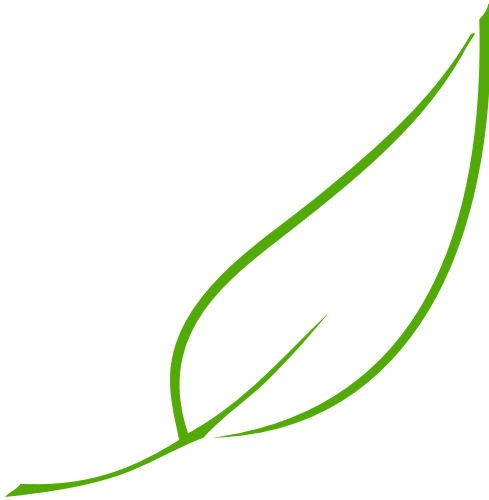


TV TREASURE HUNT

by Robert L. Crowe



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This scene is written for two boys but the names can be changed if different gender is used.

HARVEY: *(looks at Leon)* Hello, there. You are the next participant on “Treasure Hunt,” the TV program that pays cash for your treasures. If we like it, we buy it on the spot! And what is your name?

LEON: Leon.

HARVEY: Leon! Look right at the camera, Leon. *(turns Leon’s head toward audience and Leon makes a strange face)* We want the audience to get a good look at you. Now, tell us a bit ... *(pause)* That’s long enough to look at the camera, Leon. *(turns Leon’s head toward him)* There. You can just ignore the camera. *(Leon turns and stares at camera again. Harvey turns Leon’s head again.)* Now, Leon. Before we look at some of the treasures you have brought to us, tell us a bit about yourself. What do you do?

LEON: I’m a bus driver.

HARVEY: Ah! City bus? Greyhound bus?

LEON: School. School bus.

HARVEY: Oh, that must be ... interesting.

LEON: *(He turns head toward camera/audience.)* It’s dangerous. *(turns to Harvey)*

HARVEY: Yes, I suppose it can be. How many lovely children do you transport?

LEON: Three.

HARVEY: Three? That’s not a very big load.

LEON: Only three of them are lovely. There are 48 altogether.

HARVEY: With the traffic and road conditions, I guess it is dangerous outside the bus.

LEON: The danger is inside. Even the lion tamers at the circus don't turn their back on the wild animals. That's the way I drive all day.

HARVEY: I see you brought quite a few objects for us to appraise and, I don't know if the TV audience can see or not, but Leon has a rather large garbage bag.

LEON: It's not a garbage bag. It's a designer holding container. *(Harvey looks at him skeptically.)* See? Right here on this tag ... Jordache Trash. Classy.

HARVEY: Yes. Yes, it is. *(to audience)* So, let's begin our Treasure Hunt with Leon. *(to Leon)* What do you have for us today?

LEON: *(reaches in trash bag and retrieves vase)* Here. I found this in the basement of our very old house. It's a flower vase.

HARVEY: I don't think so.

LEON: Sure it is. See, the flowers go right in here. But you know what happened? People used this as an ashtray because there are a lot of ashes in here. *(closing one eye, looks into vase)* I didn't empty it because I thought it might be a way of storing something valuable ... like magic beans ... or something.

HARVEY: *(pauses)* This is an urn. Although it does not have any burning value right now, the value could grow. Take this ... urn ... and plant it in your back yard about two feet deep. Put up a marker so you know where it is. On the marker put the name, "Uncle Willie."

LEON: I don't have an Uncle Willie.

HARVEY: I think you have someone's Uncle Willie. Let's go on. Is there something else?

LEON: *(puts down the urn and places a small cookie in his hand, offering it to Harvey)* Here. *(Harvey takes the*

cookie and takes a bite out of it.) (Leon is stunned.)
Hey! I was going to ask you if that had any value!

HARVEY: What was it?

LEON: A cookie in the shape of the State of Kansas.

HARVEY: No. We see a lot of Kansas cookies. It's much more valuable now. *(turns the cookie and holds it up)*
Oklahoma. We don't see many of these. But, it's not for us. Try eBay. Start the bidding at 99 cents. Anything else in your bag of tricks?

LEON: I'm not doing very well. So far I have a hole in my yard and a panhandle with teeth marks. But, here. This may be good. *(reaches in bag and gets book)* It's an opera manuscript.

HARVEY: Well, there is a limited demand on opera items. I, personally, am rather fond of opera but most people don't have a taste for it. For example, would you go to an opera?

LEON: Only if it had Vanna White in it.

HARVEY: Yes. *(pause)* Did you know that the opera Aida *(the opera is pronounced: i-e-da)* only has one consonant?

LEON: Oh, that's too bad. Yeah. Sorry to hear that.

HARVEY: And there's the old joke, "Do you know the difference between an opera soprano and a Chicago Bear's lineman?"

LEON: No.

HARVEY: About 10 pounds. What's the name of the opera?

LEON: It's called "Fiddle-e-o."

HARVEY: Fidelio. The opera is pronounced: "fa-**dale**-yo." Is that an autograph?

LEON: I don't know. Looks like someone scribbled on it.

HARVEY: Of course that does diminish the value. Let me see. *(looks at book, surprised as he sees the autograph)*
Oh! *(returns to a negative demeanor)* Sorry. I'll give



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