

teenager is going to be buying Prada unless they're a billionaire."

Before her modelling career took off, Lawley toyed with the idea of becoming a chef. At school she did a work-experience placement at the hatted restaurant Guillaume at Bennelong and discussed getting an apprenticeship there. In the end she decided to finish her HSC.

"I mean, I love food," she laughs, gesturing in a way that says 'obviously'. "I've been cooking all my life and, you know, modelling took me on a different journey. I think I would have been in the food industry regardless of modelling."

She's been signed by Random House to write a cookbook based on her Tumblr blog Robyn Lawley Eats (out next year).

"I was vegan [at 14], and then I was vegetarian and then I was pescatarian. I've been everything. Now I'm just, like, I will eat anything anyone gives me," she laughs.

Lawley now regrets denying herself during those teenage years she spent trying to whittle down to a sample size.

"I was on a permanent diet for years and it was such a waste of my time – I could have been enjoying all that amazing food," she explains. "I think I learned [that lesson] really young. A lot of women haven't, you know? They're just so scared because [a lot of] the media is like, 'You must be skinny! And you must be on a diet! If you're not on a diet, you should be feeling guilty.'"

Food is a huge part of her life – along with the blog, and cookbook, she's been filming a cooking show for Foxtel at home in New York.

"When you live in New York you'll eat out most days, if not every day, so I'm going to all these great restaurants," she says.

"I just wanted to capture that in a blog and also I love following all the other food blogs. I love food porn. That's what I love, looking at a good photo of a simple dish."

Little did she know how much work would be involved in creating a whole book of good photos of simple dishes. Lawley moved from Brooklyn to an apartment in the financial district with a separate studio for her food photography and enlisted the help of her boyfriend, Everest Schmidt, 27, who was studying for his final law-school exams, to sample dishes and buy groceries. But everything else she did herself – cooking, photography, styling, editing.

"It was much bigger than I imagined. I understood that shooting 100-plus recipes was going to be hard, but I have a full-time job, so it was a bit stressful," she says.

When I ask Lawley which of her dishes is Schmidt's favourite, it's clear he's hit the



jackpot in the girlfriend department: "I cooked this pork rack the other day that was mind-bogglingly good. I mean, I polished it off as much as him. He's lucky, but his waistline's not happy," she laughs.

They met two years ago when she was at a bar on the Lower East Side with a group of models. "He's a giant, I'm a giant, so it was hard not to spot him and vice versa," she laughs. Although it was obvious that he and his mates thought they had "struck gold" to

find all these models in one place, Lawley says she made the first move.

"Once you get a few drinks into me I'm quite boisterous. Usually I'm a shy person, especially with males. I have this theory: a lot of women tend to wait for men to approach them, but [you want] the really shy cute guy in the corner who will never come up to you because he's so goddamn nervous. My boyfriend could barely say his name to me when I first met him, he was so nervous."