

The usual metaphor is diamonds.  
coal under intense pressure,  
building inner sparkle

The gold/silver metaphor? Also popular.  
rock crumbled  
heated beyond endurance  
burned away  
until treasure drips

*It all seems a bit princess to me.*

What about glass?  
impossible heat  
outside influences make it stronger:clearer:colored:sparkly

Glass I could get behind—  
the Light shining through is an excellent touch.

But really I think it's charcoal.

*No glamor to charcoal.*

It even starts out nicer than it ends—

beautiful hardwoods  
stacked thoughtfully  
a pleasing dome next  
shielded in leaves and earth

with an open center

the collier drops the fire there,

into the core  
to slowly burn from the inside out  
taking days  
weeks

hard      dusty                  black      charcoal  
ringing like shards of glass when you tap

someday to burn                  white-hot  
melting all around it