

The Protectors of the Wood Adventure Series!

Based 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 #99: The Delegation from Rivergate Arrives at the Church

Song: To The Children

Narrator: Abby, Phoebe, and Dr. Bear followed Reverend Tuck down to the large recreation room. They heard a guitar and a tambourine playing from a distance. On entering Abby saw a group talking and playing music. Ishmael Banks, George, and Eddy were seated close together, repeating the same guitar riff and beat over and over. Abby hadn't seen Ishmael in many years, since he was about eight years old. But she knew the handsome, brown skinned, wiry young man in front of her must be him.

Sound: Guitar riff and tambourine

Abby: He can't be even eighteen years old... but he looks more like a man than I expected.

Ishmael: No... play it like this... Just a bit slower... Easy...

Narrator: George and Eddy listened carefully and tried to follow Ishmael's rolling rhythm. They were in their own world together. Isaiah Banks was nearby talking to a young girl in a baseball cap. He was the first to spot the newcomers and immediately spoke to Abby.

Isaiah: There you are! We've been waiting for you.

Narrator: He walked over to meet her with open arms.

Isaiah: It's been too long, so much to talk about. Reverend Tuck, Dr. Bear, I'm glad to see you again, and thanks for the opportunity to be here tonight. Now... unless I'm wrong... you must be Phoebe Hood. We've been hearing so much about you!

Sound: Hellos, new voices, crowd-talking

Narrator: In a moment everyone was talking at once. Pastor Banks and the new girl joined the conversation, and Ishmael, George, and Eddy stood up to say hello. Isaiah quickly pulled Abby aside and said,

Isaiah: There's someone I want you to meet. She has good news!

Narrator: Abby recalled Isaiah's habit of being everyone's parent or uncle or older brother, even for people twice his age. He had a kind of charisma Abby remembered from childhood, the ability to bring people together and reach out to those needing help. Isaiah had been the assistant Sunday School teacher when Abby was eight and nine years old. Vivid memories flashed through her mind.

Abby: Isaiah must be almost thirty now... and he probably pushed everyone into making this event happen.

Narrator: Pastor Banks, mother of Isaiah and Ishmael, was already engaging Tuck in conversation. The two were about the same age and seemed like natural allies. Meanwhile, the new girl joined Abby and Isaiah, but seemed reluctant to speak. She was barely as tall as Isaiah's shoulder, and had short hair and a multi-colored baseball cap. Abby felt there was something familiar about her. Isaiah, with a gleeful, mischievous smile, was looking back and forth between the two.

Isaiah: Too noisy here.

Narrator: He led them to the far side of the room. Abby was wracking her brain trying to remember something.

Isaiah: (laughing) Go on, Cali, tell her. This is a reunion. With Ismael and me there's four of us here.

Abby: Cali Cardona!! Sunday School, the Young Warriors club! You were Talking Girl! You had a superpower!

Cali: You got it!

Narrator: Cali hugged her.

Cali: It's been so long... and I was... what? Only seven when you left? The youngest of our group. But you remember!

Narrator: Abby's eyes teared up.

Cali: And that's not the only surprise. Listen to this... I was leaving the house today and Sonny introduced me to the new people who've taken one of the rooms, and they are... your parents!!

Narrator: Cali waited for her to react, but Abby just stared.

Cali: Don't worry. They looked fine and everything. We talked for a few minutes.

Abby: Sonny Walker? Are they living with him?

Cali: Well, sort of. Sonny takes care of a couple of houses near his land. He organizes people to clean them up and lets people move in. You remember. It's kind of a shared situation. Sonny grows food, they share a kitchen, like that. But Sonny doesn't live there. He sleeps in the shanty.

Narrator: Abby clapped her hands.

Abby: Oh! Thank you, thank you! I've got to visit right away, like, tomorrow.

Narrator: She embraced Cali, who smiled and blushed.

Cali: They asked me to speak to you. They had tears when Sonny said you're here at the church.

Abby: So how did you get here tonight?

Narrator: Cali and Isaiah looked at each other.

Isaiah: You may not know yet... but the Snake River Bridge is closed as of the last thunderstorm. We took the boat. Had to.

Abby: The boat! To Middletown? Oh! Tell me about it.

Isaiah: Well... you remember, Sonny has these fishing boats and dinghies and canoes at that piece of land that slopes down to the Snake River, right? It seems like Sonny saw all this coming, 'cause his daughter and him went to River City a few weeks ago and bought a used river launch – and old, flat-bottomed aluminum boat with a decent motor, and took it all the way up the Half Moon to the Snake River dock. You remember his daughter Sharon, always crazy about boats and fishing and exploring the swamp. Well, she'd already been making a run to Half Moon and back every day with the large dinghy, and in no time she found a channel to take the launch on that route. With the high water she can take eleven or twelve people at one time, and bring supplies back from Evansville and Half Moon. Sometimes she goes all the way to River City. And just this week a lot of people have been ferrying three or four customers each trip across the Snake to the highway ramp, where you can catch the bus.

Abby: (a little dazed): Wow... No wonder you're all here to start something. I didn't even know... well, that's not quite true. This problem has been growing for years. They're always moving the docks to higher ground. How interesting.... You know... I love boats. I miss them... but, I do have one of my own. A small dinghy. Phoebe and I crossed the Half Moon a few days ago.

Isaiah: It's set us all thinking in a new way. At first it was just us poor unfortunate ones in... as they say... 'Swamptown'... getting the short end of the stick again. But then I realized that this is a bigger problem. Much, much bigger. Unbelievably big! It includes... everybody! That's our message tonight.

Abby: Ah! No wonder, of course... That could be a good thing.

Isaiah: It *is* a good thing. In fact, it's always been that way, but now we can see it more clearly.

Abby: You're cheering me up! This is so exciting... And you must be staying in Middletown tonight.

Isaiah: Alison and Chi Chi are giving us the greenhouse. Plenty of room.

Abby: And you're going back tomorrow? By boat?

Isaiah: Yup. All of us.

Abby: Can I come too?

Isaiah: Sure. Sharon always has room on her way back on the morning run. But she won't be coming by upstream until about eleven.

Abby: Where do you meet the boat?

Isaiah: On that landing spot near the Main Street Bridge.

Abby: I'll be there at 10:30. But I'm broke.

Isaiah: I got you. We're glad to have you.

Narrator: Cali smiled. They had some unspoken understanding. Meanwhile the room around them had been filling up with a wide variety of people, children, teens, and adults. Abby was thinking:

Abby: This is wonderful! How lucky I am... Oh powers that be... Thank you!

Nature Lives Here

C G A- C G A-

C
Hands down we'll never make it
A-
Through this place alive
C
We never knew that the avenue
G
Went down this awful dive
F
Hang on I can't see no bottom
F-
Getting ready to fall
C G
No time to pray, I'll just say
A-
My love to you all

C G A-

C
The beauty of time passing
A-
It flies before our eyes
C
We never saw in this way before
G
The wonder of our lives
F
There's everything to love,
F-
Everything to fear
C G
It's planet earth in the universe and
A-
Nature lives here

C G A-

Give us a chance we'll never forget
The truth we're seeing now
We'll fight for this world on and on
Deep into the Great Beyond

There's everything to love,

Everything to fear

It's planet earth in the universe and

Nature lives here

See the years for life to grow

A billion more for all we know

Working through the pain and fear

See the world through your tears

It's planet earth in the universe and

Nature lives here

There's Trillions of living things

Everywhere around

Our lives are all planted deep

Into this sacred ground

There's everything to love,

Everything to fear

It's planet earth in the universe and

Nature lives here