

Lynda Hammond
THE GARAGE SALE GAL



The Short-Sale-Sale Folo
Lynda Hammond

It's just two days before Christmas and Teena Morrissey is waking up in her new home. "It still seems very unreal but now that we're here, that's made it real," Teena says excited about her recent turn of events. Teena got the house thanks to a garage sale—at least in a roundabout way. Let me back up and introduce you to another woman so you can get the full picture.

Marie Evans never misses my column even though she's not much of a bargain hunter. "You're so exuberant and enthusiastic about your topics and I like seeing what you find," Marie says.

In my November 18 column, "Need to sell everything puts woman's life in perspective", I introduced you to Teena who was losing her home to a short sale. I met them when she and her husband were holding a garage sale in preparation for their move into a much smaller apartment. "The column about the Morrissey's really hit me hard. I just had this gut feeling I needed to help these people and that's why I contacted you."

Marie then emailed Teena with an offer.

Teena was skeptical. "I just figured she was another person who wanted to buy or sell my house so I explained it had already sold," Teena says laughing now about the misunderstanding.

Turns out Marie had a much better and more generous offer in mind. Teena, her husband and son were just a few weeks away from losing the house and had no idea where they'd be going. That is, until Marie stepped in.

Marie offered the Morrisseys her extra home--a fully furnished, 2100 sq. ft. home in Gilbert. Meanwhile, Marie will continue to live with her husband in another house in Mesa. She says the Morrisseys can live in her spare abode for as long as they need to. "I knew they didn't have any place to go and I bought this house for myself, furnished it but I can't live there right now. They needed help and I didn't need the house so I thought I'd let them live there," explains Marie, who spends most of her time volunteering at a local hospital.

Teena couldn't believe it. "I just sat on (the information) for 24 hours. I didn't even tell my husband about it for awhile because I thought it was too weird. You don't expect people to offer you things like that. You wonder if there's a catch," Teena said.

Teena invited Marie to her home to meet and talk about the proposal and soon realized there was *no* catch. It was just an offer from a kind-hearted woman. The only thing Marie asked is that the Morrisseys pay the utilities each month. "I just want to help people out. It makes me feel good to help somebody," Marie says.

The Morrisseys are now in the new home and pinching themselves. "It's an absolutely beautiful home and there's a new washer and drier, marble kitchen counters and the furniture is just gorgeous," Teena says.

And to think it all started with a garage sale. “When God orchestrates something He doesn’t leave loose ends. You just have to laugh. You try and figure out how God should do something and He has other ideas,” Teena adds.

Marie, also a woman of faith, is confident this will work out wonderfully. “I’m not worried about (having strangers in my home) at all. I feel God sent them to me. You’re put on this Earth for a reason and I like to help people.”

Merry Christmas!



(pic provided by Lynda Hammond) Teena Morrissey by a Christmas tree that Marie put up at the new house.

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 for details on where to buy the book. Contact her at Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com.

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