

Ginny is a very petite woman in her early 70s. I have known her for about 40 years, but neither of us can remember when we met. We do know that we met in a class at church for young marrieds. Ginny's hair is always in a perfect pageboy and it is not her natural color, which should be gray by now. She has sandy blonde hair, always cut and styled exactly the same way. It takes at least 20 minutes and tons of styling products to achieve this perfect hair. She wouldn't dream of going anywhere without full makeup on, and her purse is co-ordinated with her stylish shoes (usually sandals). She shocked me recently with her proclamation to lose weight, since she only weighs about 105 pounds. She said that she had gained 5 pounds during the pandemic and needed to take it off. And she did lose the weight, by investing in a Mediterranean cookbook and exercise classes in Winter Park.

She loved shopping at Steinmart, and mourned its passing when that store closed. We still talk about it. Her brightly-colored necklaces and earrings always came from Steinmart. Lilly Pulitzer is her new favorite store and her tiny figure is well-suited for all those skinny sheaths that Lilly designs. Many times I have sat on a bench at the Lilly store in Winter Park as my friend tried on dress after dress. Just entering the Lilly store makes me feel pudgy.

She once wore a white cashmere sweater to help me move some very dusty furniture. She looked like she was dressed for a ski vacation. She tried hard to avoid getting that sweater dirty. The white cashmere did not fare well with my furniture.

We took a roadtrip together in summer of 2016. We drove to Michigan to see our friends. Actually, I drove to Michigan. She just came along for the ride! I quickly discovered that her driving skills were poor at best, as every car honked at us when she drove. She disliked interstates, which made up 95% of the roads we traveled. She also disliked going the speed limit, which meant that she drove excruciatingly slow. Hence, the honking of other drivers. Her driving scared me.

She packed enough snacks for a football team even though there were two of us. She baked chocolate chip cookies for the trip! She insisted on going to the Auto Club to get maps. She remembered these from her childhood trips over 50 years ago. We didn't use those maps at all. We did eat most of the snacks. There were 2 cookies left when we got to Michigan.

Once we arrived in Michigan, our friends' cat Toby bit her, sending her to urgent care. She spent the rest of the trip having a bad reaction to the medicine they prescribed. The return trip was utterly miserable, as she needed to stop each hour and refused to drive at all. It's a wonder we made it home.

Ginny had porcelain unwrinkled skin for most of her life. She looked much younger than her age. People always said, "She looks much younger than she is." The deaths of two husbands and her daughter have left her face full of wrinkles but she still looks radiant and stylish when she goes out. She still dresses up for a coffee at Foxtail or lunch with her retirees group. And she continues to have perfect hair, perfect clothes, and a perfect figure.