

Lynda Hammond
THE GARAGE SALE GAL



Reporter called out on garage saling comment

Lynda Hammond

I'm sure you know this by now: I like garage sales.

So, when I hear someone take a swipe at them I tend to put up my dukes—picture the lion in the Wizard of Oz: “Put ‘em up, put ‘em up. Which one of you first”?

I mean what’s not to like about garage sales? We get great deals, we’re recycling and we chat with neighbors and meet new friends—it’s magic.

But not according to a reporter for one business magazine.

I saw the correspondent for US News & World Report, Rick Newman, criticize garage saling and while doing so; I think he rolled his eyes!

Yep..I think he did.

Here’s what happened.

So, I’m channel surfing when I land on a cable show and this guy is talking about how to have a “cheap date” in these tough economic times. Newman was discussing a story he’d written on ways to go on a date inexpensively and had asked his readers to send ideas. My ears perked up when he shared one of those suggestions: “Here’s one that sent shivers down my spine---go to yard sales. Now that sounds like a terrible date to me but I suppose if you’re looking to get out of the house it’s an alternative”, he told the news anchor.

Ouch.

So, as you can imagine, being the Garage Sale Gal I just couldn’t let this one go without trying to get poor old Rick to see the light.

But (sigh of relief here) turns out I didn’t have to do much convincing.

Rick says he actually *likes* garage sales. He lives just outside New York City in an upscale neighborhood where he has even snapped up a few deals including power tools and a lawn mower.

This is great. He’s not a garage sale curmudgeon after all! But wait—it gets better.

Rick has a favorite memory of the day he saw his son, who was 9 years old at the time, arriving home from—yes—a garage sale. “Robert and my Mom were walking down the sidewalk with a huge stuffed dog. I’ll never forget it. I mean it was bigger than him. It was pretty funny.”

And Robert, now 11 remembers the day, too, especially the great deal he got! The price was \$6 but he didn’t have enough money. So, Grandma taught him the art of negotiation. “My Grandma said I should ask them if they’d take less so I said ‘I only have two bucks. Will you let me buy it for two bucks?’,” Robert says.

Well, this turned out to be a decent story in the end.

Rick likes garage sales, his son likes garage sales and now Rick is even waffling on the garage sale date thing. “I’m divorced so what do I know. Maybe garage saling would be a good date,” he laughs.



(pic provided by Rick Newman) Westchester, NY., resident Robert Newman, 11, shows off one of his favorite garage sale finds. “My Mom thinks it’s obnoxious and she tries to hide it. But I always find it one way or another,” Robert says proudly.

Talk to the Garage Sale Gal!

Do you have a question or comment about garage or estate bargain sales? Email the Garage Sale Gal: Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com.

Lynda Hammond is a former television anchor who left the anchor desk for the love of garage sales. Contact her at Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Lynda also does garage sale segments on local TV stations.

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