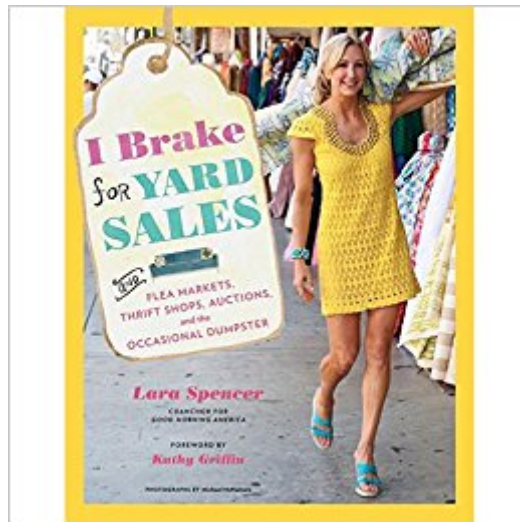


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# I Brake For Yard Sales: And Flea Markets, Thrift Shops, Auctions, And The Occasional Dumpster



## Synopsis

Good Morning America correspondent Lara Spencer is a self-confessed frugalista with a passion for shopping at yard sales, thrift shops, and estate sales, and for decorating her home and friends' homes with her fabulous finds. In *I Brake for Yard Sales*, Lara shares her secrets for bargain hunting and tells you where to shop, what to look for, how to pay for it, how to restore it, and finally, where to put it in your house. Looking for the newest arrivals at your local thrift shops? After busy Saturdays and no-pick-up Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays are generally the best days to shop for fresh items. Peppered with wisdom from world-renowned appraisers whom Lara knows from her previous work on *Antiques Roadshow* as well as contributions from well-known designers, this book also features the house of comedienne and good friend Kathy Griffin, which Spencer herself refurbished and decorated.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I don't know much about interior design so I was a little skeptical when my mom gave me this book. I like watching Lara on GMA but I wondered how it would relate to my very non design oriented life. I admit I was totally shocked. She gives so many practical tips on how to find amazing deals at flea markets, yard sales, and estate sales. I bought a bureau for twenty five dollars from a flea market and using her refurbishment tips, I spray painted it with a black glossy spray, added some cool new knobs (which I never paid attention to before...but what a difference they make) Now I have a piece in my bedroom that literally looks like a thousand dollars. It was easy and fun and while I probably won't have time to venture out every weekend, I really want to try this with a few other items and

see how it works out.

A great read and guidebook for all those who love flea markets & yard sales. The book will train your eye so you can see how special a flea market item can be once you add your personal touches. Best of all, the book is a soft-cover so you can take it with you when you head out to that weekend estate sale.

"I Brake for Yard Sales" will come in handy to anyone looking to design or redecorate their home in a frugal but stylish manner. There is so much Lara has shared in this thought-out book. I am now ready to go to yard sales and estate sales to look for a simple piece of furniture and turn it into something unique that my friends will talk about.

Great tips for the novice when it comes to what to look for at flea markets and yard sales that will help you spot the perfect item for any room in the house that you want to bring a bit of "sparkle" to. Also, has many tips for DIY's for those items you find that need a little TLC to return it to its former glory.

Before reading this book, I had little practice in thrift store shopping and now am completely hooked! Lara shows you exactly what to look for when out at yard sales, thrift shops, and antique stores, then gives AMAZING tips on how to transform items that you might have disregarded, if not for her advice. The photographs are amazing and show the color and decorating quite well :) Buy this book!

The cover of the book alone is a piece of decor for my coffee table. I've found so much inspiration to redo many pieces of my own furniture. I have a set of chairs that I'm re-upholstering using Lara's DIY tips. I have a standard wooden dresser that I've repainted in glossy white and added a mirror to the top of it to create a very glam look. The dresser alone has changed the entire feel of my master bedroom. I never expected to love the process so much. This book has given me so many ideas that I can't wait to redo a few of my regular pieces and turn them into my own customized statement items!! A must have go to guide for so many reasons... And thank you Lara for sharing all your secrets with us!

With all of the publicity around this book I thought it would be great and provide information on how to transform things. What this book did teach me was that you have to know a lot about furniture,

the names that are worth investing in, the fabrics to use, etc. to make this a really savvy way to get good furniture for less and make it your own. I was hoping for instruction on what products to use to strip off finishes, and other advice like that. Ultimately, this book was simply a pat on the back for the author by the author. I should have purchased a different type of book for my needs. I won't send it back because I don't want to pay the shipping charges, but this won't make "the shelf" at my house. This is not a book for the novice flea marketer or garage sale junkie who is looking to turn trash into treasure.

Knowing Lara's work from Antiques Roadshow and Kathy Griffin's show, I picked this up hoping to get a few tips, but what I got is much more. Inspired by her love of a bargain, Lara covers everything: what to look for and where to find it; how much to pay for it and how to restore it; and, finally, how to mix and match to put a spectacular room together. Some of what she offers may be familiar to the HGTV crowd, but it's a lot easier having it all in one book. It's a smart, funny, friendly, accessible book that demystifies design for the 99%, and I find something new each time I flip through it. Well done, Lara.

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