PART ONE – THE INVENTION
August 14, 2023

The tropical depression had been growing in strength since forming just west of Africa over a week ago. When it became a tropical storm, it was named Felicity. Felicity was heading west and three days later it was upgraded to a hurricane. All of the predictions were that Felicity would make landfall on Montserrat on August 24th as a category 2 storm.

Charles and Catherine Simpson retired in January and had planned the vacation they were currently enjoying on Cat Island more than a year earlier. Charles had worked at NASA for more than thirty years as an engineer, and for the last five years was in charge of propulsion systems development. Catherine worked as a high school science teacher. They both loved the beach, and really enjoyed snorkeling and scuba diving. They were in the second week of their three-week vacation when they heard about Felicity. But Montserrat was hundreds of miles south of Cat Island and they weren't concerned.

On August 22nd Felicity made a surprising sharp turn to the northwest and was heading straight for Cat Island. The storm was upgraded to a category 3 level. It had sustained winds of one hundred fifteen miles per hour with gusts that exceeded one hundred fifty. The storm was enormous, with hurricane force winds extending more than ninety miles from the eye.

By the time Charles and Catherine were aware of the danger it was too late to get off the island. They were staying in a stone cabin that looked like it could withstand anything Mother Nature could throw at them. Early in the morning on August 25th, they were sheltered inside their cabin, the hurricane shutters tightly closed waiting for Felicity to strike.

Charles decided to call their son, Albert, and let him know about the situation while they waited for the storm. They talked for a few minutes and Charles assured Albert that they were in a safe place and would be okay. He promised to call again after the storm had passed.

As the storm approached, the sound of thunder was constant and almost deafening. It was impossible to speak so they just sat silently on the chairs in their room. Although it seemed impossible, the thunder got even louder right before the power to the cabin died.

Now they could hear the wind too, and it was almost as loud as the thunder. Suddenly they heard a loud cracking sound. They both looked up and saw the slate roof of their cabin beginning to crumble. Before either of them could react, the entire cabin collapsed, burying them under several tons of stone. Their bodies remained buried for days in the debris before they were found.

February 16, 2024

It was Saturday and Albert Simpson was alone in the lab at Simpson Metallurgical Laboratories. An impressive name for a company with only three employees. Albert was thirty-four years old, about six feet tall, and thin. He had brown eyes and matching dark brown hair that he kept perfectly groomed. Albert was very intelligent, and many of his acquaintances thought him handsome. But, despite his intelligence and good looks, he often felt uncomfortable around other people. As a result, he had few friends and hadn't been on a date in years.

The work he was doing was boring and his mind wandered back over the events of the previous six months. His life made an abrupt change when his parents were killed while on vacation. Before his parents' death he had been a professional student. He graduated high school at the top of his class at sixteen. He received his first bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at nineteen. In the fifteen years that followed, he earned master's degrees in electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, chemical engineering, computer science, and metallurgy. He was working toward his first doctorate when the disaster struck. His parents had supported him both financially and in his quest to continue his education. Now he was on his own.

Albert inherited the house and their savings. It was obvious he was going to have to drop out of school and find a job. During the time his father worked at NASA, Albert had met several of his colleagues. He reached out to them in hopes of finding a job, but the openings available all required work experience. He certainly had the required education, but never having held a job disqualified him. Albert sent out dozens of resumes, but it was a wasted effort. He received only a few polite responses indicating they would retain his

resume in case a position opened in the future that met his qualifications. Albert was growing depressed.

He had enough money to last a while and moved into his parents' home, so his living expenses were minimalized. He needed something to do and had thought about taking a job that he was over qualified for just to keep busy until something better came along. Before he took that plunge, one of his father's business associates contacted him. Albert had met Jeff Leonard several times and was both surprised and pleased to hear from him. Jeff said that NASA was in the process of developing a new propulsion system and suddenly realized they required an extremely strong magnetic field to make the system feasible. They wanted to subcontract the analysis of potential materials to a third party. Jeff, who was aware of Albert's situation, explained that if Albert set up a company that could do the work, he would help Albert get the contract.

Albert gratefully accepted the offer and immediately began the process of starting up the company. Realizing he knew nothing about starting a business, he turned to one of his few friends, Susan Woods, who had recently received an MBA. She immediately agreed to help him and also expressed an interest in joining the company. Susan was not interested in working for a large corporation where it would take many years to even be noticed. Additionally, she liked Albert and found him interesting. The excitement in her voice was a clear indication that she thought it would be fun to work with him.

Albert also reached out to Tim Martin, another friend and professional student, in hopes that he could convince him to join the company and help with the technical aspects of the operation. Like Susan, Tim expressed interest in working for a smaller company. He had already earned several degrees and he wanted to do something besides go to school, so he thought this would be a great opportunity.

Albert, Susan, and Tim were well matched. Each of them was very intelligent and somewhat introverted. Tim was a few inches shorter than Albert, but was built like a football player. He was very strong and agile. He had green eyes and black hair that showed definite signs of receding. Susan, at thirty-one, was the youngest of the group. She had an obvious Nordic heritage, with blue eyes and long blond hair. Susan was thin and very attractive. She exercised for at least an hour every day to make sure she stayed that way.

In exchange for their efforts in helping Albert get the business running and because he was unsure at this point how much he would be able to pay them, it was decided they would form a partnership. Albert would have seventy percent of the business and Susan and Tim would each have fifteen percent. Since Albert was putting up all the money, they agreed this was a fair arrangement.

