

## 49. Grimes

In the midst of Elon Musk's turbulent phase during 2018, Claire Boucher, known as Grimes, emerged as a significant figure in his life, sparking a complex relationship characterized by creativity, intellectual engagement, and shared contemplation on futuristic themes. Grimes, a musician with a penchant for science fiction and experimental art, found common ground with Musk through their mutual interest in topics like artificial intelligence and its potential threats, exemplified by their discussion of Roko's Basilisk—a speculative scenario where AI could punish those who didn't contribute to its creation.

Their relationship, originating from a quirky internet interaction about this thought experiment, quickly deepened as they discovered mutual interests ranging from music to profound historical events. Musk, in the throes of personal and professional upheaval, found solace and distraction in Grimes' company. Her presence provided a unique blend of companionship and intellectual stimulation, as they would spend their time together diving into various subjects or visiting Musk's Tesla factory, providing each other with support amid their demanding and chaotic lives.

Their dynamic was not without its challenges, however. The inclusion of controversial figures, such as the rapper Azealia Banks, into their sphere led to public disputes and media scandals, highlighting the tumultuous aspects of their relationship. Despite these incidents, Grimes' influence on Musk was palpable, offering him a mix of intellectual companionship and creative inspiration, even as they navigated the complexities of public attention and professional pressures.

This chapter portrays Grimes not only as a partner to Musk during a turbulent period but also as a figure who matched and complemented his complexities. Whether through exploring technological dangers, engaging in artistic projects, or facing public controversies, their relationship underscored the intertwining of personal dynamics with broader cultural and technological dialogues. Throughout this period, Grimes and Musk's interactions revealed the multifaceted nature of their personalities, their shared curiosities, and the ways in which they influenced each other amidst the backdrop of Musk's tech ventures and public life.