

# The Appraisal

Fred Sahner



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## THE APPRAISAL

By Fred Sahner

### CAST

A.E: The art expert who moderates 'American Side Show.' In an expensive dress, she sits looking over the local presenters. A.E. may look calm, but the odd appearance of the guests has her worried.

MR. PLANKO: Dressed in baseball cap and blue jeans, Planko looks anxious and a bit puzzled. A.E. doesn't realize that Planko always looks puzzled. Only the value of his treasure keeps him from breaking out into one giant jitter.

RUDY KWINK: Certain he's on the brink of hearing great news about his find, Kwink smiles broadly as he hugs a paper bag, tight to his chest.

HILDA SKOOK: A quiet woman, Hilda has little interested in what is happening around her. The purse beside her has seen better days--as has much of Hilda.

#### Place

A small room serving as a TV studio.

#### Time

The present

*Setting: The three people who will present their treasures sit side by side, ten feet from a long empty table. The host of the show--the famous 'Antique Expert' is seated while she sizes up the audience and the presenters.*

*At Rise: The 'Antique Side Show' has rolled into town. The show's appraiser, well dressed and poised, sits at a table, ready to pass judgment on the items presented to her. Three presenters await her summons.*

ANTIQUÉ EXPERT: (*reading name off piece of paper*) Welcome, Mr. Planko, welcome to 'The Antique Side Show.' And thank you for coming...now, may we see what you've brought us, today?

(*PLANKO proudly holds up an old tin can. A.E. takes the can from PLANKO.*)

A.E.: And what can you tell us about this item?

PLANKO: Well, it's been in our family for a long, long time...Grandpa found it buried in the backyard, about fifty years ago.

A.E.: And?

PLANKO: Well, naturally we treat it right, 'cause it's so valuable...We only take it out for special occasions...you know, a birthday, a wedding, a divorce.

A.E.: And what makes it so special?

PLANKO: You're kidding with me, right? I mean it's old!...It's in its original state...except now the can's empty. I don't polish it, so I haven't damaged the original finish. Oh, I take care of this beauty all right. I was going to leave it my son...But now I'm thinking of donating the can to the Metropolitan Museum of Art...You know, get a big tax deduction and all. So, what's this can worth in today's market?

A.E.: What do you think it's worth?

PLANKO: Geez,...I gotta figure,...First of all, there are no dents,...no weird smells. It's been handled with love...Lots of sentimental value, that's for sure. I'd say it's worth ten thousand dollars, easy! Maybe a lot more.

A.E.: Well, sentimental feelings aside, let's look at the facts. This is a discarded coffee can, circa 1950 or so...It's totally ugly. It has no value at all...It's as close to worthless as an object can be.

PLANKO: Are you saying that the Metropolitan Museum won't want it?

A.E.: Sir, nobody would want it. And I'm being kind.

PLANKO: You think maybe I can get ten bucks?...How about five?

A.E.: Goodbye, Mr. Planko...and please take your can with you.

*(Forlorn, PLANKO slinks away. The next in line, MR. KWINK, carrying a paper bag, approaches the A.E.)*

KWINK: (*reaching to shake hands*) Kwink....Rudy Kwink...I'm one of the Skodyville, Kwinks. You probably heard of us already.

A.E.: Your fame has not yet reached my ears...But it is nice to meet you, sir.

KWINK: Maybe you'd like to hear some of the history of the Kwink family...I can tell you all about Kwink in a wink...That's one of my nifty jokes.

A.E.: As exciting as that sounds and it is a marvelous offer...I think we should first look over your treasure...Now, what have you brought us?

(*With pride, Kwink removes a left shoe from the paper bag.*)

KWINK: (*holding shoe high in the air*) Ta-Daa! Here it is...A treasure in person!

A.E.: (*takes shoe*) Have you ever noticed that shoes usually travel in pairs.

KWINK: And that's the beauty of it...There's only this one shoe.

A.E.: And how did you come to own this lonely shoe?

KWIK: Well, one day I was roaming around a flea market, and I spot this shoe under a pile of magazines...It was like they were trying to hide it or something...I went back and forth with the owner for about an hour, and after some intense bargaining, I bought it!

A.E.: You actually paid money for this?

KWINK: (*winks*) If you call two-hundred and fifty dollars paid...I call it a steal.

A.E.: Because?

**END OF FREEVIEW**

**You'll want to read and perform this show!**