Albert had about five hundred thousand dollars in the bank. Most of that was the result of the life insurance policies his parents had. The rest was money that had been left to him by his parents. Susan thought that would be more than sufficient to get the business going. They had forty-five days to get the business operational and submit the bid to NASA. Because of Jeff's involvement with project and the short time frame, he was given the authority to award the contract. So, if they won the bid, and Jeff assured Albert that they would, they would have to be ready to start work within thirty days.

Susan got busy with the legal requirements while Albert and Tim looked for a suitable place for the operation. It took only a few days to find the perfect location: a three thousand square foot building previously used as a meat storage facility. The refrigeration equipment had been removed but the "cold storage area" was perfect for the lab. It also had an area set up for offices that would easily house three desks, the computers, printers, and other necessary office equipment. An additional reason for selecting the

building was that it had the needed electrical service and natural gas service available for the alloy manufacturing and testing equipment. (Please note that at that time, natural gas was the fuel of choice for many heating applications. It was often used for cooking and heating homes.)

By the time Albert and Tim found the location for the business, Susan had completed the paperwork and Simpson Metallurgical Laboratories was created. The building lease was signed and Albert and Tim began the process of ordering the equipment that was needed for the operation. The three of them spent the next several weeks setting up the business, so by the beginning of November 2023 they were ready. All they needed were some customers. Albert kept Jeff aware of their progress throughout the process of setting up the company, so when the business was ready, they could immediately submit their bid.

True to his promise, Jeff helped Albert with the bid, and three weeks after it was submitted, Albert was notified by NASA that his company had won the contract. They would have to begin the work on January 2, 2024.

The contract with NASA required Albert's company to create metal alloys and evaluate the magnetic properties of them. The alloys were created by melting all of the component metals and combining them. The goal was to find the alloy that would create a magnetic field strong enough to contain the plasma that was the heart of the new propulsion system while using a minimal amount of power.

The metal alloys were created in rods an inch in diameter and three inches long. The testing was simple. The alloy rod to be tested was placed in a hollow plastic cylinder tightly wound with very thin, enamel-coated wire. When an electric current was applied to the coil, the testing device would evaluate the magnetic field strength at several distances from the pole of alloy rod. The testing apparatus was automatic. It applied twenty-four different voltages to the testing coil starting at .5 volts and increasing in .5 volt

increments until twelve volts was applied. The test results were automatically transferred to a file on their computer system and displayed on a monitor so the operator would see the results.

The first group of alloys to be tested was made from iron, silver, and nickel. The differences between each alloy sample were very small. The amount of one of the component metals was increased or decreased by .5 gram. Each sample took about an hour to make, and only a few minutes to test. The work was easy and boring, but it paid well and Albert, Tim, and Susan enjoyed working together.

The testing apparatus beeped to indicate the test for the sample labeled #178 was over. The sound brought Albert's mind back to the testing. His face had a look of astonishment when he looked at the results of the test. Realizing the magnetic field created by the sample was about ten times stronger than any previously tested sample his heart began to race. The results were absolutely astonishing. With a new-found excitement and a smile you could not wipe off his face, he moved on to the next sample.

All the samples were sequentially numbered. So, Albert picked up sample #179 and placed it into the testing apparatus. He decided to test this sample manually. He started at .5 volts and he could not believe the results. This sample registered almost twenty times the field strength of the previous sample. He slowly began increasing the voltage, carefully watching results. As the voltage reached one volt, the magnetic field created by the sample exceeded the capacity of the system to measure it.

At first, Albert thought the testing system was giving false readings, but when he increased the power to two volts, the resulting magnetic field was so strong that a pair of needle nose pliers on a workbench four feet away flew toward the sample, narrowly missing him on the way. The pliers banged into the sample with a loud clang. Albert shut down the test as his mind began to race. He simply could not

believe the results of the test. He picked up his phone and called Tim.

Tim answered after a few rings and Albert exclaimed, “Tim, you need to come to the office as soon as you can. I have something to show you that you may not believe! In fact, I’m not sure I believe it. I want you to run this test yourself.”

“Okay, I can be there in fifteen minutes. Is this something good or something bad?” Tim asked curiously.

“If the testing results are correct, we may have made the scientific discovery of the century. Please hurry!” Albert replied. Tim said he would leave immediately. Albert returned to the testing apparatus and recorded his results while he waited for Tim to arrive.

The implications of the test results were astounding and Albert was certain this alloy would meet NASA’s requirements, but he was thinking far beyond NASA’s requirements. He was already imagining new, more practical applications. By the time Tim arrived at the office, Albert was fairly sure what that application would be.

Albert was deep in thought and didn’t even notice when Tim walked into the lab. He was startled when Tim said, “Hi.”

“Please test alloy #179. Do it manually, not automatically, and increase the voltage in .25 volt increments. If your results are the same as mine, and I'm certain they will be, I think you’ll agree we’ve found something pretty spectacular. The sample is already in the coil.”

“Okay, do I need protective gear or a Kevlar suit?” Tim joked. He sat down in front of the testing console, reset the system, and started the test. At .25 volts, the alloy created the strongest magnetic field they had ever measured. He raised the voltage to .5 volts and the field had increased in strength by almost ten times. At .75 volts the field exceeded the system’s capacity.

“Oh my God! Is this for real? Are these the same results you got?” Tim inquired.

“Yeah.” Albert picked up the pliers placed them back to the work bench, about five feet away and said, “Raise the voltage to two volts and watch the pliers.”

