

The Protectors of the Wood Adventure Series!

Based on the Protectors of the Wood book series

Written by John KixMiller

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@protectorsofthewood

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

Episode #134: Abby Begins her Campaign

Narrator: Abby held her head high and walked out onto Bridge Avenue under the eyes of two stalkers on the bench across the street. They looked up but did not move. She headed down the sidewalk and into the coffee shop. Sammy was on the phone, and Stephanie was making sandwiches behind the counter. She slid three sandwiches onto plates. Sara Williams appeared and delivered them to a booth of people ordering an early lunch.

Sammy: Sammy's Coffee Shop! What can I get ya? Turkey and Swiss on Rye... Okay, right... What else? BLT on Multigrain... And to drink, Chester? Two Iced Breakfast Mixtures! Got it!

Abby: What do you know! Everything's shipshape here. I'm so glad I'm not needed. I have to work at the pre-school.

Narrator: Stephanie leaned across the counter to kiss Abby on the cheek. Sara returned to the counter.

Sara: I heard that! I'm only here for the next three weeks. We were counting on you to come back.

Abby: Don't worry, we'll be meeting hundreds of people in the next few weeks. They'll be fighting for the job. And speaking of all the work coming up, I need a favor. Stephanie, (pleading tone) can I get just two minutes with you at a booth in the back?

Stephanie: (pleading tone) Sara, cover me please, I'll owe you.

Narrator: Abby and Stephanie walked to the back of the store and took a seat. Sammy waved to them while still on the phone. In one minute, Abby explained what she needed from Eddie and his father and their construction company.

Stephanie: (hesitant) This might be a good time... They're in between jobs... but Eddy spends all his time practicing with the band at the greenhouse.

Abby: We'll find other people to paint, replace windows, and all that. Just get Eddie to deliver the scaffolding today, this afternoon, and stack it in front of the abandoned building. I'll be there to help carry.

Narrator: Abby knew she was just making things up on the spot, but felt she had no choice. Her fate was to hurry into the unknown.

Stephanie: (doubtful) I'll try. But they might need it for something else...

Abby: Oh, thank you!

Narrator: Abby hugged Stephanie as if it were already a sure thing.

Abby: Just try. It's going to work.

Stephanie: Don't you need a permit for that?

Narrator: Abby had no idea, but pulled an idea out of thin air.

Abby: We're not going to start work yet. All we need is just to store the scaffolding there so people will see it at the gathering after church tomorrow. It's public relations, to give people hope that we'll do something.

Stephanie: I get it. Done! I'll tell Sara what's up before she comes to see you tonight. And by the way, I need to know more. I've got questions! I want to be included.

Abby: Don't worry. It's hard because I'm watched all the time, but I'll find a way.

Stephanie: I'm starved for information. Why do you think I'm working here? I need a job in this project.

Abby: I'll have a plan for you tonight.

Narrator: Abby slipped out the back door. No soccer players were on the field yet, but the back door of the toy store was unlocked. Inside she found Phoebe carrying a box up from the basement.

Abby: Phoebe! Come to the front door of the church with two sandwiches at lunch time and we'll eat together. I'll be in the meeting room.

Phoebe: 1PM.

Abby: Can't stay now.

Narrator: She returned to the coffee shop. Sammy was not upset by her decision to work at the pre-school. Ellie was now working extended hours until school began.

Sammy: Come on, Abby! Can't keep those kids waiting! Get on outta here, kiddo! We'll be fine!

Abby continued rushing along, and soon was out on the sidewalk returning to the church. One of the stalkers standing nearby pretended to be interested in the toy store window. He turned toward her as she approached. She could feel his staring eyes, and stepped past him without a glance. In a minute she was in the churchyard mulling over plans for the wild area. Even though Tuck didn't seem to care, Abby felt she had to defend the wild area against the condemnation of the public. She had not forgotten her solemn promise to Tiny and Lucy to save the secret place, and the wild area as a whole. Abby was thinking:

Abby: Oh, what am I going to do? These stalkers with their fancy cameras probably have damning photos of the fallen tree, the overgrown vines, the brambles, poison ivy, sumac and young maple trees, all fighting for a bit of sun. Most people will see all this as an example of appalling neglect, more reasons to elect a hostile trustee and fire both Tuck and I. These powerful adults will want to 'clean up' the wild area, just like they've done for the whole world. The art of working with wild areas is not respected by industrial civilization. What was it that Lucy said? 'The adults always ruin it! Grown-ups don't like these places. They never let them be. You and your friends have to promise!' At least Lucy and Tiny said I could cut out the poison ivy and make one path. But that's not going to be enough for people in this town, and the congregation of this church. Morphy will take it over and destroy it all for a new office building. What am I going to do??

Narrator: As Abby was thinking she walked through the wild area, along the wall to the secret place. There was no doubt about it. This small piece of nature was lovely and haunting. Abby sat quietly on a piece of wood, and became aware of the birds all around her, flitting from branch to branch with their various calls and songs. And then the owl hooted again and again. A new thought flashed in Abby's mind.

Abby: Birdwatchers!! Now that's a group of adults who might understand! And many are old and influential! Oh yes!

Narrator: A flood of possibilities streamed through Abby's mind.

MAKE IT HAPPEN

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VERSE

G D
The sun is rising in a bright blue sky
A- C
The world I know it comes alive
G B-
I'm feeling like the time has arrived
A- D
To be what I can be

G D
It's like the universe is at my front door
A- C
To you it may be just a corner store
G B-
But I'd be afraid to ask for more
A- D A- D
It's a lot to me

CHORUS

C D
It's a magic land and we're all in it
G F# E-
Step right up and let's begin it
C D G (F#)
It's in the faces of the people that you see

C D
Father and mother, sister and brother
G F# E-
Come on outside and see one another
A- B- D
Don't you think together we might find a way
C D G (F#)
I've gotta say, we' can make it happen today

C D
Life can be wonderful and terrible too
G F#
Just about anything can happen to you
C D G
I say it matters it matters what we do

C

D

It's something special how I feel

G

F#

D

It's like I finally know we're real

And I think together we might find a way

I've gotta say, we can make it happen today

I've gotta say, we can make it happen today

I've gotta say... we can make it happen today