

## *Naughty or Nice?* *Lynda Hammond*

People are so incredibly nice at garage sales—have you ever noticed that? Bargain hunters swap stories of things they've found and they love help each other—some go above and beyond the call of duty.

Case in point: I'm at a sale where I spot a full-length mirror trimmed in wicker—exactly what I need. I pay \$25 and proceed with it to my car. "I don't think that'll fit," the seller tells me. "I can drop it off for you. Where do you live?" Seriously? Not only does she sell me a mirror for a good price she also offers to take it home for me *during* her sale. "My son can watch things," she tells me.

Now, that's nice.

But there are some naughty folks, too. I've had only a handful of bad experiences but boy do they stand out. Like the time I ask a seller the price of a table—he says \$5, I offer \$4—deal. I continue looking around a bit. Next thing I know another buyer hands the seller \$4 and walks off with *my* table. I see the look in the buyer's eyes, so I say nothing.

Another incident occurred just the other day.

I'm out doing what I'm always doing on a Saturday morning—admiring things at a garage sale—when I spot a unique floor lamp in Gold Canyon—east of Phoenix. I ask seller Doris Roach if it works. "Oh, yes. It's wonderful. Let me plug it in for you." Doris carries the lamp from her yard to the garage and plugs it in. It's a beauty and a rarity. It's enamel and bends every which way. It has a magnifying glass at the top along with three small tube bulbs which shed light on small projects. It reminds me of something you might see in a dermatologist's office. But turns out it's made by a sewing company for intricate needle work. In this case Doris' friend utilized it to put the finer touches on her paintings. I enjoyed hearing the history of the lamp and knew I wanted it—I love things you can no longer buy in a store. It was marked \$15 but since I'm the "Gal" I had to try. "Will you take \$10 for it?" I asked gently, thinking if she wouldn't, I'd go higher.

Our pleasant conversation was about to take a turn for the worse.

If this were a movie, this is where the scary music would fade in--the kind that signals trouble--when you know there's a bad guy in the closet but the character is oblivious to it all.

"I'll give you \$15 for the lamp," a lady with dark hair and big dark sunglasses dead panned, completely ignoring me.

The music hits a crescendo.

"I'll give her \$15," I tell my rival enouncing each word slowly and with more confidence than I feel on the inside.

Doris saves the day and tells the lady I have first dibs. "As far as I was concerned since you started talking to me about the lamp first, to see if it worked and all, it was yours as long as you paid me what I wanted. And you did," she told me after the lady left empty handed.

When we see something we really want at a garage sale after someone else buys it, it may be hard to be nice but don't be naughty.

Remember, Santa is watching us.

***Ever have a scary experience at a garage sale? I want to hear about it. Write me at [Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com](mailto:Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com)***



(pic provided by Lynda Hammond) Doris Roach with the lamp I bought, despite my “scary” experience.

**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 the author of the new book, [The Garage Sale Gal's Guide to Making Money Off Your Stuff](#). Check out [www.GarageSaleGal.com](http://www.GarageSaleGal.com) for details on where to buy the book.*

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