Tim did as Albert suggested, and just as it happened before, the pliers flew off the work bench and banged into the end of the alloy sample with a loud clang.

“Pretty amazing stuff, wouldn’t you agree? When I tested sample 178 it exceeded every previous sample by a factor of ten. Please continue the testing to verify the results. While you are doing that, I’m going to work on increasing the capacity of the testing apparatus. After you verify the test results, please make additional samples. The difference between 178 and 179 was the nickel content. So, increase the nickel by .1 grams in each sample. Sound good?” Albert asked excitedly.

“Sure. Let’s get going,” Tim replied.

For the next two days Tim worked on creating the samples and Albert modified the testing equipment to increase its measurement capacity. Albert’s first modification increased the measurement capability by a factor of ten, but when he attempted to measure the magnetic field from sample 179 at one volt, he realized his design was inadequate. The system still could not measure the field strength, because it still exceeded the system capacity. Each test came with a newfound realization that they were on the cusp of something very special.

For the next modification, Albert decided to increase the measurement capability by one hundred, so now they could test the fields one thousand times stronger than his original design. Using his new design, he tested the field produced by sample 179 at one volt. At two volts, the field reached seventy of the system’s capacity. He had to shake off the initial shock, and it took him a few seconds to realize

what he had discovered. When the shock wore off, he yelled, "Tim, you have got to see this."

Tim ran over and looked at the computer screen. Like Albert, he could hardly believe what they had found. "Oh, my," he whispered.

By late Monday night the samples were ready. Albert and Tim decided to begin evaluating the new samples on Tuesday morning. They went to a nearby restaurant for dinner. Up to this point they had not really discussed what the potential application for their discovery would be. Now that they had some free time, this would be the ideal opportunity to talk about it.

They found a booth at the back of the restaurant and sat down. A waitress brought menus, took their orders, and left. Then Tim said, "I'm sure you've been thinking about how we could use this discovery. Did you figure out how this is going to make us rich?"

"Not only rich, but famous, too," Albert said with a big smile on his face. "What we have is basically an electromagnetic amplifier. We can take a small electric charge and from that create a very powerful magnetic field. We could then use that magnetic field to create a much larger electric charge. In fact, I think if we do this right, we could even make it self-sustaining."

With an astonished look on his face Tim asked, "You think we can make the first perpetual motion machine?"

"Except there's no movement. I'm thinking in terms of the first perpetual battery," Albert responded excitedly. "All we need is an oscillator to drive the electromagnet and a transformer to pick up the resulting field. We would need some simple circuitry to clean up the output to make true sine waves and we could siphon off some of the resulting power to keep the oscillator running. If it all works, and I don't see any reason why it wouldn't, we would have a self-sustaining power source!"

“It sounds crazy. It would appear to violate several known laws of physics. But perhaps we’re discovering new laws. In any case, if it works, we’re going to change the world!” Tim said.

Albert couldn’t sleep that night, so he got up at 4:30, showered, dressed, and left for the office by 5:15. When he arrived, he found Tim was already there. He had apparently been there for some time, because he was putting the finishing touches on a big box made from what looked like steel plates.

“What is that?” Albert asked.

“I was concerned about the strength of the magnetic fields. A strong enough field could possibly damage the structural integrity of the building, so I thought we should have something to contain the magnetic field, so I built this protective box.” Tim replied.

“I thought about that too, but I think all we need to do is test the samples manually. You saw what happened at two volts, so I think if we start the testing at .5 volts and increase by .25 volt increments, we’ll minimize the risk and still get the results we need. However, since you went to the trouble of building the box, I see no reason not to use it,” Albert said.

It took an hour to mount the testing apparatus inside the box. Albert started the test with sample 178 and there was no change from the previous test. The rest of the 178 samples also showed no change until Albert tested 178.9. The results really changed; at two volts sample 178.9 registered thirteen percent. Obviously, a significant increase, but not even close to test results from the original 179 sample.

Albert was nervous as he inserted the new sample 179 into the testing coil. If the results were not the same as the original 179, they would have to spend days or weeks trying to figure out what had happened. As he started the test,

his concern vanished. The results were identical to the first sample.

Next on the list was sample 179.1. Albert began the test at .5 volts, and the results were almost identical to sample 178.9. He continued the testing for the rest of the samples, and with each sample the resulting magnetic field dropped by about ten percent.

“Do you realize how lucky we were to stumble onto this alloy? We could have easily missed it,” Albert said.

“Do you think we should try it again with slight variations in the silver and iron content?” Tim asked.

“Yes, I think we have to do that, but I have a feeling the field strength will probably be less than with 179. Please make samples using the formula for 179 as a base and vary the iron and silver content by one-tenth of a gram in both directions. While you’re doing that I’m going to start working on our power source. Sound like a plan?” All were in agreement and they proceeded accordingly.

For the next few days, Tim concentrated on making the new alloy samples and Albert worked on what he called the “Simpson Power Module.” He started by designing the oscillator that would supply the power to the coil wrapped around the alloy rod. He designed it so the voltage being supplied to the coil could vary from one volt up to six volts. Then he took an iron rod six inches long and .5 inches in diameter and wound insulated copper wire around the rod one hundred times. He mounted the rod .5 inches from the end of the alloy rod. He attached an oscilloscope to the oscillator output and to the ends of the copper wire so he could check the final results.

