

CLEA SHEARER & JOANNA TEPLIN

# THE HOME EDIT

*life*

*The No-Guilt Guide*  
to OWNING  
WHAT YOU WANT  
*and* ORGANIZING  
EVERYTHING



WELLNESS • WORK • KIDS • PETS • TRAVEL • HOBBIES



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PHOTOGRAPHS BY CLEA SHEARER



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IT'S FOR YOUR SELF-CARE

YOU NEED TO STAY PLUGGED IN

YOU'RE ALWAYS ON THE GO

IT'S FOR YOUR WORK LIFE

YOU HAVE KIDS

YOU HAVE PETS

YOU LOVE TO CELEBRATE

IT SERVES A PURPOSE

IT MAKES YOU HAPPY

THE FINISHING TOUCHES

THANKS

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# Introduction



This book is for both those who love to organize in their free time and those who *want* to get organized but feel they just can't make the time. It's for the moms who are sick of looking at sippy cups in their cabinets and wish there was more room for champagne glasses. It's for those of us who go to work, sit at our desks, and continue to wonder how we always end up with so many pens that rarely have ink. It's for the craft lovers, the beauty product enthusiasts, and the jet-set travelers.

Basically, this book is for everyone. We wanted to create a book that shows you how to live the life you love without feeling bad about the things you own.

We wanted to show you that being organized isn't limited to pantries, closets, and other rooms in your house. It also extends to your hobbies, your travel, and even your phone. Organizing is a lifestyle and mindset that anyone can adopt. Consider this book our 360-degree approach to help you contain the chaos of your life and all the contents that come with it—whatever that may be.

Alright, now that we have that covered, it's time to step inside and leave any guilt you might have about owning things at the door...except can you maybe take your shoes off first? Thanks!



PART 1

# Adopting the 360 Mindset



# true story

We closed our first book promising that our method would help you organize—and *maintain*— your space. But you can only lead a horse to water; you can't make it drink (is there any point in researching the origins of this quote? Wikipedia will surely suggest it's Drake). We were a bit unsure how many people would put our method to work. Suffice it to say, we were STUNNED by the response, and the amount of organized spaces that quickly ensued. We felt like proud Instagram moms seeing all our followers tackle their closets, mudrooms, hard-to-reach shelves, and pantries.

It took us eight-plus hours to organize Constance Zimmer's pantry because we were having such a hard time with its dimensions. She actually said goodbye and left us at the house while she went to a holiday party. We were still there at midnight when she got home.

Although...didn't we explicitly warn against immediately organizing your pantry before getting your feet wet by tidying smaller spaces? Every time we saw someone tag us in an Instagram story where every single item in their pantry had been taken out and piled all over the kitchen, with the caption, "Just received my book in the mail! Getting started!" we wanted to scream, "NOOOOOO!!! DON'T DOOOOOO ITTTTTTTT!" We're very much hoping all those ambitious go-getters made it out unscathed and didn't end up crouched in a corner crying. Even *we* have ended up crying over a complicated pantry! Okay, not exactly *crying*, but certainly taking panicked shallow breaths and reciting, "Just keep swimming, just keep swimming, just keep swimming."

We promise we're not trying to take away your organizing fun, but we do want to reiterate that starting small and working your way up is the best way to ensure a successfully organized space. Starting on a drawer might seem like an insignificant project, but it can be just as transformative as organizing a larger space (and *what* is better than an organized bathroom

drawer?!), helping to eliminate common hassles and improve your everyday life. In other words, no more rummaging around for a hair tie, or trying to find a pen to sign a permission slip. Have we sold you on starting small yet?

### ***Rebranding the* NO-JUNK DRAWER**

So what if a drawer holds random items? As long as everything is contained and categorized, and makes sense in your daily routine, that's all that matters.

Organization isn't one size fits all, and customizing spaces to your needs is the golden ticket.









**TOP 5 SURPRISES** *from Book One*

1. **A lot of people took the book on vacation.** To a beach! To read about organizing! This is truly shocking, and we can only assume the bookstore was sold out of all thrilling romantic murder mysteries.

2. **People checked out copies of our book at their local libraries.** Not only were we delighted that folks patronize their libraries, but we were also so flattered that they put holds on *our* book and then *waited for weeks*. We received screenshots of library waiting lists from all over the world!

3. **Kids like organizing.** And not just the ones we gave birth to! We saw so many kids at our book tour events who came with homemade signs or photos of their organizing projects to show us. Naturally, we told all their parents (1) you're welcome, and (2) do their kids want a job?

4. **According to our tagged photos on Instagram, far more dogs like the book than cats.** This is not a scientific poll and we would require more data to accurately report findings, but we definitely need to shore up the cat community.

5. **OUR BOOK HIT THE *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER LIST!!!**

This is something we will continue to be excited about for the rest of our lives and will likely add to our tombstones. We are *this close* to making our husbands introduce us as their *New York Times* bestselling wives. A huge thanks to our readers and fans for supporting the book from day one!





One thing that became abundantly clear, however, is that our first book appealed to both those who already liked to organize *and* those who needed a bit more help getting started. Some folks told us we were speaking their love language, and others felt it was a book filled with foreign concepts, but happily accepted the

challenge anyway. Some people read the book with a highlighter in hand, and others just looked at the pictures. There's no right or wrong way—we're just happy so many people appreciate home organization. We kind of thought it was just us!

Another thing we learned: There were a few pages that received by *far* the most attention. The first was our Low-Bar Lifestyle rules to live by. For those of you who need a refresher on our life's motto, this means we set the bar very *low* (as in, on the floor) so we can feel accomplished at all times. We give ourselves gold stars for remembering to feed our kids and getting dressed in the morning.

It's amazing how many goals you can achieve when your expectations are that low.

### **TOP 5 LOW-BAR LIFESTYLE *Submissions***

We asked you to send us your own Low-Bar Lifestyle moments, and WOW, DID YOU DELIVER:

1. "Wine is fruit....You have eaten a full serving for every glass of wine.

Not only are you full of antioxidants, but you are also actively combating scurvy."

2. "If the kids are screaming, it means they are breathing."

3. "Sometimes I feed my kids cereal for dinner and hype it like Oprah.

'YOU GET CEREAL! AND YOU GET CEREAL! EVERYONE GETS CEREAL!'"

4. "I don't spend much time inside the gym, but I spend a long time in the [gym] parking lot looking at Instagram, so I feel good about the total time spent."

5. "I add ice cubes to sparkling wine for extra hydration."\*

\*Clea's personal submission, sorry not sorry.

### **THE NO-GUILT LIFE**

The common thread between the Low-Bar Lifestyle and our other motto, "It's okay to get rid of things," is the notion that when it comes to your stuff, you can kick your guilt to the curb. In creating the Low-Bar Lifestyle, we wanted to foster a community that championed even the smallest amount of effort. Like maybe you washed your hair. So what if you didn't

blow-dry it (that would be a significantly higher bar)? It's *clean*, and that counts.

In the same way that we don't want you to feel guilty about using dry shampoo for the fifth day in a row, we also don't want you to feel guilty when it comes to editing your items. After all, you should fill your home with only the things you like, need, or find sentimental. Here are a few examples.

### *THINGS YOU MIGHT LIKE*

Candles

Clothing

Framed photos

Guitars

Jewelry

Vases

### *THINGS YOU MIGHT NEED*

Batteries

Documents

Hand soap

Lightbulbs

Tax returns

Toilet plunger

### *THINGS YOU MIGHT FIND SENTIMENTAL*



Childhood items

Family heirlooms

Kids' artwork

Notes and cards

Old photos

Wedding dress