

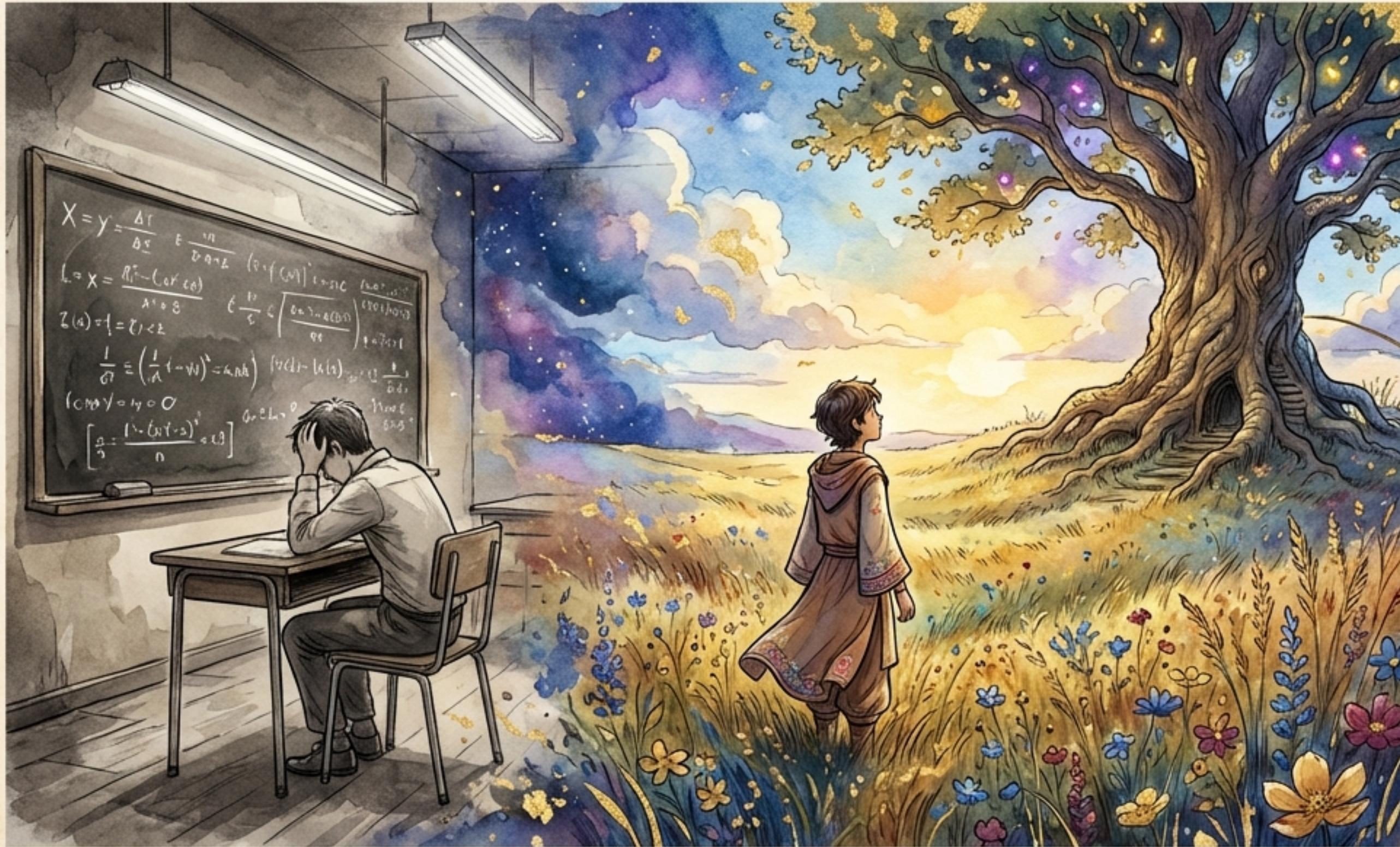
Time's o'Clock



A Guardian's Journey Through the Pages of Reality

"I was always told by my parents that I had a wild imagination... But little did they know, my dreams were going to become something more. Something amazing."