Albert turned on the oscillator and verified it was producing one volt, sixty hertz, square waves. Then he checked the output; it was fifty-six volts. He increased the input voltage to 1.5 volts and the output voltage increased to eighty-four. He stopped there and decided to increase the number of windings on the iron rod by forty percent. He

removed the iron rod for the testing system and wound copper wire around the rod one hundred forty times. He placed the iron rod back into the testing system, set the input to 1.5 volts, and checked the output. It measured one hundred seventeen volts as he expected. Albert was very pleased with the initial test results.

He modified the oscillator circuit to run with a 1.5-volt input and output. He also modified the design so it could run from a battery or a direct power source. When running from the direct power source it cut the power from the battery.

Albert designed the circuit that would convert the transformer output to a sine wave so it could supply power to any household device. It took two days to design and build the required components. He assembled the prototype device and called Tim over to watch the test. The output of the device was now going to a standard electrical outlet and the oscilloscope probe was plugged in. On the input side was a spot for a standard 1.5-volt, D-size battery. Albert inserted a battery, turned on the device, and the output was a perfect sine wave that measured normal household power; one hundred seventeen volts.

Next, he plugged in a one half horsepower motor and turned it on. The startup current for the motor was ten amps and he expected to see a drop in the output voltage when the motor was turned on, but that didn't happen. The voltage stayed constant, and the motor ran perfectly. He had calculated the current drain on the battery powering the system and he expected it to run for an hour. It actually ran for almost an hour and a half before the system shut down.

Albert and Tim watched the test for the entire time, barely speaking, both of them were waiting for something to go wrong. When the test was over Albert and Tim looked at each other, with extreme surprise and approval obvious on their faces. They did not need words to that it was possible to make the system self-sustaining.

Albert had to design a power supply for the oscillator, so it would no longer need a battery, except to start the system. While he was working on that, Tim began testing the new alloy samples.

Just as Albert had predicted, the new samples with varying amounts of silver and iron did not exhibit magnetic fields that exceeded alloy 178. It was now apparent the only alloy formula that would work was 179.

By the following Monday, Albert had completed the necessary design modifications. Tim and Susan both came into the lab to watch the test. The prototype didn't look very pretty, but when it was turned on it worked perfectly. Albert removed the battery and the system kept running. He plugged in the motor and turned it on. It ran as expected and the system output was still constant at 117-volts.

Albert and Tim had created the first "perpetual" power supply, and Tim was right. The world would never be the same.

"I'm not sure how to market this, but for now we need to build some additional systems. I also have to contact NASA and let them know we found the material they need to contain the plasma for their new engine," Albert said to Tim, then turning to Susan, "Please have an attorney look over the contract we signed with NASA to make sure we own the rights to this. Tim, please make another twenty rods with the 179 formula. I think we should make the next prototypes look more professional, and then set up a test and invite the press. Do you guys agree?"

"Yeah, but don't you think NASA is going to figure out what we did? Even if the contract doesn't indicate that NASA owns the formula, they're part of the federal government and could tie this thing up in court for years," Tim said with obvious concern.

"Let's find out what the lawyer thinks before we do anything. I think we should go ahead and build the

prototypes, but we should wait to call a press conference until we get some legal advice," Susan responded.

"That's a good idea. Please contact an attorney and try to find out where we stand on this. While you're doing that Tim and I will work on the prototypes."

During the next few days each of them worked on their tasks. Tim created the silver alloy rods while Albert refined on his power supply design and found some plastic boxes that could be used to hold the prototypes. On Tuesday, Susan met with the attorney, who promised to review the contract and get back to her in a day or two.

On Thursday morning Albert was assembling the first prototype when Susan came into the lab. Albert was so engrossed in his task that he didn't notice her until she tapped him on the shoulder. He looked up at Susan and saw a big smile on her face.

"I just heard from the attorney. He said that according to the contract, your only responsibility is to notify NASA of the test results every month. NASA has no rights to anything we develop in the course of our testing. He even said that according to the contract any side-discoveries are ours to use as we see fit as long as the initial ideas go to them. Of course, he paraphrased that for me as it was far more complex." Susan said happily and then continued, "So, I guess we're all going to be very rich, right?"

"If these prototypes work, and I'm sure they will, I'm certain that's true. Aren't you glad you dropped out of school to join the company?"

"Yeah," Susan replied smiling. "Just don't screw things up. I'm already dreaming about what it would be like to be wealthy and not have to worry about my monthly bills."

"I promise I won't screw this up. We have another job for our favorite lawyer. Please find out what we need to apply for a patent and ask him if he can handle that for us. If he can't, ask him to recommend a good patent attorney. One

more thing, please go tell Tim what he already said. I'm sure he'll be very happy to hear the news."

Susan left to talk to Tim as Albert continued working on the first prototype.

An hour later Susan came back into the lab and said, "I heard from our lawyer's assistant. She told me he doesn't handle patents, but he did recommend someone. I called her and she's sending over a package of forms and documentation regarding the patent process. She said we should call her after we review the material and she'll come here to get the process started."

Albert nodded, "that sounds perfect."

By Friday morning the first prototype was ready. The unit now utilized a 1.4-volt silver oxide battery that would last for many years. It was built into the circuit. He added a green LED "Power On" light to indicate the system was functioning normally and a red LED "problem" light if the system was malfunctioning, or if an excessive amount of power was being drawn from the unit. It also had four standard outlets built in.

For a test this time, Albert plugged in a refrigerator, a toaster, and a coffee maker. He flipped on the switch and immediately the green light turned on. Then he made a pot of coffee and some toast, and sat down to the best breakfast he'd had in a very long time. It seemed as though everything was working perfectly.

