

***Garage Sale Gal***  
**THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC**



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***A Love Story: Let's put the cards on the table***  
***Lynda Hammond***

It's like a love scene in a movie. I'm at a party mingling around the food. I reach for another carrot and as I go for the spinach dip I catch a glimpse of the handsome stranger eyeing me from the far corner of the room. I gobble up the carrot and go toward the object of my desire (hopefully, I don't have spinach in my teeth.) As I get closer I just know it's meant to be.

Now, imagine this: the party is a garage sale and the man is a table. That's how it is for me if I spot something attractive at a garage sale..especially if it's a flat surface with four legs. There can be a driveway full of everything—clothes, TVs, sofas, chairs, and collectibles but if there's a table in the group, somehow everything else just melts away. There's just something about tables I find simply irresistible—even if they're falling apart.

Sheri Monet was selling one such treasure at a garage sale recently in Mesa. The coffee table was originally owned by a friend's great-grandmother from back east. Sheri cherished the antique but after moving several times it ended up in a storage facility.

After finally settling down, Sheri picked up her stored belongings and found the table "outside" the facility laying on its side. She says it had likely been sitting out in the elements for several years. It was faded, withered and cracked. "I just cried. Because I loved that table so much. I was sad to see it like that." So, Sheri brought it back to Mesa, put it up for grabs at her garage sale hoping someone would see its beauty. That's where I come in.

I pulled up to a sale several houses down from Sheri's but despite the distance I saw the table right away. Even in poor shape, it was still striking with it's ornate elegant shape, quality cherry wood and intricate leg carving. I made a beeline for Sheri's sale and went straight for the table.

But wow! It was in bad shape. The finish was worn off, it was wobbly, cracked in places and completely withered and dried out from the extreme heat and sun. Although the last thing I needed was another table (just ask my husband) I couldn't resist grabbing it for \$5. And Sheri's glad I did. "I know you love tables and I you're going to fix this one up —right?"

You bet!

I will enjoy putting new life into this piece of art and history. The process may not be pretty—since I don't have much experience with withered wood but I'll sure give it a try. After all, if it's true love then it must be worth fighting..er..sanding for, right?

### **MY FAVORITE FIND**

**(Photo by: Lynda Hammond )**



Sheri Monet and her granddaughter, Lyla Schafer, 3, show me what the Arizona sun can do to a nice, old wooden table. Sheri peels off layers of the laminate from the bottom. Despite the “flaws” I buy it—unable to resist the artistic wood carving on the legs. I paid \$5.

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*Do you have a garage sale find you love? Something that makes you smile when you look at it? Share it with us. Send us your picture. Include your name, email address and phone number and email it to: [Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com](mailto:Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com). Watch for the story of your treasure in this column!*

**Lynda Hammond is a former TV broadcaster who left the anchor desk for the love of garage sales. Contact her at [Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com](mailto:Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com). She also does garage sale segments on 3-TV's Good Morning Arizona.**