

# A Magical Find at Goodwill Stores

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On my tenth Birthday Mother asked me what I wanted to do for my birthday. Being aware my mom didn't have much money; she was a single mom. I suggested that we visit The Good Will Store, and that would be ideal. Surprised that I had picked Good Will, and probably happy I did so, she then asked, "Jeff, why did you pick Good Will?"

I answered, "Mom I once heard one man's junk, is another man's treasure, let's see if I can find my treasure", and I left it at that. Mom just smiled as she exited the room.

When Mother and I arrived at the Good Will, we entered together and immediately parted as I began searching for my treasure, as a pirate

searching in the unknown, and mother searching for a treasure of her own.

I looked closely at the many items on display for sale and thought most should have been thrown out as trash, no treasure for me here. After an hour of searching with no luck, I decided to look for my mother to see if she was luckier than I.

I spotted my mom on one of the check-out lines holding a box, and went up to her and asked, "Mom what have you there?"

An ant farm Jeff? Thought you would enjoy an ant farm as I once did. I had one when I was about your age, and I really enjoyed it."

Since I didn't want my mom to feel bad, I thanked her and asked, "Mom, where are we getting the ants "

"There is an 800 number to call on the box, they are special ants that will be mailed to us."

“Ok mom I’ll put the ant farm on the top shelf in my closet till the ants arrive.”

When mom and I arrived home, I immediately placed the ant farm on the top shelf of my bedroom closet.

It was about midnight that night, when I heard a loud thump in my closet. I dragged myself out of bed, put on the bedroom light, stumbled groggy eyed towards the closet, opened the closet door, and turned on the closet light. To my surprise the ant farm box was open on the floor, and the ant farm was lying on top of the box. What could have caused the box to fall off the shelf and how did the ant farm come out of the box; I was puzzled? The ant farm box was the only box I had placed on the shelf, and the ant farm was securely inside. I bent down to pick up the ant farm to place it back in the box when I thought I heard very faint noises. When the noises sounded like voices to me, I

dropped the ant farm back on the box. “Hey there,” a loud and clear voice came from inside the ant farm, “Easy with our home!” The unknown voice continued, “Hey Michael, hey Jessy, are you guys okay?”

“We’re okay Jasper, is it safe for us to come out yet?”

“I’ll find out guys,” All at once a large ant climbed out of the ant farm, walking and then standing on his hind legs, and asked, “What’s your name there?”

“My name is Jeff, and your name must be Jasper.”

“Yes it is, and my friends are who are still in our home are Jessy and Michael.”

“What kind of ant are you that you able to speak and you are so much bigger than any ant I’ve ever seen?”

“Jeff, let me first tell my friends that it’s safe to come out. Okay guys, you can come out!”

The two ants who were waiting in the ant farm made their way out. “I’m Michael,” the first ant introduced himself as he climbed out, and as the second ant appeared behind him and greeted me with, “Hi there, I’m Jessy.” All three ants were much larger than average ants, about two inches tall in height.

“Before I answer any of your questions Jeff, Jasper replied, “The boys and I are a bit hungry, do you have any cake around?”

I then asked “Do you guys like chocolate, we may have some chocolate cake? “

Jasper answered, “You bet we do, it’s our favorite.”

I then said, “Follow me guys to the fridge and I’ll see what I have, but be very quiet, mother is asleep.”

“Don’t worry Jeff, we’ll be very quiet,” Jasper answered. The three ants followed me in single file from my bedroom to the kitchen. I opened the fridge and there was a large piece of left-over chocolate cake in a dish on the top shelf. As I reached for the dish it slipped from my hand, and crashed, spilling all over the kitchen floor, causing a loud sound and a mess, waking Mother up, who had come into the kitchen to investigate. To my surprise, after seeing the mess that I had made said to me “Don’t worry Jeff, and who are your little friends.?”

As the ants were munching on the cake, I began to introduced them to my mom. “There are three ants who live in the ant farm you purchased for me on my birthday, their names are, Jasper, Michael, and Jessy.”

Mom cleaned up the mess after the ants had finished, and returned to bed without another word, and the ants and I returned to my

bedroom. Jasper thanked me for the cake, and said, "To answer your questions as I promised, we are Carpenter ants that just happen to speak. Maybe we are able to speak because we spent much of our life at The Goodwill Store, I really don't have the answer to that question. When you can, please return us with our ant farm back to The Good Will store. We miss it there, it's our home, and maybe we'll see you and your mom when you're looking for treasures once again. We have to turn in now, thank your mom for the treat." As the ants returned to the closet, I said goodbye and returned to bed.

The next morning when I awoke, I ran into my mother's bedroom and asked what I should do. She sounded surprised when I told her what had happened, and she that was there. She said I must have had a dream, and we could return the ant farm today if I wanted to. I told her,

“Yes I would,” and we prepared to leave after I had breakfast.

I returned to my bedroom, dressed, and went to my closet to retrieve the ant farm, which was still on the shelf where I originally left it on my birthday. Maybe mother was right, it was only a dream. I took the box down, carried it to the car, and as I got in the car mother took the ant farm from me and opened an end and dropped a piece of chocolate cake in saying, “You can never be too sure Jeff,” and smiled.