After twelve hours everything still appeared to be working, so Albert, Tim, and Susan all

went home. They were all anxious to see if everything was still okay when they came in Saturday morning.

Albert arrived first at 6:00 AM. When he entered the lab, before turning on the lights, he could see the green light on the prototype. He turned on the lights and walked over to the refrigerator. It was obviously working

correctly. Then he made a pot of coffee and waited for Tim and Susan to arrive.

At 7:30 Tim arrived, and Susan showed up a few minutes later. Albert poured them each a cup of coffee. It was obvious that everything was working perfectly.

"I have to file a report with NASA in a few days, so I'll be working on that," he said. "I would like both of you to concentrate on building the prototypes. I also want to build a unit that can power my house. I think that would be a great test, but I need to make some changes to the power supply. I would like to connect it to my circuit breaker box, and in order to do that we need to match the line from the power company. We need two hot lines and a neutral line."

"When do you want to schedule the press conference?" Susan asked.

"I would like to have my house running off a power unit for at least a month before we do that. I also want to give each of the reporters a prototype to take home and use. We really need to think about who we should invite, so give it some thought. If we tell them in advance that we have a self-sustaining power supply, they'll think we're nuts. So we need to give some thought to what we can say that will entice them to come. Albert smiled at both of them and continued. "We deserve some time off away from this place. So, no work tomorrow."

Albert spent the day completing the report for NASA and decided he would call Jeff Leonard to make him aware of the properties of alloy 179. He thought that since he had found what NASA was looking for they would consider the contact terms fulfilled, terminate the contract, but that was okay. He had more important things to work on now.

Tim and Susan looked at Albert's circuit design and realized they didn't have the parts in stock to build more than two power supplies and oscillators, so Tim ordered the parts they needed. Tim and Susan spent the rest of the day building two power supplies and two oscillators.

n Monday morning Albert e-mailed NASA the report and called Jeff Leonard to let him know what he had found. Jeff seemed to be skeptical, to say the least, but Albert told him he would send an alloy rod to him overnight so he would have it in the morning. That way they could test it for themselves. He also told Jeff that he would send the plans for the testing apparatus he was using if they wanted to duplicate exactly what he did.

He put together everything he needed to send and included a note cautioning them to apply the test voltages in .5 volt increments. He set up the parcel pickup online and according to what the attorney's office said, this would complete his obligation to NASA.

At 10:00 AM a messenger arrived with the package from the patent attorney. Albert looked it over; the process appeared to be pretty simple, but he was concerned about whether it was possible to patent the alloy composition. It was a question for the attorney when she came for the meeting. They were going to need photographs, drawings, and schematics for the power module. But since the product was still in the prototype stage he wasn't ready to do that yet. He asked Susan to set up a meeting with the attorney later in the week.

To make the unit that would power his house he decided to try using one alloy rod and

two output transformers. He also needed to use heavy wire for the output transformers so they would be able to handle the required current.

It looked like a simple modification, but it turned out to be more difficult than he had expected. The position of the output transformers had to be very precise so the output voltage of each side of the system was identical, and that required a special mounting bracket that allowed the position of the output transformers to be adjusted.

Carol Lawton, the patent attorney, arrived a few minutes early for her appointment Thursday morning, but

Albert, Tim, and Susan were already waiting for her. They all met in Albert's office.

Once introductions were over, the patent attorney got down to business. "The purpose of our meeting this morning is to begin the patent process by establishing some evidence for the granting of a patent. Ms. Woods has given me some basic information about the device. Based on that information I see no reason for a patent to be denied. Personally, I'm very excited about this device. I'm going to record this meeting so I don't have to take any notes. Is that okay?"

"I have no problem with that," Albert said.

"Good," Carol said. She opened her briefcase, removed her cell phone, set it up to record an audio file, and placed it between them on Albert's desk. At that point, she asked Albert to provide some history regarding the device. Albert spoke for several minutes about how the company was formed, their contract with NASA, the discovery of the magnetic properties of the alloy, and the subsequent creation of the power module.

"That's exactly what I needed to know. I'll need the dates of the events you told me about. I also need some pictures of the prototypes, and I really want to see one these things."

They walked into the lab where Albert showed her the first unit they built which was powering the appliances.

Carol took pictures of the original unit and some of the current prototypes. "I think that's all I need for now. My only concern is the ability to patent the contents of the alloy used in the devices. That can be a little tricky. I really don't think there'll be a problem because the application is certainly unique. In any case, I'll get back with you in a week or less."

After Carol left, Albert continued the work on his "home" power module. Just as he was making the finishing touches, he received a call from Jeff Leonard. Jeff told him

what he already knew: the alloy created the most powerful magnetic field they had ever measured and they were very excited because they were sure it would enable them to build the new plasma engine. Albert asked if he should continue testing new alloys. Jeff told him to hold off testing new alloys until they had more time to evaluate the current sample. That was exactly what Albert wanted to hear. Now he could concentrate full time on the power modules.

Albert took the power module home and decided to wait until the following morning to connect it. Tim and Susan wanted to be there when he did. Arriving at his house at 8:00 AM, Tim took the cover off the breaker box and disconnected the wires from the power company and attached the power module. Then he turned on the power module and walked over to an outlet and verified the power was correct. Next, Albert went into his kitchen and checked the oven and stove. Both worked normally so he proceeded to turn on the TV and that worked too. There were zero problems.

"This is too easy, we must be missing something," Albert mused.

