

## The Clockmaker's Secret

In a small village nestled between towering mountains, there lived an old clockmaker named Elias. His shop was a curious place, filled with timepieces of all shapes and sizes, each one ticking in perfect harmony. The villagers believed that Elias had a special gift, for every clock he crafted never missed a beat, even during the harshest of storms.

One day, a stranger arrived in the village, drawn by the tales of Elias's remarkable clocks. This man, dressed in a long coat and with a mysterious air about him, approached Elias with a request. He wanted a clock that could not only measure time but also reveal the future.

Elias hesitated, for such a task had never been asked of him before. But the stranger's gaze was intense, and his offer of gold was tempting. After days of contemplation, Elias agreed. He worked day and night, pouring all his knowledge and skill into crafting the clock.

When the clock was finished, it was a marvel to behold. Its hands were made of silver, and its face was adorned with intricate designs. But the true wonder lay in its pendulum, which glowed with an otherworldly light. The stranger took the clock and disappeared into the night.

Years passed, and the villagers noticed that the old clockmaker had become reclusive. They rarely saw him, and when they did, he seemed haunted by something unseen. One day, Elias's shop was found empty, save for a single clock on his workbench. Its hands were frozen at midnight, and beneath it lay a note that simply read, "Some things are better left unknown."