

The day was Saturday when she did not have to do any work, but she would if someone decided to call her for help.

So, Stephanie took this day to go to the woods to search for things to craft since she had plenty of time on Saturday and Sunday.

She had her long hair in a braid and wore a long-sleeved black shirt, blue jeans with the ends of the jeans, and dark blue hiking boots with all the ends covered in dirt.

She wandered through the woods, looking at the wood and the dirt near the water, scouring around as she wore a backpack.

Stephanie stopped to push her glasses into place, feeling slightly exhausted from walking through the woods, before noticing something poking slightly out from the ground.

She perked after noticing the object and walked over to it, using her hands to dig at the dirt, eventually digging up what was stuck in the ground.

There was something medium-large in the ground, but Stephanie could not determine what it could be, so she reached over to the river water and scooped a handful.

She poured the water over the object and dug at it once it soaked into the dirt, eventually digging up what the object was.

Then, Stephanie looked amazed as she picked up a rusted and somewhat destroyed pocket watch from the ground.

“A pocket watch!” Stephanie gently exclaimed as she looked at the body. “Maybe this could be good to be refurbished into being new.”

Stephanie turned to her backpack and took it off, placing it next to her and unzipping it, reaching inside to take out a two-sized box.

She opened the box and placed the pocket watch inside, filled with various other items from whistles to random machinery pieces.

After placing the pocket watch in the box, Stephanie closed it and placed it back into her backpack before zipping it back up.

She picked the backpack up as she stood up to her height and placed it on her back.

“Alright,” Stephanie muttered to herself. “Let’s keep going.”

So Stephanie continued walking through the forest, pausing when she came across what looked like *giant* claw marks on a tree.

“Ooh,” Stephanie winced after noticing the claw marks as she looked away from them.
“Yikes...”

She continued walking through the forest, some *littered* with millions of claw marks, some managed to *destroy* through rocks, and some had already been sliced clean.

“Oh, I wandered into this part of the forest?” Stephanie muttered with a groan. “Damn, I thought I was heading towards the mountains.”

Stephanie paused as she looked at the mountains a few miles from where she was, and she said with an unamused expression, “Oh... right.”

So Stephanie headed in that direction, ignoring the massive mess of unknown claw marks and destroyed rocks.

Thankfully, Stephanie reached the destination and looked at the rocks that made the mountain, rubbing her thumb to look for something before continuing.

She poked around the area she could walk through before perking when she saw something poking from the earth.

“Bingo!” Stephanie smirked.

Stephanie placed her backpack down and unzipped it, taking out a hammer, a screwdriver covered in the dirt, and a water squirter.

She used the water squirter to squirt water at where the object was poking out, and once it was soaked with water, Stephanie used the hammer and screwdriver, chiseling at the mountainside to get to what she found.

Stephanie chiseled at where the spot was, making gentle clinking noises while scrubbing away at the dirt.

It lasted for a moment before she finally got what was as she pulled out what looked like a white gemstone.

Stephanie smiled with pride after digging the pure white gemstone from the dirt-like wall and placing it on the ground before removing her backpack.

She unzipped her backpack on the ground, taking out a small bucket.

Stephanie went onto her knees and placed the bucket in front of her, filled with other different colors and shapes of gemstones.

“Great!” Stephanie smiled as she placed the white gemstone inside. “This is one of the best spots for collecting gemstones.”

Taking her phone out, Stephanie opened *Google Maps* and marked the spot where she had stopped before looking through the messages sent by other people.

However, in the distance, a giant *humanoid* appeared from over the trees and looked at where Stephanie was distracted with mapping where she was in front of the spot of gemstones.

The figure looked confused after seeing Stephanie looking through her phone before turning its head towards the other direction before disappearing.

Stephanie finished mapping and placed her phone into her pants pocket before returning to where she found the precious gemstone.

She started chipping and digging at the hardened dirt to get to the valuable gemstones she had discovered, pulling out more different colors and even more white ones.

Hours passed, and Stephanie stopped after hearing beeping from her phone, her hands covered in somewhat clumped dirt from using her hands repeatedly, and her bucket almost full of gemstones.

“Oh, crap,” Stephanie muttered as she sighed. “I forgot about the timer.”

She moved back onto her knees after being bent for a long time, looking at her hands before sighing, wiping them in the grass to get some of it off.

Once a good amount of dirt was off, Stephanie took out her phone as the alarm continued to go off, looking at it as the time reads ‘11:00.’