"Maybe, but I have no idea what. In any case we'll soon know if there's a problem. Let's give it a few days. If nothing explodes and your house doesn't burn down, we did it right," Tim replied with a grin.

"Okay, I agree. Now, any ideas who we should invite to the press conference?" Albert asked.

"I think we should invite somebody from the university newspaper," Susan stated.

"I agree, but we need to get national press coverage. We should probably ask ABC, CBS, Fox, CNN, and NBC to send somebody," Tim said.

"Yeah, that sounds good, but I would also like to invite somebody from some magazines like Popular Science, Physics Today, and maybe Consumer Reports as well. I was also thinking that we should have an additional

demonstration. Susan, please see if you can find a used all electric car to buy, not a hybrid, it has to be all electric. We can remove the battery and replace it with a power module. You can spend up to $20,000," Albert said.

"That's a great idea. I'll get on it this morning," Susan replied happily. "I've never been able to buy a car and not finance it myself or otherwise have to pay for it."

It took Susan two days, but she found a 2020 Paxton Electro. It was perfect for the demonstration. Tim and Susan went to buy the car and Albert began researching what would be required to modify the car. A majority of the car's electronics were centered on the battery status and remaining miles before the battery would have to be recharged. He was not going to attempt to modify any of that, but he thought it would be interesting to see how the system would cope with a power source that never required recharging.

For the next week Albert and Tim worked on the modifications to the car. Aside from some minor problems related to the display, which they decided to ignore, the car ran perfectly. To test it out they decided to take an evening off and drive about a hundred miles to a very expensive restaurant to celebrate. Susan expressed some concern regarding the reliability of the modified vehicle, but both Albert and Tim were sure there wouldn't be any problems. It turned out to be a perfect evening. The food was excellent and the car ran perfectly.

Albert's house had been running off the power module for three weeks. They decided it was time to announce their product to the world. Susan started making calls. The university newspaper immediately agreed to have someone there. Others were more difficult. They insisted on knowing exactly what was going to be presented. Susan told them they were going to demonstrate a unique new power source. Additionally, she promised to reimburse them for any expenses if they ultimately felt it wasn't newsworthy. In

the end they all agreed to send someone to the demonstration.

April 10, 2024

Everything was in place for the demonstration. The modified Paxton Electro was parked in front of the building. There were six prototype power modules ready to be distributed, with the original unit still providing power to a refrigerator, toaster, and a coffee maker in the lab. Two worktables had been cleaned off and set up with chairs, and coffee cups were placed by each seat. By 10:00 AM everybody had arrived. Albert greeted them as they walked in. He stood at the front, facing them, and began.

"Hi. I'm glad you all could make it here today. My name is Albert Simpson and next to me are my two partners, Susan Woods and Tim Martin. All of us have multiple degrees. Before we get to the demonstration I want to give you some background information. Until last fall we were still students, but a personal problem occurred that required I start earning a living. Using some contacts that my father made while he was working for NASA, I managed to secure a contract to test materials that would be used in a project for NASA. Our company was formed specifically to service that contract and we started doing that right after the first of the year.

"In the process of doing the evaluations we came across a metal alloy that exhibited properties that were, to say the least, quite remarkable. That metal alloy is the key piece of the products we are going to show you today."

He went on to explain the workings of the metal alloy as a kind of magnetic amplifier, finishing with, "What we created and will demonstrate for you this morning is a self-contained power source that will run indefinitely.

"If you look to your right you'll see our first device. It has been providing power to the three appliances plugged into it for about two months. We also designed a unit that provides two-phase, 120-volt, 200-amp service for home

use. I disconnected my home from the electric company lines a month ago and the power module has been providing power flawlessly since. Additionally, we purchased a Paxton Electro a few weeks ago, removed the battery, and replaced it with a power module. I have driven it a thousand miles since we completed the modifications without a single problem.

"I understand you may be skeptical, but when you leave today each of you will be given a prototype to take home. I urge you to use it and test it in any way you see fit. Each of these prototypes produces normal household power. It's limited to 15 amps. If you try to exceed that, the unit will power off. Please feel free to look at our first unit. I'll be happy to answer any questions you have."

There was a uniform look of disbelief on the guests' faces, but each of them got up to look at the power module on display. After studying it for a few minutes, the representative from Fox looked at Albert and said, "You're going to put all the oil companies out of business."

"No, there will still be a need for oil. However, there won't be much of a requirement for gasoline. I don't think we'll see electric planes or ships, at least not in the near future," Albert replied.

"My name is Marcia Poston, I work for Fox. This is all very impressive but I'm not very technical. Can you explain, in simple terms, how this device works?"

"Of course, Ms. Poston. Do you understand how a transformer works?"

She frowned and admitted, "No, not really."

"Okay. I'm sure you're aware there's a relationship between electricity and magnetism. In high school science you probably made an electromagnet with a battery, some wire, and a steel nail. All you did was wind some wire around the nail and connect the wire to the battery. Now imagine you have a large iron donut. You wind wire around half the donut one hundred times and connect that wire to a

source of alternating current, like you use in your home. On the other half of the donut you wind wire around two hundred times. You've just made a transformer. The input side has one hundred turns and the output has two hundred turns.

Whatever voltage is applied on the input would be doubled on the output. Do you understand?"

"Yeah, I think that's pretty simple."

