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Does This Wedding Dress Make the Room Small?

By [DEVAN SIPHER](#)

THOUGH Annette Berry knew exactly where she wanted to marry (the Bowery Hotel in New York), she had a harder time imagining the dress she would wear.

Last year, Ms. Berry, who married Dan Miller (of the rock band They Might Be Giants), began her search amid the bump-and-run chaos of the Vera Wang bridal gown sample sale in New York.

“There were racks and racks of wedding dresses and all these women climbing all over each other,” said Ms. Berry, who was overwhelmed by the trumpet skirts and mermaid silhouettes.

She left holding a white ball gown with a wide tulle skirt and a simple strapless top.

“It looked like a ballerina dress,” Ms. Berry said. It conjured childhood fantasies, but she said that the bag was 3 to 4 feet in diameter, and when she hung it up at her apartment, “it was like having another body in the room.”

When she tried the dress on again, she realized how wrong it was.

“I couldn’t picture myself dancing with Dan, because he’d have to stand four feet from me,” she said.

Ms. Berry, who is 39 and owns a graphic design company, added, “If you were directing a photo shoot for a particular piece of clothing, you try to pick an environment that will compliment what you’re shooting.”

Translation: “A big, poufy dress didn’t seem right in the Bowery Hotel,” she said.

Mara Urshel, an owner of Kleinfeld, a bridal shop in New York that is the setting of “Say Yes to the Dress,” a TLC cable network reality show, said the wedding location “has everything to do with choosing the dress.”

Eyal Tessler, an owner and wedding planner at In Any Event in New York, concurred. “If the bride is going for a downtown vibe for the event, then she doesn’t want to look like a wedding cake,” he said.

So Ms. Berry chose a less traditional route and treated herself to a tour of the designer evening wear department at Barneys. She quickly found a “whitish” one-shouldered Derek Lam that represented the sleek downtown glamour she sought.

But now she had two dresses.

So she put the first one up for sale on eBay, joining the more than 13,000 other wedding dress listings. Within a few days, a woman in California bought the dress for a sister, apparently the wedding-cake-dress type, living in Morocco.

“I just wanted to get rid of it,” Ms. Berry said.