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## I cut up my mother's pajamas this morning

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Like several sparkers lately, I have to deal with my mother's possessions. Unlike some others, this is a slow process for me.

Partly it's because my mother saved everything and there isn't any particular organization to the stuff she saved. Partly it's because I could only deal with so much at a time.

Still, it's been 3 ½ years since her death so it's time I finished this up.

People deal with loss in different ways. In my case there was no reason to rush. I took care of all the paperwork and legal details quickly. I'm good with things like that. It also helped that I'm an only child. It was difficult having all the responsibility, but there was no one rushing me either. I could take my time.

I tackled it in waves.

If something didn't "tug at my heart" it was donated or discarded immediately.  
If it did evoke memories, I put it aside for the next go-round.

Her closets and drawers are empty now.

A few things are saved in my cedar chest. A few things I'm actually using.

Aprons and pajamas. I'm so much bigger than my 5 foot 110 pound mother that's all I can wear. The aprons remind me of my childhood when that was the standard dress of a "housewife." Some of the pajamas and nightgowns are brand new. It was a tradition in our family to give nightwear, probably because even if you didn't like it, you could always sleep in it. I now have enough for decades.

Toward the end of her life she wore flannel PJs. Since she took a blood thinner, she was always cold.

They're too worn to give away and not useful to me. So why are they here in the last "wave?" Probably because in her final years she wore them a lot. She lived with DH & me so I remember them a LOT.

Then I remembered another tradition of my frugal family. I cut up those PJs into dust cloths. Now they are a neat pile in my laundry room and when I dust my furniture, Mom will be helping me.

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**TX\_WILDHEART**

Going thru moms stuff IS hard. ZBeen there - done that... some things I just haven't messed with. Good job to you Rhonda

2449 days ago

v



**GINIEMIE**

Phebe had great idea of making something-a lap blanket for the chillier evenings maybe out of some of the nicer portions of her flannel jammies. I like that you have her helping you with your household chores. My mom died in 82 and daddy in 96. I only have one small box of Steve's stuff and his flannel shirts that I wear in the cooler weather-soon I hope. Wow, I've missed several of your blogs. I've been hiding in books to find some PEACE. Now to aim for balance between being healthy-food and exercise, reading and paper work as well as all the other stuff I do.



2453 days ago

Comment edited on: 9/23/2014 8:47:50 AM

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**PROVERBS31JULIA**

We're still trying to figure out what to do with my in-laws things... my FIL passed away in 2000 and the MIL never really "dealt with" his things, nor had she dealt with both of her parents things (her mom died 1980's and her dad died shortly after I started dating my husband.)...so we've got all this in our storage buildings we are renting and they all need to go!! out!! I'm not sure I really want a bunch of dust rags to remind me of them since I don't particularly have a lot of good memories... Just today realized I really wanted to get rid of the cute white toilet plunger that my husband had sent a friend out to go buy for his mom's apartment after yet another of the (increasingly more frequent) toilet clogs caused by her resistance to throwing away the wads of toilet paper she felt she needed, instead of trying to flush them down and backing up the toilet. I just realized there was so much "negative energy" every time I saw it in my toilet room (and I rarely ever, if not almost never have a clogged toilet, and I'm upstairs!). So it's going to the thrift store soon, after I clean it in something obviously "clean" smelling...

2454 days ago

v



**SWEETENUGILL**



2455 days ago

v



**PATRICIAANN46**

What a GREAT idea.....

2455 days ago



v



**REBESANCON**

Sorry for your loss, but glad your mother's spirit is still alive in your heart!

2457 days ago

v



**PHEBESS**

If you sew, you can also take some of those cut up items and make quilts - so your mom can keep you warm all winter.

2458 days ago

v



**BOOKAPHILE**

How lovely that you will be reminded of her when doing everyday things. Also good that you didn't have to rush through the process.

Dad died a month ago, and my sister and I are making our way through his things slowly but steadily. I'm glad to be reminded that there's light at the end of the tunnel.

