

A person enters in a store. Trinkets and others items of everyday's life are exposed on every nook and cranny. This place looks like an old and ordinary hardware shop, except for the shopkeeper, a fancy magpie called Tobias, recognizable among many.

The potential customer approaches the counter. Tobias calls them.

"Oh hello and welcome! Searching for something in particular?"

The person looks towards the magpie.

"Um, well, I suppose, yes... People said me that you sell extraordinary and life changing items here, is that true?"

"It is! I'll even say my wares can spice up your life, with a touch of... Magic! So, tell me, has something been bothering you lately?"

The keeper does not lose time, straight to the point. They knows that the people coming in their store comes because they have a problem to solve.

"How to explain that, uuuuh... Actually, I have, like, productivity concerns in my workplace. My manager scolded me many times already, because I, tend to, slow the pace, and it seems that I cannot do much to improve that. I mean, I'm already at my maximum for him, and i don't want to burn out for this... I know it seems ridiculous, because I can't see how-"

Tobias interrupts them.

"Well today's your lucky day, 'cause I have the thing you NEED! Just wait here, I'll be back in a jiffy."

The cheerful magpie goes to the back office, browsing many closets and drawers, loudly. After a long minute of intense search, they finds the desired item. They comes to the front store, a satisfied smile on their face.

"Here it is, a stopwatch!"

The customer is slightly confused. They wonder if the shopkeeper is actually pulling their leg, suspecting a scam.

"Wait, I've asked for a solution, not another source of stress. Why would you offer this thing?"

Tobias continues, still smiling and confident to have found the adequate solution.

"Don't be fooled by the appearances, dear customer. This stopwatch is far for ordinary. Please take a look around you... See how the word moves around us. You do see as I see, do you ? Good."

The magpie's focusing the customer's attention to the stopwatch again.

"Now, with that wonderful mechanism, if you press that button..."

A click is heard.

It's like nothing happened first, then, the customer observes once again their surroundings...

They notices the "bubble" in which both were, probably formed when the button was pressed.

Outside of it, the flow of time ceased to exist. Living beings, wind, sound... Everything is still, trapped in time.

"... you stop the time itself. Incredible yet logical for a stopwatch, isn't it?"

They resumes again.

"However, due to the sheer power of this artifact, I've voluntarily restrained the duration to five minutes. Beyond that, it's taking the risk to create timesplits, and, for Hell's sake, I do not want to repair that, truly. Also, you have to stay in the bubble, otherwise, you'll trigger the inner safety break."

The person in front of Tobias stays speechless for a moment. After all, they are observing something that is beyond reality itself... Their mind hesitating about if it's a illusion trick or a timebending prodigy.

"I... I think I'll give it a try, at the very least. Can't hurt, right?"

"Well, I can propose you a contract: You'll be the owner of this trinket for a week, as a free trial, but, as collateral, I will link your soul to the contract, to make sure you don't have the intent to

flee without returning said trinket. And if it convinces you, we can extend the contract up to six months, for a extra financial fee, of course. Still interested?"

The magpie presses the stopwatch red button, again. The bubble fades, and the flow of time resumes, like nothing happened.

The customer took their time again, thinking about the potential of the trinket, and how they'll potentially use it in their workplace. Extending breaks and rests, or in the opposite, boost their productivity output if needed... Still pondering over the potential, the customer smiles.

"Very good. I like it. I'll take it for a week, to see if it's convenient for me."

Both shake hands to seal the deal, a filled and already signed contract flies from another drawer and lands on the counter. Tobias presents a feather, which the client takes and adds the remaining signature.

"And for last, don't forget that unique rule, dear customer: this trinket wasn't made in order to harm others. Were you to break that rule, your soul will be yours no more. Is that clear?"

"I think I've clearly understand your obsession for the souls. I'll use it responsibly, do not worry."

"Great! Have a nice day then, and see you next week!"