

The Protectors of the Wood Adventure Series!

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

Written by John KixMiller

© 2022 All Rights Reserved

@protectorsofthewood

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

Episode #136: Phoebe's Plan

Narrator: Abby and Phoebe were talking in the church basement, getting up to date on all the events of the last few days.

Abby: Our only way is to handle it together. They already know we're partners. I might as well just visit you at the toy store whenever I want to set up a way to talk. You can leave a message with Tuck or Geraldine. And we've got the back door to the churchyard whenever we need it, but we won't risk a large group there. And watch out for your own cell phone. Secrets only privately, face to face.

Phoebe: Good. Now let me prepare you for tonight. I've made a schedule and list of jobs for the festival. Copies for everyone.

Narrator: Abby scanned the outline.

Abby: I'm so happy!! I knew you'd be fabulous at this.

Phoebe: I try. And by the way, even though I don't know what's planned for the churchyard event tomorrow, I do have a request.

Abby: Anything.

Phoebe: I'd like to run a little friendly soccer exhibition after people have had time for coffee and conversation. I've invited a few teen players who know what to do, and we could run an activity for younger children who might want to try it.

Abby: I'll clear it with Tuck.

Narrator: They hugged, and Phoebe kissed her on the cheek.

Phoebe: We're together.

Narrator: After Phoebe's departure, Abby read through the plan for the festival carefully:

ABBY:

THE UNITED CHURCH OF MIDDLETOWN

Schedule for the Churchyard Festival 8/8

9AM: All vendors set up including Greenmarket, coffee shop, toy store

10AM – 4PM: Sammy's food, greenmarket, storytime, toddler play area, soccer warm-up, tours, garden activities

4PM – 4:30PM: Clear front area for soccer exhibition and band concert, vendors pack up except food and beverages

4:30PM – 5:30PM: Soccer exhibition U-14 girls, U-14 boys, including tricks, friendly games, and then young children

5:30PM – 6:PM: Concert set-up

6PM – 7:30PM: Band performance, food still for sale

7:30-8PM: Announcements, thank yous, closing

7:30-8:30PM: Clean-up

Sign-up for Jobs

Morning set-up:

Evening clean-up:

4:30 set-up for soccer exhibition

5:30 set-up for band performance

Need Volunteers:

1. Children's games, tours, assistants in food area
2. Leadership table for donations, questions, first aide, supervision
3. Official letter of invitation including request for donations and purpose of donations

4. Treasurer for receiving, reporting, and distributing all funds collected
5. Question for financial committee: Should vendors pay up front per table, or owe a percentage of their profits for the night? That amount plus donations should be split between building fund and a new boat for Rivergate

Narrator: Abby read it through twice and thought:

Abby: This soccer idea will bring in teenagers and parents. I can do garden activities I've been planning for the pre-school. Glenda can read from children's books. The teens can set up and take down with a few adults to help them. Maybe we can find a real birdwatcher among the congregation to run tours through the wild area. I'll have to ask around. I'm so lucky! So lucky...

Narrator: Satisfied with her world, Abby walked out to the churchyard and worked on the new path through the wild area. Over the course of two hours, she rolled and dragged most of the wood pile out of the way, and set up eight sawed off pieces of the fallen tree as scattered seats for birdwatchers or people just looking for a quiet moment. Then she pulled the branches to the side, making a border between the path and the wild area. The path was overgrown with mugwort and pigweed, so Abby slowly pruned it into shape until her arms ached. She'd made a decision not to bring the lawn mower near the wild area at all, and even extended the wild area another 30 feet to allow dandelions and blossoming ground cover flowers to grow. The lawn mower would scare wildlife away and defeat the whole purpose of the plan. As she was taking a rest, examining the progress of her garden and Jeremy's work of two days ago, Eddie startled her by appearing at her side.

Abby: Oh! I didn't even hear you!

Eddy: (Laughing) Everyone says you have eyes in the back of your head. You must be slipping.

Abby: That's right. I should be more alert. You just taught me a lesson.

Eddy: I notice things too, just like you.

Narrator: Abby caught his serious expression, and was thinking:

Abby: He wants me to notice him. Hmmm... he's in work clothes, probably tools in the pouch around his waist. Never noticed before, but he looks capable, well-built.

Narrator: Her silence and staring appeared to make Eddy ill-at-ease, and he got down to business.

Eddy: I've brought the scaffolding, or at least some of it. I hope you can carry it with me, I can't keep the truck long. Grab a pair of gloves.

Narrator: Soon Abby and Eddy were out on the street where the truck was double-parked near the churchyard gate. Eddy's pick-up truck contained a pile of identical items made of thick metal pipe, each looking similar to a letter H. Alongside them were wooden planks eight feet long. Eddy slid the top metal H out of the truck and – each taking one end – they carried it through the yard and leaned it against the abandoned building. It was heavy, but Abby was pleased with her performance. In twenty minutes they had emptied the truck.

Eddy: Nice going! (he lowers his voice) Stephanie kind of explained the situation. I gather you're not setting up right away. I'll be at the meeting tonight, and we'll talk more about it.

Abby: (almost whispering) I'm so grateful. Just getting this stuff here might save our plans.

Eddy: (low voice) To really do my best I'll need to know more. I have to admit, this all seems pretty mysterious.

Abby: (whisper) I'm watched all the time. Phoebe will tell you the whole story.

Eddy: I've got it. See you tonight!