



Kael and the Heartwood Gem
By Sylvia H Northwood

Copyright © 2025 Sylvia H Northwood

Thank you for downloading this book. You are welcome to share it with others. You can download it, print it for personal use, and send the file to friends and family.

This work is provided for free and is intended for non-commercial use only. This means you cannot sell copies of this book in any format (digital or physical) or create modified versions for sale or distribution.

This work is protected by a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License. For more details on what this means, please visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>



@SYLVIANORTHWOOD



In the heart of the Sunstone Grove, a forest shimmering with magic, lived Kael. With a flick of his magical staff and a flash of a grin, he was the cleverest, quickest, and proudest guardian the Grove had ever known. He loved leaping from the highest branches, showing everyone just how brilliant he was.



But a shadow fell upon the Grove. A fearsome Beast of Whispers, born from doubt and fear, shattered the forest's glowing heart, the Heartwood Gem. As the light faded and the leaves began to curl, ancient Solomon the tortoise appeared. "The Gem is in three pieces, scattered far and wide," he rumbled. "Only together can we restore the light."



Kael scoffed, "I don't need help!" But seeing the fear in the little creatures' eyes, he reluctantly agreed. Their quest first led them to the Hungry Hills, where a giant, fluffy bear named Barnaby blocked their path. "None shall pass," he declared with a tummy-rumble, "without a toll of honeycakes!"



Kael tried to trick and flip his way past, but Barnaby was a mountain of fur and strength. It was Solomon who quietly offered the bear their last honeycake. Barnaby's grumpy face softened. "You... shared?" he mumbled, his heart as big as his belly. "My strength is yours."



Next, they came to the Whispering River, now a roaring, angry torrent. There they met Lyra, a graceful spirit made of water, whose silent tears flowed into the rapids. The Beast's shadow had poisoned her home, and the second Gem piece lay lost in the churning depths.



"I'll just grab it!" boasted Kael, ready to dive. But Barnaby's strong paw held him back. Lyra created a window in the water, revealing jagged shadow-thorns below. She looked at them all, and though she spoke no words, her meaning was clear: they had to work as one.



Barnaby moved giant rocks to change the current. Solomon read the patterns on his shell to guide them. Lyra parted the waters just enough for Kael to dart in and snatch the glowing Gem piece. Holding it, Kael looked at his new friends. For the first time, he understood. "Thank you," he said, and he meant it.

The final piece lay at the peak of Mount Cinder, a desolate place of ash and fire. There, waiting for them, was the Shadow Beast, now larger and more monstrous than ever, fed by all the fear it had caused. The last piece of the Heartwood Gem pulsed darkly on its chest.



The Beast whispered into their minds. "He's too reckless," it hissed to the others. "You're all alone," it taunted Kael. But Kael stood firm. He remembered the honeycake, the parted river, the trust. He planted his staff. "I am not alone!" he shouted, blocking a shadowy claw aimed at Solomon.



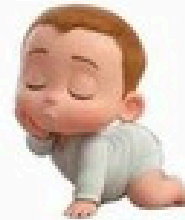
Lyra summoned a cleansing rain,
Barnaby charged, and Solomon pointed
with his head. "Now, Kael!" In that
moment, Kael saw not a monster to be
defeated, but a heart to be healed. He
combined the light of the gems,
purifying the final piece. The Beast
vanished in a puff of mist. They
returned not just as guardians, but as a
family, true heroes who knew that the
brightest light is the one you share.

About the Authour

Even as a little girl, she loved words and connecting with the world. She grew up exploring computers, factories, and even hospitals!

Sylvia learned amazing things with smart companies all over the world. But her favorite thing is helping kids like you learn and grow. She believes in sharing knowledge and helping you become super skilled.

This book isn't just about reading; it's about getting ready to explore! It's a warm, wonderful present from Sylvia. She shares her wisdom and kind spirit with you. Get ready to learn and see the world in a wonderful new way! Find Sylvia on Instagram:



FOLLOW

for more books



@SYLVIANORTHWOOD

© 2025 by Sylvia H Northwood
All rights reserved.