shirt or other article of clothing worn by elderly neighbors. Occasionally, these same neighbors will reveal that they are the custodians of a closet full of items from their youth. They often extend invitations to her to visit them, and sometimes they sell or give her their old clothes!

Using this method, Nora has accumulated a sizeable wardrobe that greatly exceeds her ability to buy new clothing. Not only is vintage clothing distinctive, it is also much cheaper than new items, unless you want something really rare.

At first, my mother wasn’t too thrilled with my sister’s method of dressing herself: Mom’s definition of vintage was “junk.” But after Nora came home with some beautiful items, many of which reminded my mom of things she had once worn, she began to change her mind. And once my sister began to make money by selling some of these items online, Mom’s admiration for Nora’s shopping skills increased. Mom decided that Nora had made an excellent decision to adopt a vintage style. In fact, this prompted Mom to join Nora on trips to used-clothing outlets. Now Mom has scored a few good finds herself!