“B\*\*\*h Stole My Look, Now What Do I Do?”

How to walk yourself out of a fashion catfight, and make sure it doesn’t happen again.

By: Annabeth Kane

It all starts with a plan. Your mind races as you mentally catalogue every last shoe, shirt, dress, skirt, and accessory in your closet. Finally you pull together the perfect outfit: a high-waisted body con skirt, crop top, pendant necklace, and a glittery clutch. Perfect. Once you and your friends are all ready, you hit the town in your fab new outfit, but, when you walk into your first house party your night takes a turn for the worst: someone has on the same exact same outfit. The night is ruined.

 Although this anecdote may seem dramatic, clothes are a way of standing out--there is nothing worse than when you come face to face with a person who is treading on your proverbial “style-toes”.

Tierney Furlong, a junior at Miami University, ran into a similar situation last year. “I was at a formal, and I wore my dress from my high school homecoming,” Furlong said, “I wasn’t expecting anyone to have one like it, but as soon as I walked in I spotted a girl on the dance floor with the same exact dress.”

 The most important thing to do while still at the scene is not to cause one. “I wasn’t going to make a big deal about a girl wearing the same dress, but it still kind of put a damper on things, even if it was just for a few minutes,” Furlong said.

That Night

 Besides running home to change, there are a few steps you can follow to take your outfit from copycat back to YOUnique.

 Remember: an outfit is not only the clothing you are wearing, but also includes your hairstyle, makeup and accessories. These can all be easily altered in any bathroom to change up your look.

Almost every girl carries a ponytail holder with her at all times. If you aren’t one of these girls—start being one! Even if you spent two hours styling your hair to perfection, I guarantee it will look just as good pulled back into a sleek ponytail or chic chignon!

 If a ponytail holder is nowhere to be found, ask your friends to borrow a lip-gloss. Adding a pop of color to your lips will change your makeup instantly and it will draw peoples’ eyes upward towards to your face (major plus!).

 The final “quick change” to be made is the placement of your accessories. If you are wearing a long necklace, take it off! It can double as a belt or even a wrap bracelet. Take your scarf headband and tie it on your purse strap. To make an outfit seem fresh, it is all about changing the focal points—draw the eye to unexpected places and your outfit will never seem “been there, done that” again.

The Morning After

 The morning after an outfit nightmare is the time to take action. As a collegiate you probably have similar clothes as your fellow students, but the trick is to know how to make them seem different from the sea of your J. Crew and Sperry clad comrades.

 As Gore Vidal once said, “Style is knowing who you are, what you want to say, and not giving a damn”. Your personal style doesn’t have to be labeled with the typical “Classic”, “Bohemian”, or “Glam” adages, it is your own.

 Take a look through your closet. Is it a mass of white t-shirts and jeans? If so, it might be time to rethink a few of your items—but that doesn’t mean breaking the bank. After all, you’re a college student, right?

Basics are essential in your closet, but having the right ones that make all the difference. Instead of buying another plain shirt the next time you’re shopping, pay attention to the smaller details. Take a look at the neckline. Do you always opt for v-neck? If so, why not try one with a crew neck and an open back?

 Why not try a pair of high waisted jeans? It adds an instant retro feel to any outfit. Pair it with a crisp oversized button-down tied at the waist and your Sperry’s and you’ve got a look that is preppy, but with an unexpected twist.

 When you incorporate items with a different design into an outfit, it is like hitting the refresh button on your look, without taking you too far outside of your comfort zone.

You don’t have to throw away all of your old clothes to reform your style, in fact you would be throwing out material for your next adventure: DIY-land. The world of DIY is the girl on a budget’s best friend. Even if you aren’t the craftiest of fashionistas, there is still a DIY for you; all you have to do is search!

Enter the World Wide Web. There are thousands of websites just waiting for you to try their fabulous ideas! Two of my favorite DIY-bloggers are …LoveMaegan and Style\_Hurricane. Both ladies are masters of re-imagining and re-creating runway looks. Becoming a DIY diva is a surefire way to unique pieces—after all, no two girls DIY alike!

 Another way to get new items while keeping costs low is to do a closet swap with friends; besides, what are friends for? Even if your friend’s style is at the polar opposite of your own, they might have some pieces that will add some unexpected flair to your wardrobe.

A great way to raid your friends closet is to host a “swap party”. Have each friend bring a bag unwanted items—throw them in the middle of the room and have a blast raiding for new treasures.

A bad experience such as the one described earlier doesn’t have to be a negative—it is actually your closet telling you it is time to change it up (that is, if closets could talk)! The bottom line is that your style is your form of expression—why would you want to blend into the crowd when you can stand out, and look fabulous while doing it?

\*\*\*For this article because there are so many tips & tricks I think it would be really cool to pull them out and put them on a type of “checklist” in a separate text box!