

# Builder's Store

Story By: Andrew Frinkle



Ronnie had to go shopping with his dad. That was weird, because he normally went shopping with mom. Weirder yet, was that it wasn't for clothes, food, or games and toys. No, it was going to be for a faucet and some lawnmower parts. That seemed pretty dull, actually, so he wasn't much looking forward to it.

Riding in dad's truck was alright. He put the window down and waved his hand up and down in the passing air. That was cool until a bug or something smacked into his hand with the sting of a bee. After that, he kept his hand in the car and listened to the radio.

The store was big when they pulled up. It was blue and gray and all sorts of colors outside. A lot of trucks were parked in the parking lot, and a lot of guys were going inside. It didn't seem like a women's store. Usually, the stores mom took him to had mostly women inside. He wasn't used to that.

Once inside, he immediately ran over to the lawnmowers and hopped on a big orange one. It was pretty cool – way better than theirs at home. He would so cut the grass every week if they had one this cool. Dad's disapproving frown made him hop down and tag along back to the plumbing section.

The plumbing section seemed to have every faucet known to man! There were probably a bajillion of them. They came in all shapes and colors. It was harder than picking out a puppy at the pound. In the end, mom would get what she wanted, though.

After they got one, which required about six calls home as dad argued the various pros and cons of each design, they moved off to the power tools section. Dad called them 'big boy toys.' He was strange though, and the glint he got in his eye as he played with the radial arm saw was dangerous. Ronnie liked playing with the drills and even the chainsaws. Tools were pretty cool. He felt like a hero from a horror movie.

They migrated back toward the lawnmower section slowly, detouring only for dad to examine some lighting fixtures and ceiling fans that might make mom happier about the décor in the dining room and the patio. Then they located the lawnmower belts and some oil for it while Ronnie played with a pick axe, a splitting maul, and a hand adze. They were pretty cool. He felt like he was in a video game, at least until dad suggested there was yard work at home that the tools he liked would be great for.



All-in-all, it wasn't too shabby after all. It was way more fun than he had suspected. No wonder dad always disappeared for an hour into this store. And, it was a lot more fun than watching mom try on hats and check produce for ripeness!

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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What is the first thing Ronnie notes about the store itself besides its colors?
  - A. the trucks parked outside
  - B. the shoppers are mostly men
  - C. the lawnmowers
  - D. the power tools
  
2. How does Ronnie feel about going to the store at the beginning?
  - A. excited to go
  - B. scared to go
  - C. happy to be with his dad
  - D. he doesn't expect much
  
3. What is the first thing that catches Ronnie's attention at the store?
  - A. a chainsaw
  - B. a lawnmower
  - C. an adze
  - D. the plumbing
  
4. What does dad call the power tools?
  - A. Big Boy Toys
  - B. Hobby Supplies
  - C. Man-powered cooking devices
  - D. Bad Boy Toys
  
5. How does Ronnie's view of the store change after visiting?
  - A. He decided he really does hate it after all.
  - B. He is horrified of what he saw.
  - C. He is excited about what he saw.
  - D. He might go back if he really had to.

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