

# Short Fiction Story

Title: The Clockmaker's Apprentice

By: J. M. Harrow

Once in a village nestled between snow-covered hills, lived an old clockmaker named Elsríc. He spent his days tuning ancient gears and breathing life into forgotten timepieces.

One frosted morning, a boy named Lin appeared at his doorstep, asking to learn the craft. Elsríc hesitated but saw something curious in the boy's eyes—an understanding of rhythm, a respect for silence.

Under Elsríc's watch, Lin learned to listen to the ticks and to feel the heartbeat of brass and wood. One evening, Elsríc handed him a curious blueprint—a clock that could reverse time, but only once.

"Why would someone need this?" Lin asked.

Elsríc answered, "To undo a moment, not a life."

The next winter, Elsríc passed away. Lin built the clock, but never used it. It sat on the shelf, its hands frozen at dusk, ticking only in dreams.