From a Classroom Drudgery to a Whispering Oak



The journey begins not in a faraway land, but in the haze of a classroom daydream. The drone of a math lesson fades, the plastic chairs and fluorescent lights dissolve, and reality shifts. Suddenly, the protagonist stands in a field of wildflowers under an open sky, drawn toward a single, massive oak tree rising “like a sentinel guarding a hidden treasure.”

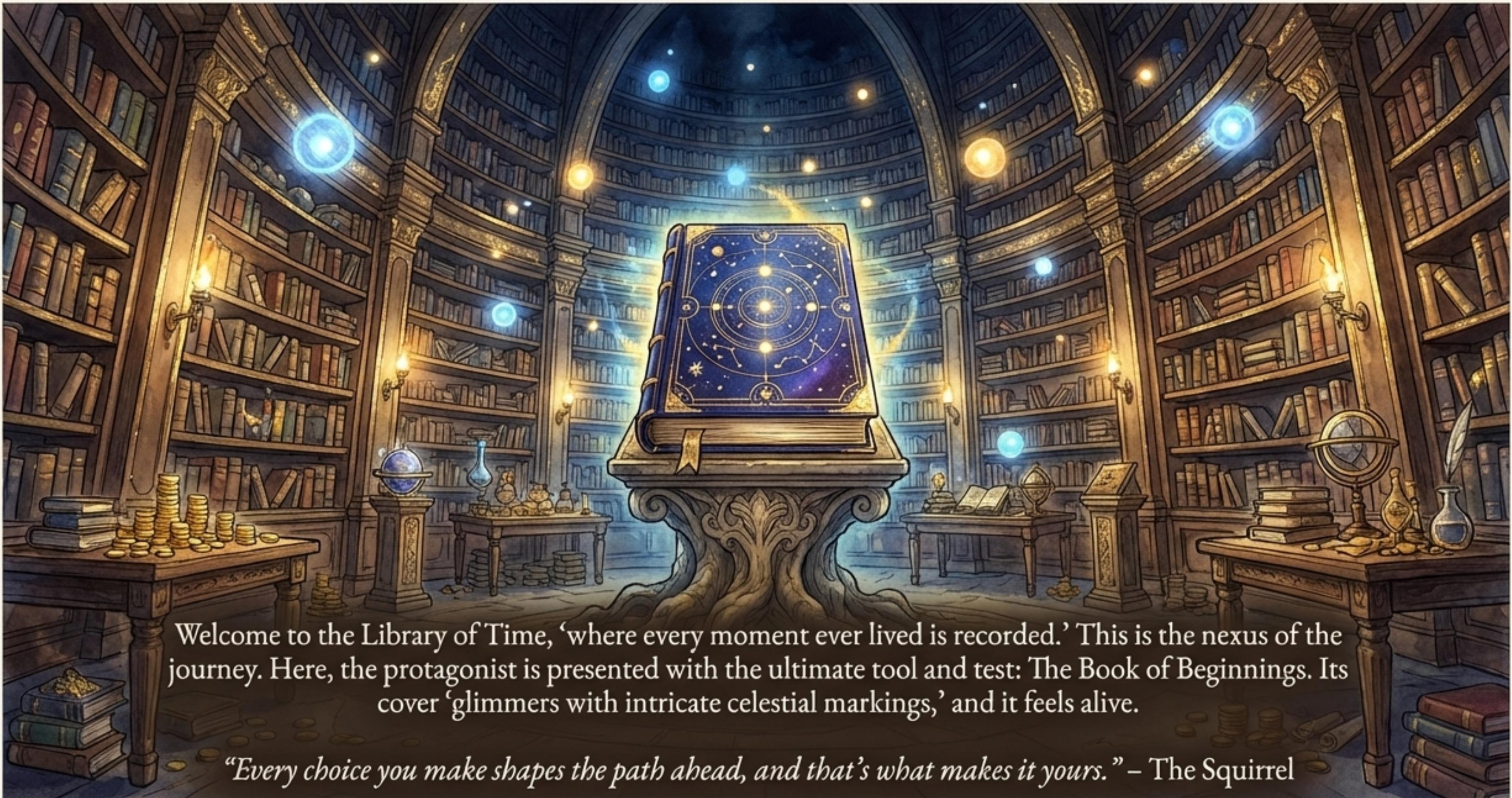


You're late... for your first lesson, of course.



