

The Real Deal

Douglas Campbell





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THE REAL DEAL

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CAST

ANTIQUÉ DEALER: Over 50.

CUSTOMER: Over 50.

Place

An antique shop.

The shop can be suggested by several pieces of furniture, a sugar bowl, a telephone dialer, and various knick-knacks. A tea set should be prominently displayed.

Time

The Present.

THE REAL DEAL

At Rise: The lights come up on an antique shop. After a beat, an antique dealer approaches a customer.

DEALER: Excuse me. May I help you?

CUSTOMER: Yes, thank you. The sign here indicates that this tea set belonged to Mrs. George Washington. I find it hard to believe that a tea set for only five hundred dollars belonged to the wife of one of our greatest presidents.

DEALER: You're right to be skeptical. But I assure you, it's the real deal.

CUSTOMER: Do you have proof that it belonged to Mrs. Washington?

DEALER: I most certainly do! The person who sold it to me gave me a certificate of authenticity.

CUSTOMER: May I see this certificate?

DEALER: Of course. It's in the envelope right next to the tea set. *(the dealer removes the envelope, takes out the certificate, and hands it to the customer)* You can see for yourself.

CUSTOMER: *(reading)* "This is mine, not George's." It's signed Martha Washington.

DEALER: Like I said, "the real deal."

CUSTOMER: But there's nothing here authenticating a tea set, particularly *this* tea set. For example, there's no description of the teapot and teacups.

DEALER: There doesn't need to be. The paper was found inside the teapot.

CUSTOMER: That still doesn't prove that it belonged to Martha Washington.

DEALER: But Mrs. Washington was known for putting notes in bowls, pots, and whatnots that belonged to her.

CUSTOMER: Hmmm.

(The customer closely examines several of the teacups and saucers. Finally, she lifts the lid to the teapot and looks inside.)

DEALER: Isn't it gorgeous? And a steal at five hundred dollars!

CUSTOMER: *(putting the lid back on the teapot)* It's certainly lovely.

DEALER: It's genuine fine china. Handcrafted in England and shipped to the States. I'll be honest with you. *(picking up a teacup)* There's a little chip on one of the teacups. They didn't have the shipping skills of FEDEX back in 1776.

CUSTOMER: *(after a pause)* I'll give you two hundred dollars for it.

DEALER: SOLD!

CUSTOMER: *(surprised)* Oh! Uh...Can I give you a check?

DEALER: I'm sorry, we only accept cash.

CUSTOMER: Really?!

DEALER: Yes. There are so many con artists out there. One has to be careful.

CUSTOMER: I suppose so. Oh, I really like the cute handle on the lid!

DEALER: Isn't it adorable?

CUSTOMER: It certainly is! *(she lifts the lid again, admires it, then turns it over and reads the engraving)* It's engraved here: "Made in Thailand. 1999."

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!