

Scarcity in Scare City

Eco the Gecko looked in the mirror. He thought to himself, “I look so plain. A leopard has spots. A rhino has horns. A butterfly has beautiful colors. I just blend in wherever I go. No one ever notices me.”

Eco thought and thought. What can I do to make people notice me? The afternoon slipped away. Just when it was time to slither up to his favorite sleeping branch for the evening the idea hit him. “I know,” said Eco, “I’ll buy a diamond collar! It will dazzle and sparkle. The shiny, bright diamonds will make everyone notice me.” As he fell asleep, visions of sparkling diamonds and beautiful gems filled his dreams.

The next day Eco told his forest friends about his idea. “The only problem is,” said Eco, “I don’t know where I can find one.”

Fredilla Frog, the queen lady frog of the forest, shook her head and rolled her eyes. “Why Eco, dear, don’t you know I’m quite an experienced shopper. I saw a collar just like the one you want last week while shopping in Scare City. Go to the Gold Rush Jewelry Store at the corner of Fourth and Main and you will find just what you want.

Eco was excited! He packed his bags and left the next day. After about two hours of traveling he finally reached Scare City. He reached into his pocket to retrieve the map Fredilla had drawn for him. Within minutes he arrived at the Gold Rush Jewelry Store.

“May I help you?” asked the store clerk.

“Oh, I do hope so,” said Eco. “I’d like to see your finest Gecko diamond collars. Miss Fredilla Frog is a friend of mine and she told me she saw an exquisite one here last week.”

“My, my,” said the store clerk. “I’m sorry to report that we sold that very collar right after Miss Fredilla Frog left. And we received a letter from the producers that they won’t be making any more. It seems there is scarcity in Scare City.”

“Oh no, please tell me it isn’t so,” replied Eco. He moaned sadly, “My dream is dashed. What can I do?”

Eco thought about his choices. Should he just forget about buying a collar? Should he try to find one in another city? Should he buy a different type of collar? After all, diamonds are expensive. Oh, the choices were many!

He returned home. A few days later, in an effort to lift his spirits, he decided to go to the local mall. Eco walked and walked.

Finally he came to a pet store. “Wait a minute,” thought Eco. “I didn’t even think about looking in pet stores for a diamond collar. Maybe they have some here.” Eco rushed into the store. All of a sudden something struck his eye.

On the right side of the store was a gorgeous gleaming collar. Its lustrous shine was almost blinding. Eco slowly approached the counter. The saleslady knew by the look in his eyes that he wanted to try it on. She carefully unfastened the clasp and gingerly fastened it around Eco’s neck. Eco looked in the mirror and was so pleased he could hardly speak. “Are, are these diamonds?” he asked.

The saleslady slowly shook her head. “No, there seems to be a scarcity of diamonds right now. These are cubic zirconias. They look like diamonds, but are a lot less expensive.”

Well, to make a long story short, Eco decided to buy the collar. Soon after he realized he had made the right choice. His friends Fredilla Frog and Lecko the Gecko invited him to go to Disney World. Eco knew if he had bought a diamond collar he would not have had enough money to go on the trip with his friends. Thank goodness for scarcity in Scare City!

Scarcity Role-Playing Cards

<p>Ann and Tom want to play the new math game. They walk to the game shelf. As they get there, Mark and Bill are taking the game off the shelf. They want to play it, too.</p> <p>Act out two ways this situation could be handled.</p>	<p>Jenny finished reading her book and was ready to do her work. She reached into her desk to get a pencil. She remembered she doesn't have one.</p> <p>Act out two ways this situation could be handled.</p>
<p>Julie and Jake went to the school store. They both wanted to buy erasers. The erasers sell 2 for 25 cents. Julie went first. She paid 25 and got two erasers. When it was Jake's turn the helper told him she was sorry, but that Julie had just bought the last two erasers.</p> <p>Act out two ways this situation could be handled.</p>	<p>Tim's soccer coach told him to practice his soccer skills at home. Tim left his soccer ball at practice.</p> <p>Adam, his brother, is out in the yard. He is playing with his new soccer ball.</p> <p>Act out two ways this situation could be handled.</p>

Sample “Scarcity Detective” Badges