The ancient oak is not just a tree; it's a gateway. After it lets out a 'thunderous sneeze' of golden light, a guide appears. A russet-colored squirrel, impeccably dressed and surprisingly punctual, announces the protagonist is late for their first lesson. He is the first sign that this new world has its own rules, logic, and expectations.

The Library of Time and the Book of Beginnings



Welcome to the Library of Time, 'where every moment ever lived is recorded.' This is the nexus of the journey. Here, the protagonist is presented with the ultimate tool and test: The Book of Beginnings. Its cover 'glimmers with intricate celestial markings,' and it feels alive.

"Every choice you make shapes the path ahead, and that's what makes it yours." – The Squirrel

When Words Weave Reality



The protagonist is not alone. Mentors arrive to guide them: the wise owl Professor Chronos and a gentle Shepherd summoned from the very pages of the Book. With their first written words—"Awaken," "Coffee," "Shepherd"—the protagonist learns a fundamental law of this realm: their words have power. The line between imagination and creation disappears.

A Glimpse of Destiny and the Test of Shadows



A Portal to the Labyrinth of Forgotten Truths



A spill of espresso on a magical map reveals hidden pathways, leading to a crimson portal. Beyond it lies an enchanted garden and a mysterious hooded figure who guards a new descent.

“Beneath lies the labyrinth of forgotten truths,” the figure says, revealing a spiral staircase leading into the earth.

The journey is no longer just about creation, but about uncovering secrets “older than time itself.”

Where Time Itself Unravels



The labyrinth leads to the sky—to a sea of floating islands connected by rainbow bridges, where waterfalls flow upward. Here, the protagonist dances with wind spirits, 'fragments of time' that reveal lost memories. But the wonder shatters when a giant golden clock appears, its reverse ticking unraveling reality. Time itself is breaking.