2458 days ago

v



**TRAVELGRRL**

This is so heartwarming. My mother too is VERY frugal and I know she cuts up old, soft clothing for rags. This is really such a lovely use of those pajamas, and gives you a while longer to feel your mum's presence. Hugs!

2458 days ago

v

**SMOKY\_TEA**

I am so sorry for your loss. I know that 6 years after my mother's death, I still continue to think

v



of her all the time. It is so poignant and same things are more heart-rending than others, I know. My mother did not own much "clutter" because she moved through the world from address to address, keeping her life slim and clean and pared down. I rely on memories.

THANK  
YOU!

I am noticing how creative the titles of your blogs are!  
2459 days ago



#### MARYJEANSL

The first picture that came to my mind was someone taking a sword and slashing those pajamas to bits. (Yes, I have been reading some swashbuckling stories lately.) Then I decided I just had to find out why you would cut them up instead of just tossing them in the trash. Very thrifty move - and I suspect your mother would have approved.  
2459 days ago

V



#### SANDICANE

What a lovely story. Oh yes, it takes time to sort through those kinds of things...I still have 5 boxes untouched.  
2459 days ago

V



#### DOVESEYES

Love the thoughts ...  
2459 days ago

V



#### ONEKIDSMOM

I love that thought... of your mom helping you dust!  
2459 days ago



V



#### WATERMELLEN

So touching, I just love this!! I'm sure your mother is delighted to be helping you!!  
2459 days ago

V



#### LINDAKAY228

My mother passes away 5 years ago and it took me a long time to get rid of some of her stuff. She has gone into an assisted living for about 6 months after 2 months in nursing home after she broke her femur. Before that she has her own apartment but after she broke her femur she was in a wheelchair and she also had severe osteoporosis as well as some other problems. So when I cleaned her apartment when she broke her leg a lot of her stuff went into my storeroom. After she passed away I took care of the stuff at the assisted living right away to get the room cleaned out but the stuff in the storeroom went or got used little by little. I have 2 brothers but one we had no idea where he was, and still don't. My other brother lives in CA and told me just to take care of everything and didn't argue because he knew what I was going through taking care of her even there and also before she left her apartment. I spent hours with her. So he was very supportive and I didn't have any problems with family either. Glad you finally got it done.  
2459 days ago

V



#### KRISZTA11

A nice way to remember your mother - I can totally understand that. My grandma died 6 years ago, and we have several towels and kitchen clothes from here, and I like to look at them a lot.



2459 days ago

V



#### CD123582

There's a lovely children's story called Geraldine's Blanket. A story about a little girl who loved her blanket but as she got older she couldn't carry around the blanket and her mother found new way of trimming the blanket til when she went off the school the piece she had was now a napkin at snack. Your story of your mother's pajamas brought this story to mind. And from one Brooklyn to another, I hope I will be able to turn to you for advice when I get to maintenance!  
2459 days ago

V



#### CD4114015

SO much of what you say here is exactly what I went through in 06! Same situation. I loved the aprons too and the time of that era!

V



Glad it is all going so easy for you! Love that your mom will still help you dust!  
2459 days ago

#### SUBMOM2

That's a great idea. Good for you for tackling another wave!  
2459 days ago

V



**IFDEEVARUNS2**



Way to go.

I just gave my DD her grandfather's ties (he's been gone 19 years!) He was quite the dandy and must have had over 300 ties. I kept them, thinking I'd make a quilt out of them someday, but when she decided she wanted to wear ties (as well as my mother's scarves), I quickly unloaded the bunch!

2459 days ago



**DR1939**



2459 days ago



**POINDEXTRA**



Oh, that's sweet!

My mom also saved everything. After she died, I found a bucket of elastic waistbands that she had saved when my Dad's worn out briefs were thrown out.! It turned out that they worked great for tying up bundles branches from cleaning out the yard:).

2459 days ago

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