"Good. What happens is the input creates a magnetic field in the steel donut and that magnetic field induces a current into the coil of wire on the output. The steel donut simply acts as an electromagnet. In our devices, we use a coil of wire to create the magnetic field in the silver alloy rod. The big difference between a regular transformer and our device is that the silver alloy rod actually amplifies the magnetic field substantially, so with less than a two-volt input we can create a much more powerful output. It's the first device ever designed that has more than one hundred percent efficiency. It produces enough surplus power in the output that some of that power can be used to supply the input voltage; as a result, it's self-sustaining."

Marcia nodded. "I think I understand. The key to the whole device is the silver alloy rod because it can amplify a magnetic field."

"You're correct, Ms. Poston. If there are any of you who still don't understand, just think of it as a battery that will never run down. You just plug your appliances into it and it will continue to supply power forever. Or, attach it to your car and it will run without ever having to buy fuel for it."

"Can we see your electric car?" somebody asked.

This time Tim replied, "Sure, come with me." He walked outside and everybody but the reporter from Ms. Poston followed him.

"Do you think big oil, the electric companies, and the government are going to let you sell these devices?" she

asked. “This has the potential to wreak havoc with economies of not only the United States, but many of the richest nations in the world.”

“I know that, and that’s why I invited you very important people here. I expect you to report this and spread the news all over the world before the government can come in and stop us. It’s true that many people will be hurt financially by this, but far more will benefit. If the people know about it there’s no way the government will be able to stop it. I’m not sure what these devices will cost, but wouldn’t you like to spend $500 and never have to give the electric company another penny? Besides, you’ll never experience another power outage.”

“Of course I would.” She smiled. “I think it would be even better to buy a car that never needs gas or to be recharged. As I said, I’m not a very technical person, but I’d like to have someone who is talk to you. Would that be okay?”

“Sure, but please arrange it as soon as possible. I don’t want the release of this information to be even slightly delayed.” Then Albert gave her his card and said, “Have them call me on my cell.”

“I’ll call right now. I just hope they believe me.”

A few minutes later, Tim and the reporter from the university came back into the lab.

“Where is everybody?” Albert asked.

“The guy from Consumer Reports said he recently spent a week driving a new Paxton Electro, so he could write an article for the magazine and he asked if he could drive the car. So, I gave him the keys. He went for a ride with the reporters from the networks. I think they think this is some kind of hoax. My guess is they’re looking all over the car to find another source of power or something. Anyway, I’m sure they’ll be back shortly,” Tim said.

“You look familiar. I think you were a teaching assistant in one of my electronics design classes,” the university paper reporter said to Albert.

“Yes, you’re correct. I remember you because you asked me some questions about some high-speed switching circuits. I wanted you here today because I would bet you have a lot of Facebook and Twitter followers. Is that right?” asked Albert.

“Well, I don’t have that many, but the paper has seven or eight thousand on each. I assume you want me to put the information about these devices out on the web.”

“Yes, and as quickly as possible.”

“Okay, I’ll be happy to do that.”

At that moment Albert’s phone rang. He excused himself from the reporter and Tim and walked away. He looked briefly at the display and noted that the call came from New York City. He touched the screen to accept the call and said, “Hi, this is Albert Simpson. How can I help you?”

“My name is Matt Brewer. I’m a technical reporter for Fox News. I was asked to contact you regarding the power module you claim to have invented. I’ll tell you right now that I am very skeptical, but I am willing to look what you have as it would be truly unbelievable without seeing it firsthand.”

“Okay, you have every right to be skeptical. If you come here I’ll prove it to you and I can even give you a prototype unit to take back with you.”

“I’ll be there at 9:00 tomorrow morning. I’m expecting to be amazed.”

“I promise you won’t be disappointed. I look forward to meeting with you. See you tomorrow morning,” Albert said as he hung up his cell. Walking back to the shop, he saw Tim.

“Tim, we’re going to have another demo in the morning. A reporter from Fox News named Matt Brewer.

I've seen this guy on TV and he appears to be very smart. I would bet he's going to want to see a more informative demonstration. Before you leave tonight, please hook up some oscilloscopes so he'll be able to see exactly what's happening."

"That's easy. I'll take care of it," Tim replied happily.

A few minutes later the reporters who had taken the Electro for a joy ride came back.

"The car drives perfectly. It appears to accelerate a little faster than the 2024 models, and that's a plus. You said you were going to give us units we can take with us. Are they ours to keep, or do you want them back after our evaluations are finished?" the reporter from Consumer Reports asked.

"I would like you to contact me when your evaluation is completed and I'll let you know at that time. I expect some of you will open them up to see what's inside. That's okay, but I caution you, please don't mess with anything inside. If the magnetic coil becomes misaligned the unit won't function correctly; if that happens it will be worthless unless you want to use it as a door stop," Albert responded. He thought for a moment, then added, "Tomorrow morning a technical reporter from Fox News will be here. We're going to give him a more comprehensive demonstration. If any of you are interested, please be here at 9:00. Tim will give each of you a prototype. He can also answer any questions you have. I have some concerns regarding how the government and some large corporations are going react when the news of this discovery becomes public knowledge. So, I want the news about these power modules to be spread as quickly as possible. Once the public knows about this, nobody will be able to stop it."

After all of the reporters left, Susan came into Albert's office. "Carol Lawton called earlier and said there won't be any problems with the patent. She has already filed some of the paperwork and said we're fully protected."

“Perfect, that’s a big relief,” Albert said with big smile on his face.

April 11, 2024

The following morning Albert arrived at the office at 7:30 to find Susan and Tim already there. Tim was in the lab preparing for the demonstration. Susan sat at her desk drinking a cup of coffee when the phone rang. Albert was sitting at his desk in the lab and heard Susan’s half of the conversation.

