

## SCENE I

*Out of the Attic, a cooperative antiques store. At center is a counter with pigeonholes behind it. On one side are a door and a window display where a china pitcher is seen. At the other side, a buffet with china stacked on it. Boxes and crates are on the floor. The woman in a summer hat looks at a flyer near the counter. The phone rings. Becca answers it.*

BECCA: Out of the Attic! ... Brianna is probably bringing another load in soon. ...Would you like to leave a message?

*(China is heard clinking. Something breaks.)*

PEARL: *(Her voice coming from off-stage)* That's par for the day!

BECCA: OK, Rachel. *(She leaves the counter as Pearl appears.)* Did something break?

*(The Woman in Hat passes Pearl, going to the back, off-stage.)*

PEARL: *(In a low voice)* A customer startled me. He was playing with the riding whip in Troy's booth. Lucky thing, it was only Lefton. He wants to see a shaving mug in a case. With that new tattoo business down the street, you should be watching customers all the time, Becca.

BECCA: He came in with a woman. She's been browsing in the front.

PEARL: That's how some thefts happen, Becca. They split up when they come in.

*(Becca walks off-stage left. A bell above the door rings and Dr. Baederley enters.)*

PEARL: Look dear, here's the flyer for the lawn auction. There's an antique leather set of Flaubert. Art nouveau illustration.

DR. BAEDERLEY: Are you ready for an auction? You regret too much.

PEARL: This one sounds like such fun! And there's Floe Blue.

DR. BAEDERLEY: If you'd take a tranquillizer before the auction instead of afterwards.

*(The bell rings above the door. Brianna enters with Otto, pushing a dolly that supports a large antique such as a floor radio. Becca returns with the customer couple.)*

OTTO: Brianna almost sold this thing on the sidewalk.

MALE CUSTOMER: *(To Brianna)* Hi! What happened to your store? I heard it was moving somewhere. Have you gotten any shaving mugs or moustache cups in?

WOMAN IN HAT: *(Showing him the auction flyer)* Look, antique porcelain.

BRIANNA: *(Flatly)* Ted's taking things out of storage. He's opening a new store up on Third Street and Hemlock.

*(She and Otto move the heavy antique to the messy booth.)*

MALE CUSTOMER: Wasn't that in your store?

OTTO: It's in our store now.

MALE CUSTOMER: Too bad the mug didn't have a brush with it.

WOMAN IN HAT: Maybe there's one at the auction. Do you have any majolica in?

PEARL: Is there any majolica, Becca?

BECCA: *(Surveying Brianna's boxes)* I would have to look.

PEARL: I'm sure I have some majolica at home. I'll bring it in next week.

WOMAN IN HAT: Thanks.

*(Woman in Hat and the Male Customer go out.)*

BECCA: A message from Rachel, Brianna. She called a few minutes ago.

*(Brianna takes the counter mobile phone and sits on a living room stool near the buffet. Becca busies herself at the counter. Otto looks over the flyer with the Baederley's.)*

BRIANNA: *(On the phone)* Rachel? I won't come home for supper then. Whose party is it? Are you going to work tomorrow? OK...Rachel? Have a good time.

PEARL: How can you sell this Utruria Wedgwood piece by piece, Brianna?

BRIANNA: It's not a full set. Most people aren't looking for a large set these days.

PEARL: If you separated the chipped pieces, you'll probably have a set of four.

*(Brianna returns the phone to the counter. Then she takes tags from a buffet drawer and begins writing on them.)*

PEARL: I hope you won't be disappointed here, Brianna.

BRIANNA: I'm not disappointed, Pearl.

PEARL: I mean, Brianna, my sales are not what I'd hoped these last months.

OTTO: Brianna will bring people in, Pearl. She's always had a strong business.

PEARL: No one is in the store, Otto!

OTTO: The weather is perfect. People are outside today.