

Professor Neuselius Klaphoed and the Shadow Gate

Professor Neuselius Klaphoed was known as an inventor who refused to be limited by what others considered possible or impossible, because while ordinary scientists concerned themselves with safe calculations and predictable experiments, he built devices in his cluttered workshop that beeped, buzzed, crackled, and sometimes vanished inexplicably, only to reappear moments later in a completely different place, while he himself, with sparkling eyes and soot smudges on his face, frantically took notes on phenomena that, according to any handbook, should not exist.

His days usually began with a cup of lukewarm tea that he forgot to drink because he was already absorbed in adjusting gears, connecting copper tubes, and testing glass spheres in which a soft, pulsing light seemed to float as if something alive was trapped inside, and although his colleagues had long considered him eccentric, no one could deny that his ideas possessed a strange kind of logic that could not simply be dismissed.