“Good morning, Simpson Metallurgical Laboratories, how can I help you?” After a pause, she added, “Yes, he’s here. I’ll get him for you right away.” She walked into the lab. “Albert, Samantha Pratt is on the phone for you,” she said.

“The vice president? That Samantha Pratt?” he asked.

“Yeah, and she didn’t sound very happy.”

Albert picked up the phone and said in cheerful voice, “Good morning Madam Vice President. How can I help you?”

The voice on the phone was anything but happy. “You can tell everybody this invention of yours is a hoax.”

“I’m sorry Ms. Pratt. I can’t do that because the power module is not a hoax, and I won’t do that. What’s your problem with it?”

“No problem, other than the possibility it will put a few million people out of work, reduce tax revenues by more than ten percent, and maybe as much as twenty percent. It will decimate the oil, gas, and utility companies. I’m sure there are many more industries that would be adversely affected. Did you think about any of these things before you made your announcement yesterday?”

“Of course I did, but I believe that the benefits easily outweigh the problems. I seem to remember a speech you

gave a few months ago where you said climate change was one of the biggest problems our world faces. I don't believe that, but we all want cleaner air and water. These devices would allow us to reduce carbon emissions by over ninety percent. We'll still need oil, just much less of it. I agree the need for electric and gas utilities will disappear eventually, but the water, sewage, and garbage utilities will be fine. The automobile companies will make a fortune, since everybody will be buying new electric cars. They'll probably need to hire a lot of new workers, and let's not forget that somebody will have to manufacture the power modules, and they'll need workers too. I'm sure you are aware that our petroleum resources are limited, and this invention completely eliminates the problems associated with that. Additionally, it will take years before the full effect of the availability of these devices occurs."

She sighed deeply and said, "I suppose you do have some valid points, but I still foresee a lot of problems."

Albert continued, "Have you considered how the availability of cheap, unlimited electrical power will benefit the poorer countries of the world? With these devices, even the most remote places on Earth could have electrical power. They would be able to provide light, heat, and perhaps even water anywhere. Also, consider the fact that most of our adversaries are economically dependent on oil. What do you think will happen to them when the need for oil drops by ninety percent? Without money to fund terrorism we might actually find ourselves with world peace."

"I think you're dreaming, but that's a nice thought." She paused for a moment and asked, "Have you thought about how you're going to manufacture these things?"

"Actually, I have. I don't want to be directly involved in the manufacturing process. In the next few days I'll probably get a lot of offers from large companies who want to manufacture these devices. You may rest assured I'll pick

an American company. If you like, I'll keep you informed as things progress."

"Okay, that would be great. You've given me some things to think about, but I'm still concerned this could devastate our economy. I'm going keep a close watch on you. If you do anything that even has a tinge of illegality you might find yourself in federal prison. I'll have my assistant contact you later this morning and let you know how to get in touch with me. I expect to receive regular reports," she said, and she hung up the phone.

Susan was staring at him during the whole conversation. "That went better that I thought it would," he said to her.

At a few minutes before 9:00 Matt Brewer came into the office. A minute or two later the reporter from the school newspaper came in too. Albert greeted them and turned them over to Tim for the demonstration.

Albert went back to his office thinking about his conversation with Vice-President Pratt. He wondered if there really would be companies eager to make the power modules. He had neither the money, nor the knowledge, that was needed to set up a manufacturing operation. After thinking about it for a while he decided that, for now, all he could do was wait and see what happened.

Tim walked into Albert's office and said, "The demo went perfectly and Matt is no longer skeptical. I'm going to show him the car and take him for a ride. We should be back shortly."

"Do we have another prototype to give to Matt?"

"Yeah, I set that up as soon as I got in this morning. Matt said he was going to try to get a story ready for the news this evening."

"Perfect, I want to make sure everybody knows about this as soon as possible."

“I’m sure you realize that as the information about the power modules spreads, people are going to want to know when they can get them.”

“I’ve been thinking about that since my conversation with the vice-president this morning. I told her I expected some large companies to contact me about making them. I hope I’m right about that.”

“I suspect we’ll be inundated with offers within the next few days. Don’t worry about it. I’m going now. Matt’s waiting by the car,” Tim said as he left Albert’s office.

An hour later Tim and Matt walked into Albert’s office.

“You were right. I’m impressed. I really thought it was some kind of hoax. I’ll be on the 6:00 PM news today with the story. At this point I don’t think it would be wise to tell the public about you or your company. Do you agree?” Matt asked.

“You’re probably right. I should’ve thought about that yesterday, but by now the news is probably all over the Internet. I even got a call from the vice-president about it early this morning, so it’s too late. I think we’d better hire some security guards before the crowds show up at the door. Tim, please backup all of our files and then take the backups to the bank. Put them in the safe deposit box.”

“I see you’re busy, so I’m going to leave. I’ll send you the piece for the news before it airs so you can review it. Thanks for everything. Good luck,” Matt said as he shook hands with everyone there.

After Matt left, Albert walked over to Susan’s desk and asked her to contact a security company and arrange to get twenty-four-hour security at both the office and his home as soon as possible. Then he went back to his office. He was worried about two things: security and manufacturing.

Albert ultimately decided, despite the security, he didn’t want to go home. He was concerned there would be crowds at his home and he didn’t want to have to deal with

that. So, he went shopping for the clothes he would need for the next few days and checked into a hotel.