“Time went by that fast?” Stephanie blinked in confusion. “Damn, it was going slow in the morning...” she gave a slight shrug. “Eh, maybe I was so caught up with gem-hunting I forgot to look at time.”

Deciding it was enough, Stephanie placed her dirty tools away in the bucket with the other gemstones she found and put them into the backpack before zipping it up.

She slowly stood up to her feet, feeling small cracks and soreness hitting her body, causing her to groan softly from the feeling over her body.

“Ugh,” she groaned as she rubbed the lower part of her spine. “I need to sign myself up for a yoga class.”

Stephanie looked down at her backpack and picked it up, startled by the weight of it from all those gemstones and things she had found during her walk.

“Whoa,” She muttered as she gave a small chuckle. “That was close.”

‘Damn it, Stephanie.’ she thought as she placed the heavy backpack on her back. ‘You really need to stop talking to yourself.’

Stephanie sighed as she walked through the forest to return to *Bigg City*, stepping over familiar territory and through the woods.

Suddenly, Stephanie stumbled across a dock near a river, causing her to stop from her walking as she looked confused.

“Oh!” she chuckled. “I must’ve come across *Upriver! Bigg City Port* is *that* way!”

She pointed in the other direction and started to head in that direction, softly humming a tune of ‘*The Wellerman*’ by Nathan Evans.

Stephanie was almost heading into *Bigg City Port* when she paused after seeing a familiar stranger standing on the docks, talking to another dressed in a familiar uniform.

It was Ten Cents!

Stephanie beamed after seeing Ten Cents and called, “Hey! Ten Cents!”

Ten Cents jolted after hearing her voice and whipped around, looking surprised to see Stephanie as she started to head towards him.

“Hey, how are you doing?” Stephanie smiled, not noticing Ten Cents was *panicking*.

He was frantically glancing around at the other guy, who had short blond hair, sky blue eyes, fair caucasian skin, a red cap, and wearing the same uniform.

The name ‘*Sunshine*’ is stitched on his collar with the number seven pin and the American flag pin.

Ten Cents was looking at something taller than him and making the ‘go away’ mention with his hands, seeing Stephanie getting closer.

Thankfully, this large being noticed Stephanie walking towards him and moved away, hiding behind a building, but some things were sticking out.

Ten Cents had a silent ‘Really?’ expression with a blend of worry before switching his emotions when Stephanie approached him.

“I haven’t seen you around for a while,” Stephanie blushed before noticing the other guy.
“Whose this?”

“Oh, uh,” Ten Cents stammered, gently pushing the smaller person forward. “This is Sunshine. He’s my little brother.”

“Hello, ma’am,” Sunshine smiled as he held his hand for a handshake.

Strangely, they were at the same height, but Ten Cents was distracted by looking over his shoulder at the place where the gigantic figure hid.

“Hello, Sunshine,” Stephanie smiled back as she returned the handshake as Ten Cents glanced back. “My name is Stephanie Allen.”

“So *you’re* Stephanie,” Sunshine smirked as they released hands. “Ten Cents have been talkin’ a lot ‘bout ya.”

“I can tell,” Stephanie smiled as Ten Cents’ blush deepened. “Hercules mentioned it before when I was helping Addie a while ago.”

Ten Cents made a mental note to stop himself whenever he talked about her as Stephanie perked, remembering something.

“I was walking through the forest and stumbled upon many cool things!” Stephanie explained to them as she removed her backpack and placed it beside her.

“Like what?” Ten Cents asked.

Stephanie opened it and reached inside, showing the gemstones and the broken pocket watch she had discovered.

“I found these,” Stephanie explained as the two looked surprised.

“Where didja find them?!” Ten Cents asked, looking at a pure black gemstone.

“These have to be very rare to find!” Sunshine exclaimed, looking at a yellow gemstone.

“Oh, near the mountains,” Stephanie explained as she pointed.

“You went to the mountains?” Ten Cents asked as he returned the gemstone with Sunshine.

“That’s an awfully long walk for ya.”

“It’s fine,” Stephanie scoffed as she rolled her eyes. “I’ve walked down steep hills, gravel, heck, even trees! A trip to the mountains is nothing!”

The two looked impressed after Stephanie mentioned as Sunshine muttered, “Wow, you are one brave woman.”

“Thank you,” Stephanie thanked. “I think you both are strong men too!”

Sunshine blushed as Ten Cents’ deepened, almost spreading over his face as Stephanie could feel a faint *heat* coming from him.

