

# Lynda Hammond **THE GARAGE SALE GAL**



*Look closer*  
*Lynda Hammond*

Oops. I did it again.

I bought a unique antique without a discriminating eye only to get it home and discover a few “flaws”.

If only I would take my own advice: Rule 202-Examine treasures closely with magnifying glass; Rule 300-Don’t be gullible, be skeptical.

My mistakes never cease to amaze me. Remember that wicker trunk from the “1800s” I bought for \$5 after the owner told me it had belonged to her dear old, sweet grandmother? (I can never resist an endearing grandma story especially since I loved and now miss mine so much.) Turns out it was really a Pier One Imports Store special from the 1980s.

I vowed to be more careful and look more closely at things.

So, what went wrong *this* time? Why did I buy something that—at first glance was a good buy—but in actuality looked like someone had thrown it against the wall—twice--- and glued it back together again?!

Well, let me tell you the story.

It was a cool, damp and dark morning in the Valley. It was late February and rain had pelted the ground all night. Undeterred by the threatening skies, I set out in search of bargains. I arrived at a neighborhood sale in Scottsdale and found a great sale with antiques and collectibles neatly displayed on tables. Most of the things were priced high as if I were in an antique store not someone’s garage—an old electric iron, an ashtray-- each \$20 and a hanging brass décor doodad, \$25.

Then I saw a 1920s art deco lamp. It was a small, metal table lamp in the shape of a woman with her arms stretched out and a square glass light shade hanging from each arm. It was marked \$15. The seller saw me eyeing it.

“You’ll never find another one like that. I was open yesterday and I can’t believe it didn’t sell then.”

I knew I wanted it so I played it cool.

“It’s nice but one of the shades has a few chips,” I said, hoping she’d take \$10.

She wouldn’t, telling me it was already “way” under priced.

I whipped out \$15 and as I was leaving I noticed a crack in the shoulder—as in the arm had been broken off and reattached—ouch! The seller seemed flabbergasted by it and said she’d never “seen that before”.

I took it home anyway.

Let me tell you—this lady—not the seller, the lamp-- has been through a lot. She has the broken arm and turns out all eight of the shade’s glass slats have chips. And then there’s the entire body-

--it had been broken off at one point and her feet were re-soldered to the base—so sloppy it looked like Play-Doh played a part in the reattachment.

Now, why didn't I see these problems?

Well, it was dark in the garage but it really comes down to age.

I need glasses now to see up close—yes, I am 48 (and a half) but I was too vain and impatient to dig into my purse and put on my spectacles.

But there is a happy ending to this story. My husband Kevin, despite all the flaws loves the lamp and is looking forward to re-wiring and making her pretty again.

Now, if only he could rewire me!





(pic provided by Lynda Hammond) I picked up this art deco lamp at a garage sale in Scottsdale. Surprise! The lady lamp came with a few problems.

**Talk to the Garage Sale Gal!**

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

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

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