

# Apparel

By Rachel Fuller

Big

Red

Plaid

Flannel

Could fit four me-sized humans in it or convert into a tent for the night, if needed. If I were a hobo, this would be my favorite dumpster find. It does, in fact, have the effect of making me look homeless. Thankfully, I have a home and this massive sack-of-a-shirt happens to remind me of that; an extra-cozy-feel-good reason for why I like to wear it. By appearances, you would think its previous owner must have been the hulking lumberjack kind, and not my 145 lbs. twig-type father, who, like myself, finds way too much joy in collecting obscurity that “may come in handy someday;” but he had to cave in when his closet did and give this item away. You’re welcome, Dad, for finding joy in your find.

Heaven-sent

Black

Basketball

Shorts

Don’t believe in God? I swear these shorts must have been an answer to prayer. Me: poor college kid, in the summer, love sports, want to join in for basketball, but lack a good pair of shorts. Went out to find some, but nothing fit the right size/length/price. Made do for the time-being, but really had the hope that I’d be able to find or afford a pair soon. Lo and behold, going on a run, there’s a pair of shorts that’s been tossed on the side of the road. With a shout of praise and a good wash, it was all I could have ever asked for: right size, length, and price, plus pockets! I don’t mean to belittle the purposes of God, but to me, He heard my “wherewithal” plea to be clothed, and provided.

Polished

Wooden

Elephant

Earrings

“Polished” makes them sound fancy. Really just a simple keep-sake, though. Aunt Judy died and left all us nieces with a pile of very-fashionable-for-its-day, 70s jewelry to sort. Judy was a world traveler, so it’s quite possible the original wooden necklace was from Tanzania or someplace equally as exotic. That’s the item I chose to inherit, but didn’t like the bulk of it. So, being the semi-minimalistic, environmental sentimentalist that I am, I decided to just save the elephants. Took those two wooden beads, painted clear polish for shine, wrapped around some wire, then attached earring hooks. They match almost anything and remind me of more. Elephants for remembrance.

Silky

Hippie

Heart

Pajamas

Clothing donation boxes are blessed inventions. Last apartment complex had a box situated in the laundry room for residents to drop-off or pick-from any unwanted. As one very inclined to that kind of thrifty endeavor, and also possessing a gift for acquiring free clothes just my size is how I found a paisley, pied, flowy, button-up, silky top. From this same magical box: long, black- and red-hearted, silky PJ pants. Worn together in perfect un-matching-ness is exactly what occurs on days when lounging at home is all you need. They clash in color, but correspond in comfort. And that’s home: a place you feel comfortable in the most comfortable, regardless of style or pattern.