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A chat with Ann Caruso

Temperatures dropped this weekend in New York, and with them came the unofficial arrival of fall—sweater weather. I love the change of seasons for the fashion shifts as much as anything else, and I spent some time with one of my favorite smart, fashionable women friends, Ann Caruso, an in-demand celebrity stylist and contributing editor to *Harper's Bazaar*. Her clients have included Elizabeth Hurley, Katherine Heigl, Christina Applegate, Liv Tyler, and Katie Couric, so it's always exciting to hear what she's up to, and I always learn something new.

EK: What advice would you give to women entrepreneurs today that someone gave you—or that you wish someone had given you—when you were starting out?

AC: The best advice is "Do what you love and the money will follow".

EK: That's been true for so many lia sophia Advisors, sharing the love of jewelry and reaping the financial rewards. I know you love fashion, but when you're putting together looks for people all day long, where do you find inspiration for yourself? Is there one look you find best for you?

AC: I like a mixture of classic with a bohemian twist, and my schedule is so busy I like my things to mix and match. I base my looks around classic staples in my wardrobe and then add trendier pieces. For example, I like to wear pencil skirts and a gorgeous fashion blouse...with some kind of shape or angle to it...

Also, I prefer clean silhouettes that I can wear over and over again and make different outfits by wearing different accessories. I'll buy a black dress and make it look different—one day with a big necklace, another day wearing a cuff, and another day just a large cocktail ring. Then it looks like three different outfits.

EK: That's so smart—it's an approach that makes the most of your wardrobe and your accessories. What are a few things we should always have in our closets—things you can't live without and that are always in style?

AC: Everyone should have the black dress, the black pant. It could be a skinny black pant, a Capri, or a slight flare. And a black, knee-length skirt. Jewelry wise, everyone should have a great watch, bold bangles or a chunky cuff—either gold or silver, whatever you wear—and a...pair of diamond studs.