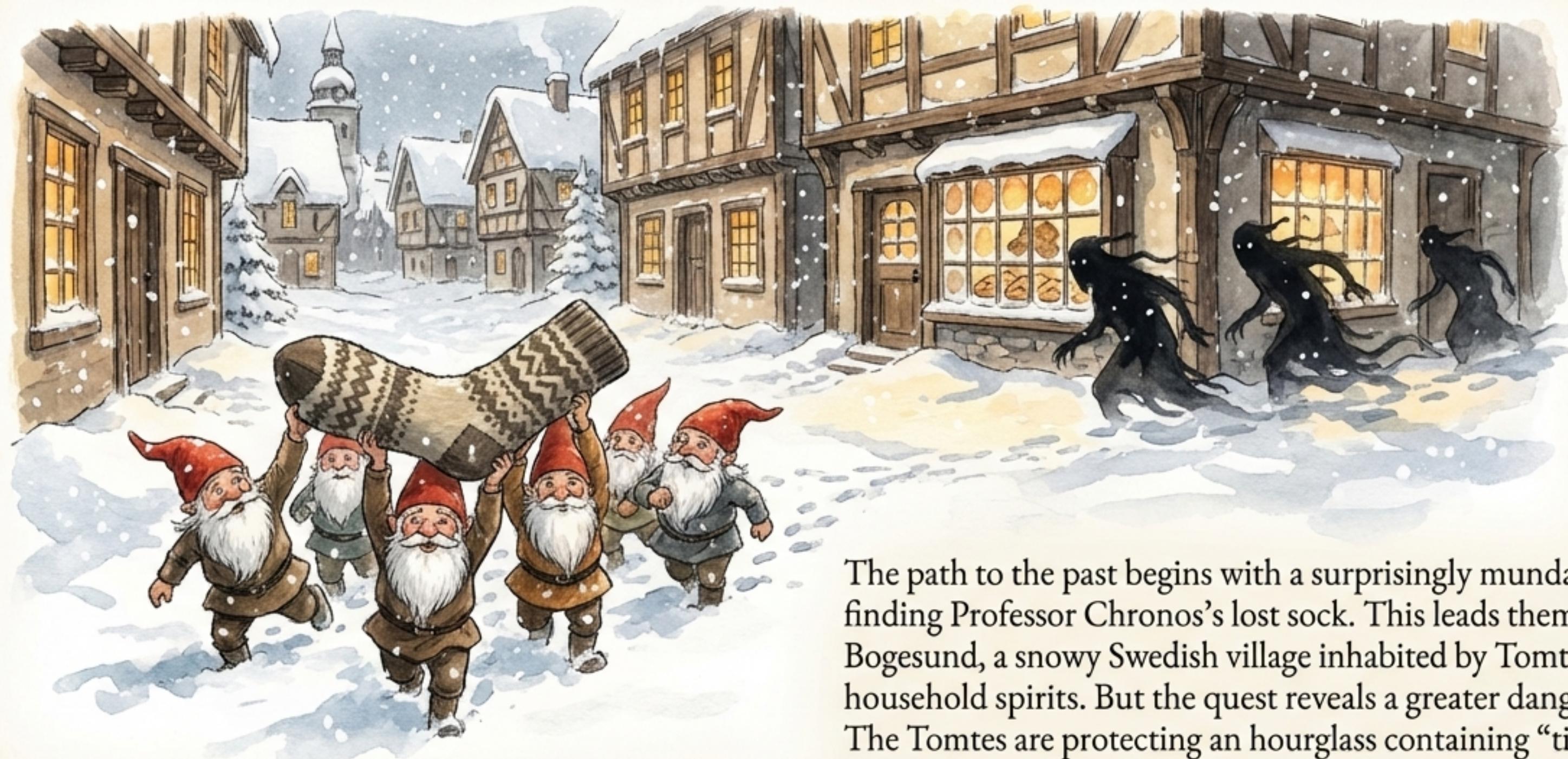
The Café of Lost Moments



To fix the clock, the heroes must reset time in the ‘Café of Lost Moments,’ a place where stories can be rewritten.

Their journey leads them to the Keeper of Time, an ancient being who shifts between four legendary forms. The Keeper reveals a personal connection: “Someone dear to you has been lost in time,” setting the stage for a new, more intimate quest.

A Quest for a Sock, A Battle for an Hourglass



The path to the past begins with a surprisingly mundane goal: finding Professor Chronos's lost sock. This leads them to Bogesund, a snowy Swedish village inhabited by Tomtes—ancient household spirits. But the quest reveals a greater danger. The Tomtes are protecting an hourglass containing “time sand from the first moment of creation,” an artifact the sinister Shadow Guild seeks to control.

The Norns Descend and a Dragon Takes Flight



Trapped in a cellar by the Shadow Guild, the heroes are saved by the unexpected arrival of the Norns: the goddesses of Past, Present, and Future. As the shadows close in, their escape appears in a flash of grinding gears and hissing steam—a mechanical dragon. Guided by three glowing threads of destiny, they fly through a portal, leaving the world behind.

The Sanctuary of Threads

The dragon carries them to the Sanctuary of Threads, a crystal palace where “time’s secrets are kept safe.”

To enter, they must pass a test set by the Clockwork Guardians. It is not a test of power, but a riddle of the mind.

“What binds the past, shapes the present, and guides the future?”

Answer: “Time.”



A Sister's Hope and a Shared Defense



Within the palace, they meet Selene, the ancient moon guardian. An offer of tea and a shared memory of a woman with “star-bright eyes” reveals a shocking truth: **Selene is the long-lost sister of the guardian from the protagonist’s vision.** Their reunion is cut short as shadow creatures attack, forcing them to combine their powers in a desperate, unified defense.

