

The Clockmaker's Missing Hour

GM reference | 120 minutes | Edition 2.0.0

At a glance

The mystery has two questions: did the missing hour occur, and can it be returned without deleting the older story? Ask players to lay observations under those headings. The receipt shows physical activity during the gap; the drum inventory identifies a silver recording from that interval. The blue ribbon and delivery trace independently connect the tower mechanism to the gap. A diagram alone does not establish which recording may be released. Sella is protective, not evasive: she describes the two tracks as soon as someone listens, and asks the group to demonstrate the separation before touching the catch. Attention counters limit lengthy copying and reconstruction, not ordinary questions. Accept a correct explanation in the players' own words before the protected release action.

Truth

Sella's cracked memory catch recorded the town's hour onto the same drum as her father's story. The hour exists as a separate silver track. Holding the amber track, or making a spoken copy first, protects the story while an aligned catch releases the silver recording. Disconnecting the blue cord stops future loss but retains today's hour in the drum.

120-minute route

10m opening; Test the town's contradictory records 25m; Compare the delivery trail and catch 20m; Hear and preserve the kite story 30m; Demonstrate and execute the release 25m; 10m closure.

Visit the yard and let different characters defend each inference. The larger budget permits a copied story plus a reconstruction if one document is lost; the blue cord remains a meaningful choice because it retains the missing hour.

People

Bram: Know whether he accepted a delivery. Offers: His receipt and permission to check the stall. Boundary: Cannot remember the gap by trying harder.

Neri: Repair a defect without blaming its owner. Offers: The alignment diagram and a slow reconstruction. Boundary: Will not release an unidentified track.

Pell: Settle a delivery without accusing a stranger. Offers: The cart and his written stop record. Boundary: Separates written notes from what he presently remembers.

Sella: Return the hour while keeping her father's story. Offers: Access to the drum and consent to a separate HOLD track. Boundary: Asks for a visible copy or hold before release.

Events

Visit Clock chamber and Not Father's story preserved is true: Sella asks, "Which part will still be here afterward?" Invite the players to point to a track, a copy, or the blue cord.

Closures

An honest noon: Father's story preserved is true and Catch aligned is true

The hour in the glass: Available

Time by small watches: Available

Recovery

If a card is missing, the balcony reconstruction costs two intervals and explicitly documents the direct inspection. With too few intervals, disconnect in the chamber or call-watch from any location. A missing observation changes the method and cost, never the availability of a safe close.