

THE PROTECTORS OF THE WOOD ADVENTURE SERIES

[Based on the Protectors of the Wood Book Series](#)

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

Book #4: Abby and Wendy

Episode #206: Abby meets with Alison

Narrator: Abby lay in bed thinking about the pre-school, and the possible activities for tomorrow. In her opinion, 'building a city' had reached a confusing stage. Floods had damaged the city. Sand, representing snow, was all over the place. Crumpled dried out leaves were scattered around. Kayla wanted a garden, and Franklyn wanted a forest.

Abby: "How can we proceed? Hmmm... well... we could make cuttings from indoor plants and root them in water or damp, loose soil.

Narrator: As she lay there tossing and turning, she imagined digging up a few baby oak and maple saplings, and putting them in pots in a sunny spot.

Abby: "These baby trees rarely get the sun and root space to grow tall under the massive oaks and maples, but that doesn't prevent them from trying.

We could find a nice spot with sun and deep soil, and the children can grow their own hardwood trees. The plan might appeal to the children, and perhaps provide an ongoing learning experience. Maybe Rose and the parents would see the educational value, and they would respect me... but I see two problems:

I would have to buy and bring the indoor plants to the preschool first thing in the morning. And Rose and Rob have not had the chance to weigh in on these ideas. But if they don't like the plan, we can just set the plants aside, and use them another time, or I'll take them home. Nothing is lost."

Narrator: Abby was falling asleep, but she remembered to set her alarm early.

Narrator: By 7:30AM Abby was riding her bike to the garden center. She felt foolish. Why not just wait a day and talk to Rose and Rob first, and pick up the plants in the afternoon? But Abby didn't feel good about continuing the "building a city" activity without a new twist to provide a clear direction. The voice in her mind foresaw chaos if they continued with the city in flood and sand, with the children wanting to race their cars around broken houses. Abby had seen no sign that Rob had a solution to the problem. The garden center was of course closed at 7:45, but Abby knocked on the front and back doors, the windows, and kept trying. Alison finally saw her through a window and opened the front door.

Abby: "She'll be mad I'm waking her so early! At least I've got money to buy these plants. I hope I don't wreck them, carrying them on my bike."

Alison: Just the person I wanted to see! Let me give you a hug! Now isn't this an amazing coincidence. Come in!

Narrator: Abby followed her to the small kitchen in the back where Alison poured her a cup of coffee.

Alison: Now first tell me why you're here, and then I'll talk.

Narrator: Abby explained her activity for the pre-school, and worried the whole time about what Alison wanted to say.

Alison: We have what you need... several full, radiant hanging plants in the greenhouse, ready to go. A philodendron and an inch plant should be perfect.

Abby was thinking: "It's her eyes. So confident and mysterious, like pools of dark water that glitter and sparkle."

Narrator: Abby sipped coffee and waited. Alison seemed to be gathering her thoughts.

Alison: I hear you're going to Evansville this weekend.

Abby: Yes, I am. Is that good or bad?

Alison: It's good, but Chi Chi tells me you will be meeting with important people... people interested in our energy project. I have information for you.

Abby: I need information badly! Please, help me out! These important people seem to think I'm the spokesperson for our project, and I don't know much about it!

Alison: Now don't get frantic.

Narrator: Alison reached out to Abby's hand resting on the table.

Alison: "You've made no mistakes, things are moving along nicely. But they're speeding up faster than we expected.

I hear you're going with Phoebe and Lluvia."

Abby: Well, you certainly are well informed. God knows how you find out things.

Alison: "Don't worry, I'm not looking over your shoulder or spying. Chi Chi talked to Phoebe, and then he talked to Sonny Walker who had spoken with Lluvia."

Abby: But why the concern?

Alison (calm): It's nothing new, just the same concerns as before. The only change is that Wendy sees this autumn and winter as a crisis time for our plans. Chi Chi has been speaking with her more frequently. They're pushing biogas production and distribution like mad. And he says Wendy even wants publicity.

Abby: Publicity! What kind of publicity?

Alison: That's where you come in. Wendy wants you to describe our biogas project this weekend to a group of people. With the help of

Phoebe and Lluvia, of course.

Abby: (frantic): "I need details. Details! What part of the biogas project? To what people? And what details should I not describe?

This is a long conversation, and I'm supposed to be at work."

Alison: "I'll drive you in the van. Just sit tight for a few minutes. This shouldn't be too difficult. Things are working out perfectly. Just relax and listen."

Narrator: Abby nodded and waited.

Alison: I gather Jeremy has told you about his new job distributing biogas, and converting car engines, furnaces, stoves... all sorts of things to run on biogas. Over the summer we ramped up our production, mainly out on Fishers Island.

Abby: Fisher's Island! I was there once long ago. Just a few dedicated fishermen and women, and a lot of tall grass.

Alison: The fishing has changed over the years. They started enforcing the license rules, and people couldn't make a living. But the tall grass turned out to be a big deal, and good jobs for a lot of people trying to survive.'

Abby: I remember the fishing huts and cabins, and the boats. I was maybe eight years old, and the field of grass was like five times taller than me. I couldn't even find a path. That stuff is scary. What sort of jobs?

Alison: I'll try to hurry. Lluvia will tell you more, and help you tell Amy Zhi's professor about it. Over the past decade we've built digesters there, making biogas from giant grass. It's actually a relative of giant king grass, if anyone wants to know. It's indigenous to Fisher's Island and other places in the wetland.

Sorry to be taking so long, but the point is that many of the people who used to fish now spend most of their time making biogas, the production there rivals that of the Half Moon operation. Even Sonny has his own biogas generators on his farm and at the West Isle, mostly using waste from Rivergate.

And as you may have learned from Jeremy. Biogas is made simply from food scraps and manure, with a much smaller carbon footprint than fracked gas.

Abby: Wow... I see... I feel like a fool, but I have one simple big-picture question that people will raise, and I'm not sure of the answer... Why is this better than fracking? And... is it possible for this effort to make fracking a thing of the past?

Alison: It is possible, but we must work together to make it happen! Keeping fracked gas, an ancient underground fuel underground, will protect our water, air, and climate while paving the way for a healthier, sustainable future powered by clean energy.

That's our goal, if we are to have a future. Wendy would like you to touch on the facts that biogas can tackle waste management and provide renewable energy. This energy project fights climate change by lowering methane emissions and its carbon neutral. Biogas also boosts agriculture by creating natural fertilizer and it improves soil health.

Abby: Wow! That's amazing, I didn't know all this about biogas.

Alison: Not only that, it empowers communities by bringing electricity to rural communities and reduces reliance on wood-burning stoves, it also creates jobs, and it reduces energy costs!

In a nutshell, biogas transforms waste into energy, tackling pollution, reducing greenhouse gases, and empowering communities. This energy project will create a cleaner, more sustainable future for everyone!

Millions of households are already using this technology. We're just adapting to our local situation and hoping to be a model for others to do the same.

Abby: This energy project sounds amazing; I can't wait to learn more about it...I have so many questions.

Alison: Jeremy and Chi Chi are able to answer your questions, Jeremy could write a book about it. Okay? It's only 8:30. We'll choose the plants and be off.