



QUOTH THE MAVEN

BY BEVERLY KING POLLOCK

Hooked

I'm a junky. Lord knows I've tried to kick the habit, but whenever I find a couple bucks in my pocket somehow I get hooked all over again. At times I've had withdrawal symptoms so bad I'd beg and borrow. Even try to mortgage the kids' education.

You may ask: how could a nice Jewish girl go to pot?

Alas, were it as easy to flee temptation as it is to succumb! A dear friend -- a well meaning housewife like myself -- stumbled and fell. And she took me down with her.

Yea, she stumbled into a Goodwill Thrift Shop and fell into such a load of goodies that she took me down with her the next day. Oh, the glorious junk we discovered there!

I found a picture frame for 19¢ (the glass alone was worth a quarter), a mirror for a buck-thirty-five and a delicately carved wobbly chair for \$4.75.

Later came the real investment: paint remover, stain, wax plus 29 or 30 hours labor stripping the wood down to the natural finish. Now you end up with "junque". But add a little love and you have an antique.

Theoretically a genuine antique has to be 100 years old. But any article -- from Shirley Temple cereal bowls back -- can make the grade. And the great thing is, as long as it's

old, it's in good taste! I adore the nouveau trappings of the 'twenties.

From the educated way I speak, you can tell I graduated from junky to antiquer after six or eight purchases. I bought a player piano for a dollar (it cost only \$275 for repairs and my piano man swears it's worth \$300), a lead glass shade for \$3.50 (worth at least \$25 if one panel weren't cracked) and a slightly charred Victorian mirror that I'm still refinishing three years later.

However antiquing does present a number of problems.

- #1. Storing your junk until you refinish it.
- #2. Finding a place to put it when it's done.
- #3. Convincing your husband you are sane.

Therefore you must rationalize your purchases. Never give your husband a chance to say, "It's cracked and you must be cracked to buy it."

Instead you come right out with, "Remember, it'll always be worth more than I paid for it. It's like buying wholesale."

You cannot consider yourself an authentic junky until you discover the thrill of house sales (where you find all sorts of heirloom goodies) and the auction.

Auctions may be held in private homes or in barns specially made old and dirty for the occasion. Once I had to buy a play pen for my new puppy, so I went to the auction. The auctioneer called out, "would anybody give \$2 for this playpen just like new?"

I graciously volunteered, "One dollar."

And the guy said, "Lady, don't go 'way."

Though someday you too may become a junky, I caution you to think of your family beforehand.

Else you may be doomed to hear your husband moan inside the refrigerator door, "This thing's empty as an antique dealer's rubbish can."

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