The Mantle of a Guardian

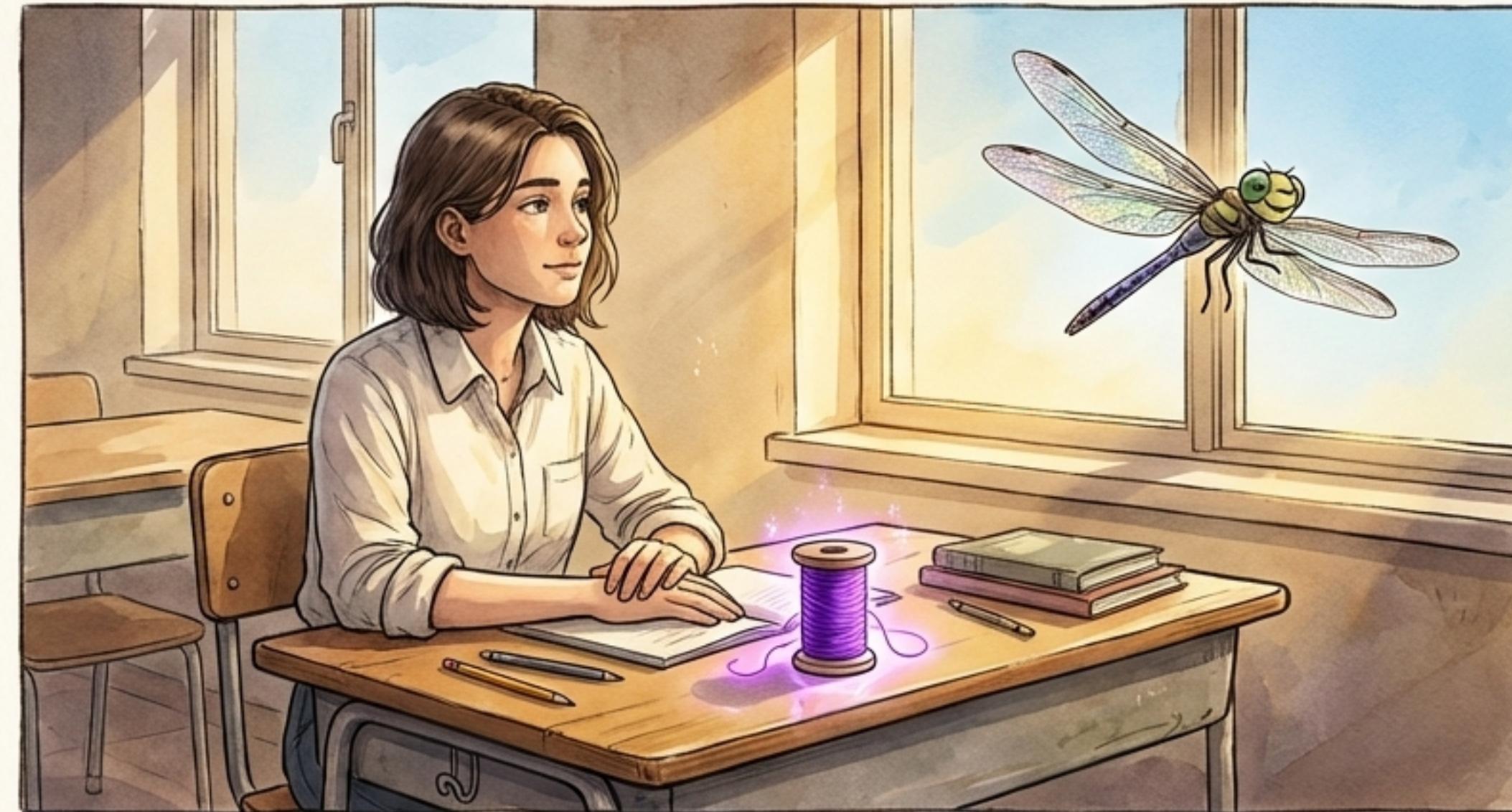


The Norns, witnessing the journey and the protagonist's compassion, make an offer. They ask the protagonist to accept the 'mantle of Guardian of Destinies.'

Upon accepting, their personal destiny thread manifests—not gold or silver, but a unique purple, signifying a powerful and rare connection to the fabric of fate. They are given a new guide, Kurt the dragonfly, to help master this raw power.

The Dreamer Awakens

The adventure dissolves like mist, and the protagonist is back in the classroom. But it was not just a dream. On the desk lies the purple destiny thread, a tangible link to the world they saved. The journey is over, for now, but the role of Guardian has just begun.



The story continues. Explore the wider universe of 'Time's o'Clock' through 'The JustIn Thermos' interview with the Squirrel and podcasts on Spotify for those who wish to continue their journey.