To pot or not to pot, that is the question: Scene 1

You have decided to go to an auction but not just any auction, THE AUCTION. You are a big fan of the show “Auction Kings” on TLC and this Sunday you are heading over to Gallery 63 to see if there is anything that catches your eye. Who knows, you might end up on TV.

Sunday arrives and you are off to the auction early to get a good seat. When you arrive, you take a good look at the items that will be coming up for bid. In the corner is a large pot, covered with a whitish substance. It is heavy enough to obscure the pot underneath. It’s not very attractive but seems to call out to you. You shake it off and continue on your way. It’s about time for the auction to begin so you hurry to your seat. Item after item is bid on and bought. The auction is almost over and nothing has caught your eye.

Uh, oh here comes that pot. The auctioneer says the pot was discovered in 1850 in a cave in New Mexico. You find that hard to believe, really! Why is it all white if it was found in a cave? The auctioneer asks for $50 and no one moves. He reduces the opening bid to $25 and I raise my number. Why did I do that? No one else bids, so I’m out for the $25 plus 20% commission. What am I going to do with that ugly, old pot? And they quit filming before I even got to bid, this day stinks!

You wait in line with disgust to pay for the pot. I can’t believe I bought that pot! I hand over $30 and they hand over the pot. When I get home, I show the pot to my mom.

Mom: “Why did you buy that?”

Me: “I really don’t know. It’s almost like it brain washed me into buying it.”

Mom: “Brain washed, what do you mean?”

Me: “I don’t really know. I felt like it was calling to me.”

Mom: “That’s kind of weird. How much did you pay for it?”

Me: “$30”

©2013 Jennice Ozment. This material is based upon the work supported by the Michael C. Carlos Museum and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Science Education Award to Emory University (award #52006923). Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Michael C. Carlos Museum, or Emory University. This document and other resources are available at http://carlos.emory.edu.
Mom: “That seems a little pricey for that unattractive pot.”

Me: “I know, the auctioneer said it was found in a cave in New Mexico in 1850.”

Mom: “I wonder if it is worth anything. I can’t imagine it is, it’s pretty ugly.”

Me: “Yeah, I know.”

Mom: “You know Ms. Stein, my friend. She works at the Carlos Museum. She might take a look at it for you and give you an opinion.”

Me: “It’s worth a shot.”
To Pot or Not to Pot Box Chart: Scene 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What you know:</th>
<th>What you need to know:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

©2013 Jennice Ozment. This material is based upon the work supported by the Michael C. Carlos Museum and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Science Education Award to Emory University (award #52006923). Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Michael C. Carlos Museum, or Emory University. This document and other resources are available at http://carlos.emory.edu.
**To pot or not to pot, that is the question: Scene 2**

Me: “Hi, Ms. Stein. My mom suggested I show this pot to you and get your opinion.”

Ms. Stein: “Come on in. Let me take a look.”

Ms. Stein examines the pot carefully. It is coated in a white powdery substance that obscures the underlying surface. She can tell immediately what the white powdery substance is. The shape of the pottery tells her it is probably a Pueblo Indian seed jar.

Ms. Stein: “Where did you get this pot?”

Me: “At Gallery 63, you know, the show “Auction Kings” is filmed there.”

Ms. Stein: “I’m not familiar with the show. How much did you pay for it?”

Me: “$30. The guy said it was found in a cave in New Mexico in 1850. I’m not sure I really believe it though.”

Ms. Stein: “It is very possible it was. You may have found an ancient Native American seed jar. It needs to be properly cleaned for positive identification and to ensure no further damage to the pot’s surface. If it is a Pueblo seed pot, you have to contact the appropriate tribe and inform them of your find. It must be returned to them, if they want it.”

Me: “Wooh! How do I clean it? How do I know who to call? Can’t I just maybe give it to you or the museum?”
Mrs. Stein: “You can donate it to the museum. Then we would clean it safely and categorize it. This could be a huge find for us, if the particular tribe lets us keep it. Are you sure you want to donate it?”

Me: “Yes, I’m not sure why, but I do.”

Ms. Stein: “Can you bring it down to the museum tomorrow around 10:00 am? I’ll help you with the paperwork.”

Me: “Yeah, sure, thanks a lot Ms. Stein.”
### To Pot or Not to Pot Box Chart: Scene 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What you know:</th>
<th>What you need to know:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
References

Pueblo Indians
http://www.indianpueblo.org
http://www.indians.org/articles/pueblo-indians.html

Native American Graves Protection and Reparation Act
http://www.nps.gov/Archeology/TOOLS/Laws/NAGPRA.htm

Care of Pottery