This is a play for scavengers. You'll need a room full of your stuff, ribbon, and another person.

—

This play is a part of Starters by JETco. Bear in mind that it doesn't tell you what to do or when or how to do it. You'll have to decide that for yourself.

To find more Starters, visit jet-co.org/starters.

This script was originally published online on August 10, 2020. / © 2020 Eli Schleicher

A This is a play for scavengers.

B How are scavengers different from foragers?

A One group scavenges, the other forages.

B Care to elaborate?

A It might be about food.

B What about hunter-gatherers?

A Also about food.

B Carnivore-vegetarians.

A Something like that.

B Are you ready?

A I don't really want to do this alone.

B I'll do it too.

A But you don't know where anything is.

B And that'll make it fun for me.

A And you don't know what anything is either.

B You can tell me if I go astray.

A What's first?

В

Something for which you can remember the story of when you got it.

A And you're gonna look for this something too?

B I w

I will.

A And what story will you be remembering?

B I'm a great storyteller.

A Fine.

В

Ready? Go.

A You almost done?

B

I underestimated my abilities as a storyteller.

A

I don't want to hear your excuses.

B Okay, I'm done.

A What did you find?

B No, please. You first.

A

So I got this at a yard sale. It was being sold for a dollar. I was very young at the time. Not so young that I needed constant parental accompaniment, but young enough that I needed constant supervision.

B Are those different?

A

Don't interrupt. I went up to the person who was running the garage sale.

В

Yard sale or garage sale?

A

Don't interrupt. They had a yard and a garage, so both. I go up to this person and they tell me that it'll cost a dollar. So I thank them and I go back to my mom who's waiting in the car and I tell her that it'll cost a dollar. And she tells me that I should try to haggle for the price. And I don't want to do this, but she won't give me the dollar otherwise. And I go back and I ask if I can have it for less than a dollar and the person running the sale says no and so I go back to my mom. And she gives me the dollar. And I pay and I get back in the car.

В

I don't think I've ever heard the word haggle before.

A You haven't?

В

I figured it out from the context.

A

And what do you have there? What's the story of that lovely item you have in your hands?

В

This was a gift.

A

Was it?

В

I changed schools in middle school, but my friends from elementary school still received invites to all of my birthday parties for several years. And this one girl, who I'd known since kindergarten – we used to draw big chalk pictures on the ground – she brought me this one year for my birthday.

A

Do you still talk?

B I don't see her anymore.

A Why not?

В

We kept growing. And like plants guided by two different suns, we grew apart.

A Is that an expression?

B It could be.

A Okay, so that's one item.

B Tie a ribbon on it.

A Why?

B We're making new memories.

A Done. What's next on the list?

B Next on the list is an item you've forgotten about.

A Alright.

B Go.

A Okay, I'm done.

B Took you long enough.

A

Do you want me to tell you about this one, too?

B No, I want you to get rid of it.

A I don't think I can do that.

B Why not?

A Well, I've remembered it now. It's like throwing away a piece of my past.

B Should we get rid of the one I found?

A No, I didn't forget that one.

B The list demands a sacrifice.

A Fine. One second. This. I'll get rid of this.

В

Sacrifice accepted. Tie a ribbon around both of these ones that you're keeping.

A Where'd you find ribbon?

B I never reveal my secrets.

A What's next on the list?