

The Protectors of the Wood Adventure Series!

Based Protectors of the Wood on the Protectors of the Wood book series

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@protectorsofthewood

Join our story of misfit teenagers as they struggle to save the world from climate change.

Episode #143: The Children Get Together

Narrator: John

Abby: Gaby

Lucy, Nancy: Maritza

Franklyn: Edward

Tiny, Jane: Tamara

Tom Winkle, Bishop Becket, Ned: Joe

Narrator: The weather was beautiful for the churchyard social event that Reverend Tuck had arranged to celebrate the retirement of Jean Garrison from the Board of Trustees. A ripple of tension ran through the crowd, concerning the election for a new trustee scheduled to take place the following Sunday. Abby wanted no part of the conflicts in the world of adults, and organized an activity for the children in the wild area of the churchyard. Tiny and Lucy had already found Abby and waited with her.

Tom Winkle: Ah! Here comes the rest of the class. Please join us!!

Narrator: Four young children and a mix of parents arrived.

Tom Winkle: Abby, this is Jane, Nancy, Franklyn, and Ned. Parents, this is Abby, who will be working at the preschool beginning tomorrow.

Narrator: The children immediately clustered together, all talking at once. Abby heard the words 'Secret Place' and 'Explore' several times. To make things

more complicated, the bishop was walking toward them across the lawn. He had exchanged his elaborate outfit for casual clothes.

Bishop Becket: Hello everyone! Please, allow me to shake your hand, I enjoy being here.

Narrator: The bishop went down on one knee and shook hands with each child. Tom Winkle assumed the role of host, and the parents began discussing the Sunday School.

Bishop Becket: Abby, feel free to begin your activity with the children. We'll wait here for you.

Narrator: The children began to pester Abby to lead them into the wild area. In a moment Abby and her following moved down the path into the cool shadows. She turned to the group and put her finger to her lips to ask for silence. They walked softly to the back wall and turned left. Abby felt a tug on her shirt, and turned to see Tiny pointing to the little path to the cave of vines. Everyone stopped. Tiny led them a short way to the cave entrance. The six children gathered round, examining the interior. Lucy stooped and entered. Toward the back she got on her hands and knees to reach the far end of the cave.

Tiny: It's like the cave house! It's our house here at the church!

Lucy: Look how much we can spy! Come in here, Abby. Then if anyone walks by, they won't see us, but we'll see them.

Abby: I've got an idea. Instead of looking for people, let's look for animals. I've seen about ten kinds of birds here, and I heard an owl a few times at night. And I saw a rabbit jump out of here onto the grass. Remember, animals are usually very quiet. We won't see any unless we are quiet too.

Lucy: Robin Hood knows how to be quiet and how to spy.

Tiny: Emily says Dawn can see all animals and people.

Franklyn: I've seen a rabbit. And in the swamp, we saw a heron, and three deer far off.

Jane: I was there too! And lots of times I've seen vultures and raccoons and ducks when we visit my uncle.

Narrator: Abby recalled they were introduced as Jane and Franklyn Walker. She was thinking:

Abby: They must be brother and sister. And they're probably related to Sonny.

Nancy (low voice, as if it's a special secret): Twice I saw a rat! In River City. They have pigeons everywhere.

Narrator: All were silent to consider this. And then Ned whispered:

Ned (whisper): There's a cardinal.

Narrator: The beautiful red bird jumped from one tiny branch or vine to another, only ten feet away. Then a group of sparrows began making a fuss in the other direction. High above them, they heard the rough call of crows, probably landing on the churchyard maple trees.

Lucy: We should bring snacks here. We have a dining room nearby, at the secret entrance.

Ned: (in a very timid voice, as if he's afraid of being refused): Would it be all right for us to see that?

Abby: Of course. Whenever you're ready.

Tiny (exclaiming a great idea): Let's get food and bring it back!

Narrator: The whole group agreed in excitement and scrambled out to the cave and followed Abby back up the path. Out on the lawn they found that the mood of the parents and the bishop had been changed by three new arrivals, all middle-aged women who gathered around the bishop. Two of the women had positioned themselves between the group and the bishop and were talking in an aggressively confidential way, moving very close and forcing the bishop to step back. Tom Winkle stood nearby, frowning and obviously worried. As soon as he saw Abby and the children, he moved toward them with a look of relief.

Narrator: The children flooded into the group of parents, excitedly talking of their discoveries and plans to gather food and return. The parents followed them to the crowded tables where Sammy's crew were all handing out sandwiches, peaches, and lemon cukes. As Abby and the parents and children, now carrying paper plates of food, returned to the wild area, the two women pestering the bishop seemed even more angry and awkward. As Abby walked by, she heard one woman say:

Brown haired woman: This cannot go on any longer. We are determined to put a stop to this!

Narrator: The woman looked around, and gave Abby a glare and a grimace. Abby was thinking:

Abby: Now that was definitely hostile. It's not just my paranoia!

Narrator: The children ate quickly and grew restless. Abby took their paper plates to the trash barrel and told the parents she would give the group another chance at birdwatching. She told the children:

Abby: We've got to sneak along, like spies, making no noise.

Narrator: She gave them an example of moving silently, and the children all tried to imitate her.

They returned along the back wall and soon came to the wrought-iron door. The children sat on the thick sections of the fallen tree. Abby put her finger across her lips.

Abby: If you see a bird or an animal, point and whisper its name if you can.

Narrator: They sat in silence for what seemed like a long time.

Franklyn: (whisper): Sparrows.

Ned: A Robin!

Narrator: Ned pointed toward the ground ahead and whispered:

Ned: Look a fieldfare bird!

Narrator: And lo and behold! A fieldfare had appeared at the edge of the brush to hunt for worms in the soft open soil of the secret place. It hopped, stopped to listen, and hopped again. Suddenly it thrust its beak into the soil and pulled out a small worm, and then retreated back into the brush. Some of the children gasped.

AS A CHILD I KNEW

Intro - Verse

G	B7
As a child I knew on a bright summer's day	
C	G
The warmth of the sun was coming my way	
C	B-
The heat on the sidewalk felt ever so good	
A-	E-
I knew that I would do all that I could	

E-

G B7
The years pass by in the blink of an eye
C G
The moon goes racing across the dark sky
C B-
All I have left is the best I can do
A- E-
It'll take all we've got to carry us through
E-

D E-
That bright summer's day
B7 E-
Will live on always
C B-
The great wide world and the powers that be
D E-
Carry us over the raging sea
E-

G B7
The end of the line is here on a dime
C G
The universe lives in a moment of time
C B-
All things journey the long winding way
A- E-
Everything we do matters today
E-

D E-
That bright summer's day
B7 E-
Will live on always
C B-
The great wide world and the powers that be

D E-
Carry us over the raging sea
E-

INSTRUMENTAL (Repeat Chorus)

D E-
That bright summer's day
B7 E-
Will live on always
C B-
The great wide world and the powers that be
D E-
Carry us over the raging sea

CHORUS REPEAT