

ACTING SCRIPTS OFFICIAL actingscriptsofficial.com

NOT FOR SALE

Lead Focused / Family Drama / 5 min
Cast 4 Female x2 Male x2

Wren, sixteen, is running the yard sale before her family moves to a smaller place. Everything on the lawn must go. One scuffed guitar case leans against her chair with a tag that says not for sale, and her mother, a buyer, and her little brother all want it gone.

CHARACTERS

WREN (LEAD) - 16 to 17, runs the cash box, stubborn, has been the adult in the house for a while

CAROL - 40s, her mother, packing a whole house by Tuesday and out of patience

MR. HALE - 60s, a buyer who knows a good instrument when he sees one

BENNY - 9, her little brother, counting quarters and thinking about pizza

SETTING

A front lawn on a Saturday morning, folding tables covered with a family's belongings, a sign that reads EVERYTHING MUST GO.

A front lawn on a Saturday morning. Folding tables covered in dishes, lamps, coats. A hand-lettered sign: EVERYTHING MUST GO. WREN sits behind a cash box. An acoustic guitar in a scuffed case leans against her chair. Its tag says NOT FOR SALE. MR. HALE is looking at it. BENNY counts quarters at the end of the table.

MR. HALE

The guitar.

WREN

Not for sale.

MR. HALE

It's at a yard sale.

WREN

It's next to a yard sale.

MR. HALE

The tag's on it.

WREN

The tag says not for sale. That's why the tag is on it.

MR. HALE

(opening the case)

Solid top. Somebody didn't take care of it, but somebody built it right. I'll give you forty.

WREN

Please close the case.

CAROL comes out of the house carrying a box of books.

CAROL

Is he asking about the guitar?

WREN

He's leaving.

CAROL

Sir, everything on the lawn is for sale. My daughter is being sentimental.

WREN

Mom.

CAROL

Wren. We talked about this.

WREN

You talked. I listened. That's not the same as agreeing.

BENNY

Forty dollars is a lot.

WREN

Count your quarters, Ben.

BENNY

I did. It's eleven dollars. Forty dollars is a lot more than eleven.

MR. HALE

Sixty.

WREN

It's not an auction.

CAROL

Sixty is fair. It's got a crack in the neck.

WREN

It's got a crack in the headstock, and it's from when he dropped it on the porch step the night he was showing me the G chord, and it still holds a tune, so it's fine.

Beat. CAROL sets the box down.

CAROL

It's been two years.

WREN

I know how long it's been.

CAROL

Two years, and one postcard, and he didn't come back for it. He's not coming back for it. He isn't, honey.

WREN

Then it's mine.

CAROL

It doesn't fit in the apartment.

WREN

It's a guitar. It fits in a closet. It fits under a bed. It's not a piano.

CAROL

It's not about where it fits.

WREN

(standing)

Then say what it's about. Say it in front of the man with the sixty dollars. Go ahead.

Silence. MR. HALE closes the case, gently.

MR. HALE

I'll look at the lamps.

WREN

Thank you.

He moves off. BENNY comes over.

BENNY

If you sell it we could get the good pizza.
Not the coupon one.

WREN

Benny.

BENNY

He didn't even play it. He said he was gonna
learn and he didn't.

WREN

He was gonna teach me. He said when I was
sixteen. That's what he said.

BENNY

You're sixteen.

WREN

(quietly)

Yeah. I know.

She sits back down. CAROL comes closer.

CAROL

I'm not trying to take him away from you.

WREN

Yeah, you are. You're trying to take him
away from all of us, and you think if the
stuff's gone, it'll be easier. And maybe it
will be easier for you. I'm not there yet.

CAROL

Wren, I gotta pack a whole house by Tuesday.

WREN

Then let me take one thing out of it.

*MR. HALE returns with a lamp. He sets it on the
table and puts a twenty down.*

MR. HALE

For the lamp.

WREN

It's marked twelve.

MR. HALE

I know what it's marked.

He looks at the guitar case.

MR. HALE

My daughter kept her mother's sewing machine. Doesn't sew. It's in her hall closet. I used to think it was a waste of a closet.

WREN

And now?

MR. HALE

Now I think a closet's a closet.

He goes. WREN puts the twenty in the box. She looks at CAROL. CAROL looks at the guitar for a long moment. Then she picks it up.

WREN

Mom.

CAROL pulls the NOT FOR SALE tag off. Looks at it. She takes a marker from the table and writes on the back of the tag. She sticks it back on the case and turns it so WREN can see. It says: WREN'S.

CAROL

Put it in the car. Front seat. Before I change my mind.

WREN takes the case. She holds it a second longer than she needs to.

WREN

(to Benny)

Coupon pizza.

BENNY
(sighing)

Coupon pizza.

*She carries it to the car. CAROL watches her go,
then turns back to the tables. Lights fade.*

END OF SCRIPT