

My Good Old Reliables

By Marilyn Reeves

I'm always amazed when I hear other women talking about how much they enjoy shoe shopping. Shoe shopping is one of my least favorite things to do. Yet, every so often, I come to the conclusion that my 'good old reliables' have given all they had to give, and it's time to lay them to rest. Which means that I've got to find another pair to replace them.

About 20 years ago I was introduced to the love of my life – with regard to shoes, that is – when I bought my very first pair of Easy Spirit white leather sneakers. They featured arch support, a nice padded sole, and plenty of wiggle room for my toes. I've been wearing them for casual wear ever since. Well, not that exact same pair, which finally had to be put down when the holes couldn't be patched and the rubber soles started peeling away from the bottoms, but clone after clone of that same original pair. When I find something that works, I stick with it!

I found them easy to replace. I didn't have to trudge all over town from shoe store to shoe store, but could simply order them through a catalog, or later, on line. And a couple of weeks ago I received my sixth or seventh pair, which came delivered to my door via UPS.

So I now have three generations of Easy Spirit white leather sneakers in use – all identical in size and styling. The only way I can tell them apart is by the degree of wear and tear. The brand new ones are bright white and smooth and nice enough to wear to Writers Group. The ones that are about three years old are still in good enough shape to shop in at King Soopers (who looks at your shoes at the grocery store, anyway?). And then there are my 'good old reliables' that I wear around home. They're probably five or six years old by now, and they show it. They're all wrinkled and creased like their owner, the seams are starting to pop out at the heels, and the rubber is starting to split at the bottoms. But, oh, they are so comfortable! They fit my feet like a glove, their shape conforms to my shape, and I barely even notice that I have them on.

But one of these days I shall have to bid that pair a fond adieu, too, and then Pair Number Two will become demoted (or should I say, uplifted?) to hold the title as my 'good old reliables' for the next couple of years.

Did I mention that I like my Easy Spirit shoes?