

01

The Egg Beneath the Statue

The attic had one rule: leave the locked trunk alone.



Rain kept the adults downstairs. Curiosity sent the three friends up.

DORAN

Your grandfather said the attic was empty.

LYRA

He also put three locks on the door.



Behind the dust stood a goddess no one remembered buying.

MIKA That statue wasn't here last summer.

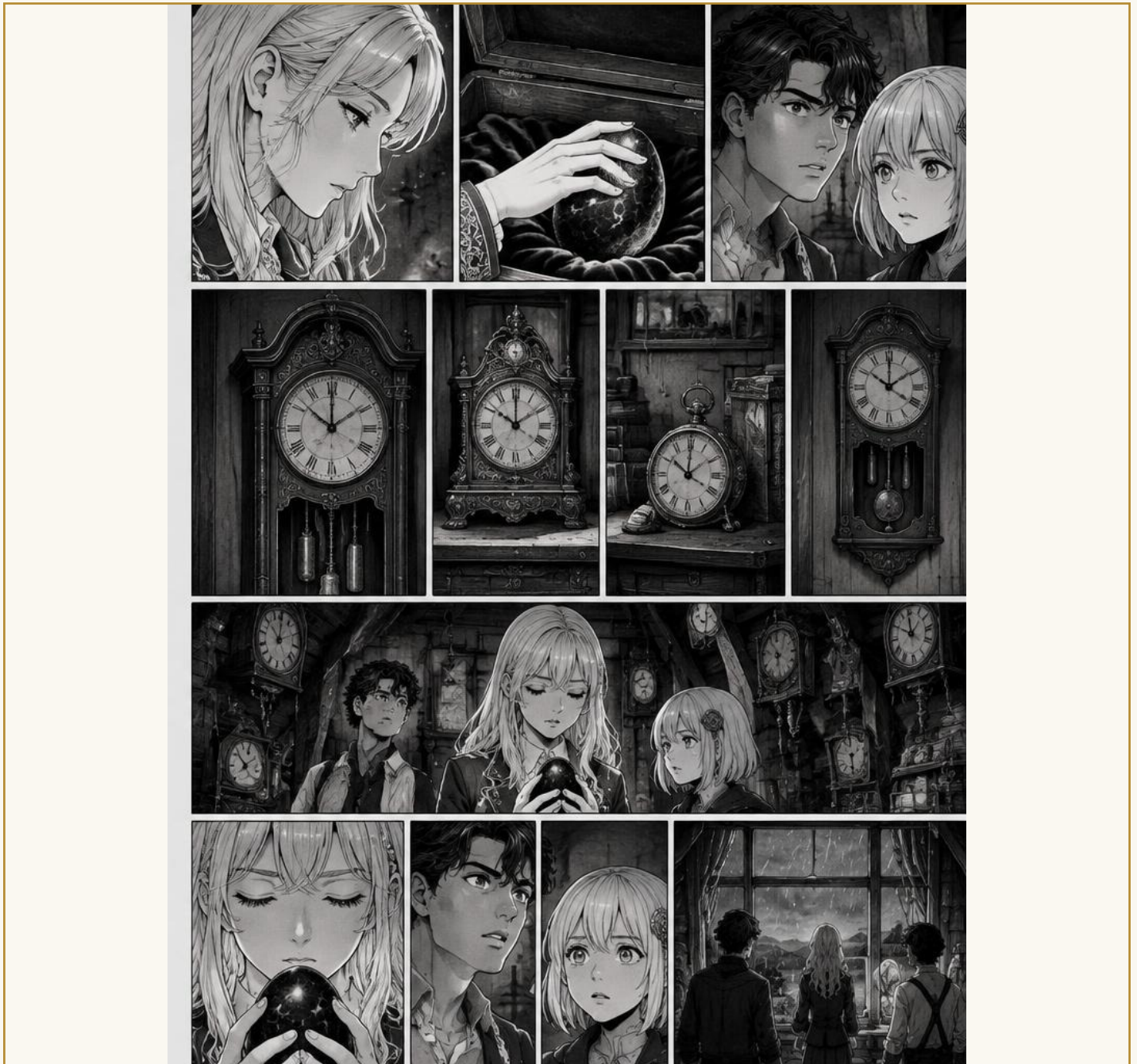
LYRA Look at the crescent on her hand.



The trunk opened without a key, as if it had been waiting for them.

DORAN Nobody touches it until we understand it.

MIKA I think it is breathing.



When Mika touched the egg, every clock in the house lost one minute.

LYRA Mika—don't.

12:06 became 12:05. In every room.