“Ah, th-thanks,” Ten Cents stuttered before shaking his head. “Wot are you goin’ to do with those?”

“I’m going to refurbish them,” Stephanie explained as she placed the items away. “The gemstones I’m going to turn into jewelry, and the others I’m going to repair to be reused as something else.”

“Really?” Sunshine asked as she nodded. “You sound almost like Reg! He sorts through garbage with Jack and uses some of the items.”

Ten Cents turned to Sunshine with a somewhat embarrassed expression while Stephanie looked confused by his mention as she chuckled, “I think so? I don’t know much about them, but they are creative with their vision.”

Ten Cents sighed in relief after Stephanie chuckled before saying, “So, wot are you doin’ out here?”

“Oh,” Stephanie blushed more with embarrassment. “I was walking back to *Bigg City Port*. It’s lunchtime.”

“I can help with that!” Ten Cents perked as Sunshine looked confused. “It’s my lunchtime, too, and I know the best restaurant we can go to!”

“That’s great!” Stephanie beamed. “Lead the way, Mr. Cents.”

“Look,” Ten Cents chuckled as he noticed Stephanie’s bag and reached down, grabbing one of the straps. “It’s ‘Ten Cents,’ not-!”

He was startled by the backpack’s weight and was moved back down, blinking in surprise as Stephanie quietly ‘d’oh’ed herself from forgetting about her backpack.

“How are you carryin’ *this* much weight?!” Ten Cents exclaimed as he picked the backpack up again, putting it on his back.

“Eh,” Stephanie shrugged. “I’ve been collecting many things during my trip to the mountains and the bricklaying businesses, so I learned to carry bricks on my back with other items.”

Ten Cents looked surprised after Stephanie mentioned as she chuckled, “So I’m the female version of Quasimodo from” both Ten Cents, and she simultaneously said, “*The Hunchback of Notre Dame!*”

Sunshine looked confused at the strangeness between Stephanie and Ten Cents as they walked down the port, talking to each other like chatty parrots.

After the two left, the tall figure that hid before stepped out from where they were hiding and walked up to Sunshine.

“What was that all about?” the giant figure asked.

Sunshine looked up at the tall figure, a gigantic *human*, as he was mid-foreleg deep in the river’s water.

He has caucasian skin with freckles that spread from his nose bridge to his cheeks and has long, somewhat wavy red hair tied in a low ponytail and emerald green eyes.

He wore a green cap with the brim pointing upward, which matched his bangs sticking upward.

He wore a button-up mint green shirt with the sleeves reaching his elbows with two pockets on each side of his chest and forest green overalls with black boots with a red neckerchief around his neck.

“Well,” Sunshine chuckled as the figure knelt slightly to listen to Sunshine, looking confused. “That lady Ten Cents is talkin’ to is Ms. Allen, Billy.”

“Really?” the figure named ‘Billy’ perked. “That same Stephanie who helps everyone ‘round *Bigg City Port?*”

“Yep,” Sunshine nodded after Billy asked. “And she’s a human.”

“Ohhh,” Billy’s face turned slightly worried after Sunshine mentioned. “That’s bad.”

“Yep,” Sunshine nodded. “So,” he paused. “What’s goin’ on with Ten Cents? I have never seen him actin’ like this around her.”

Billy thought after Sunshine muttered before a possible idea came to him.

“Do you think he *likes* Stephanie?” Billy suggested.

“What?” Sunshine turned to Billy. “That’s not it! I don’t think Ten Cents is interested in anyone!”

A short pause came from Sunshine as he glanced back at where Stephanie and Ten Cents walked down, mumbling, “...Is he?”

Billy shrugged his shoulders after Sunshine mumbled as he reached down to him, gently scooping him up as he was caught off guard from getting into a rabbit hole before being placed in Billy’s shirt pocket.

“Don’t worry too much ‘bout it, Sunny!” Billy chuckled as Sunshine poked his head from the pocket’s flap. “It’s best if we see it for ourselves. Let’s see if Warrior’s barge is stuck again since it is low tide here.”

Sunshine nodded as Billy started to trudge through the river carefully, holding the brim of the pocket as Billy began walking.

But the back of Sunshine’s mind was still buzzing at the thought of Ten Cents *liking* Stephanie.

Could it *really* be true?

...Well, it looks like Billy *is* right about two things.

- A. He needs to wait and see for himself.
- B. Warrior’s barge is once again stuck on some rocks.