

A Tale of Two Shopping Experiences

Sorry for the lack of posts - just one of those weeks where lot's of things kept me busy.

Shopping for clothes is not something that I consider a "fun" experience. I like clothes, and looking good in them, but going to malls and stores to try on a ton of things - not so fun.

So when a sister blogger talking about her [StitchFix](#) experiences, I got intrigued. Clothing chosen for me that comes straight to my door? Ability to decide what to keep or not quickly? Modest fee? Sign me up! I worked through the survey, wondered why I wasn't told to give even a full-bust measurement, and waited to see what happened.

After receiving two fixes, my experience is - meh. Now mind you, I am not the poster girl for the sizing of garments these days. I'm carrying more weight than I want to, I'm curvy, and I'm petite. Oh, and I am a pastor, so many things are just not going into the wardrobe because I can't be bothered to create a whole separate set of clothes when I'm not working at the church.

The concept is ok, but lot's of kinks need to be worked out. My primary question is: Can they really support petite women? Nothing I got was labelled petite, although to be fair, the skirt and the dress in the second fix were knee-length on me. But so many misses - I got lots of boring chiffon-y blouses (three-quarter length so they could sorta make it work for a petite woman) that gave my figure no help and hid the assets, a dress that was labelled medium, but wasn't. I did get a stretchy sweater top with big dolmen sleeves that was meant for someone 6 feet tall.

My Stitchfix "personal stylist" apparently thought this was going to go better because there were no sheer blouses (she was very proud to have found some that weren't), and that the skirts actually came to the knee (?).

Out of the two fixes, I bought only one top, and have only worn it a couple of times. If you are a "standard" size woman (but not XL, because [this woman](#) was told they couldn't help her, or [the horrors that this woman](#) got or petite in my case), maybe it is worth a try, but really, if you are standard size woman there are a million stores you can go to already, right?

So much for the "personal stylist" -- I decided to shop "old school" - retail bricks and mortar. I dropped into the [Talbots](#) near me where I was greeted to taste out of a party tray - yum! I browsed their lovely petites department - one of the few brands that has good stuff - tried on a bunch of things, and walked out with three tops, all on sale, and a lovely fine-wool long cardigan (at 30 percent off). And I was treated well, and got some ideas about other things I could get for the holidays.

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The difference? Talbots takes the petite customer seriously, and knows we will drop a lot of dollars if things fit.

So, readers, how about you? Where do you buy clothes these days?