

The Prospector

This sketch is based on the parable in Matthew 13 of the man who discovered treasure in a field and sold everything he had to buy it.

Scene : - a hillside where a lone man is picking up rock specimens and examining them. He is approached by the female landowner

- P* (to himself) Yes, I knew this stuff was here. (*picks up more specimens and smiles and laughs. The landowner comes up behind him unnoticed*). Wow! I never believed so much of this is here.
- L* What are you doing on my land?
- P* Oh, er - I'm a rambler and I'm just crossing the land on this - er - footpath.
- L* (*tersely*) The footpath is over there! (*pointing*) Anyway, you don't look much like a rambler to me. What are you doing with that hammer and box of rocks.
- P* Oh, those! Well, I'm a ... um... teacher and I'm collecting rocks for my students to study!
- L* I never thought the rocks around here were very interesting. They all look the same to me.
- P* Well yes but they're actually very interesting - (*picks one up from the box*) you see, this one's sandstone. There's lots of that around here - it's interesting because the minerals in it have been altered volcanically to produce quartzite and small veins of metal ores...
- L* (*breaks in*) I'm sure all this is very interesting to you but I must say that rocks are rocks to me.
- P* May I stay on your land to collect some more?
- L* I don't see why not. I'm off now as I've got better things to do (*starts to leave*)
- P* Tell me - do you own all the land around here.
- L* Oh yes - worst luck. Since my husband died and left me this farm it's been a real burden. I'd really like to sell up and go and live with my sister in Bournemouth.
- P* I'd like to buy it! How much?
- L* Very funny - this land has been on the market for over a year and hardly any interest has been shown in it.
- P* Oh, I think this part of the countryside is picturesque - just the place one would want to have a home.
- L* What!! With a view over the paint factory over there! (*pointing*)
- P* Oh...Well, you don't have to look that way. So how much do you want for it
- L* £500,000 - but I still don't see WHY you would want to buy it?
- P* I just want to get out of the big city and enjoy the..um.. fresh air around here.
- L* Only when the paint factory is on its annual holiday - look, what on earth do you want with my land. I'd have thought that you couldn't afford it anyway, you're only a teacher.

P I love your farm so much that I' m prepared to sell everything that I have and buy it - my house, my possessions and my car.

L You must be mad!

P Mad or not, do we have a deal - £500,000.

L If that' s what you think, then get your solicitor to contact me, Mrs Lewis, Barren Moor Farm tomorrow. But I must go now. Goodbye *(to the audience)*There' s one born every day - but who am I to look a gift horse in the mouth! That' s Townies for you. He' ll probably turn it into something that looks like a Spanish villa.

P Thank you, and good day to you! *(turns around and draws a brightly coloured stone from his pocket)*. Gold, it' s everywhere around here- it' s worth millions and millions. I' ve struck gold and soon it will all be mine! *(sniggers)*.