

The Price of Greed: A Nature's Fable

By Anna Abraham

Once upon a time, in a forest nestled by a sparkling river, there lived a beaver named Buster. Buster was known far and wide for his skilful use of wood to make dams.

Across the river, lived a group of playful bears, among whom was Grizzly Gracie. Gracie dreamed of sailing the open seas and catching the tastiest fish.

Hearing of Buster's talent, Gracie approached him to build her ships the way he built dams. Buster happily agreed. And soon Grizzly Gracie set sail on her grand adventures.

As the demand for wood grew, Buster made more money than he could possibly ever need. He made the other beavers do his work, paying them only a fraction of what he earned.

In the meanwhile, Grizzly Gracie too was fishing far beyond what she needed and had employed her fellow bears on her ships. She was now able to acquire a year's worth of food in just a month! She began selling her catch and just like Buster, she became rich beyond her wildest dreams.

As Buster tore down trees, the colony of beavers saw how the forest was changing. It was becoming hotter, emptier and quieter with each passing day.

The bears too saw the waters change. Grizzly Gracie's fishing had devastated the seas, causing the fish to disappear. And other sea creatures like the turtles and the corals were also nowhere to be seen!

So the bears and the beavers got together and decided to hold Buster and Gracie accountable. They told Buster and Gracie that cutting down too many trees and catching too many fish was making their home disappear. They said if Buster and Gracie didn't stop, there wouldn't be any wood or fish left.

Buster and Gracie ignored what they had to say and continued to exploit the forest and the sea, even after seeing the impacts for themselves. So, the bears and the beavers decided to stop working for the two until they gave in to their demands.

After weeks of the strike, Buster and Gracie were finally forced to make things right. They vowed to let the forests and the seas breathe, and only use what they needed while protecting what remained.

Slowly but surely, the forest began to thrive once more, filled with the joyful chirping of birds and the rustling of leaves. And in the waters, the marine creatures began to return, filling the seas once again with their vibrant colours and playful antics.

The beavers and the bears showed that when communities come together, they can overcome even the biggest challenges. And as they watched the forest and the sea come back to life, they knew that they had made a difference for generations to come.

The end.