

61. Nights Out

In the summer of 2021, Elon Musk, known for his ventures in electric cars and space exploration, stepped into the entertainment spotlight as a guest host on "Saturday Night Live" (SNL) in May. Delivering an opening monologue that played into his eccentric persona, Musk joked about his achievements and addressed his Asperger's Syndrome, marking a moment of self-awareness about his public image. His mother, Maye, joined him onstage for a Mother's Day segment, adding a personal touch to the episode. His partner, Grimes, also participated in a sketch. The chapter describes the afterparty at the Public Hotel, where Musk's indulgence into the early hours highlighted a side of him seldom seen, contrasting with his childhood.

For his fiftieth birthday later that June, rather than throwing one of his famous elaborate parties, Musk opted for a low-key celebration in Boca Chica with close friends and family. This was partly due to a recent neck surgery stemming from an injury years before. The festivities included fireworks, a testament to Texas's leniency, and time spent at SpaceX's employee restaurant, underscoring Musk's continued focus on his work even amidst personal milestones.

The chapter also covers Musk's attendance at the "Renegade Burn" in Nevada, a stand-in for the canceled official Burning Man festival. Musk contributed financially to ensure the festival's future, highlighting his attachment to the event as a spiritual and communal retreat. His visit, brief and amidst work crises, exemplifies his challenge in balancing personal joy and professional obligations.

Musk's complicated relationship with Grimes is further explored through their interactions at Burning Man and beyond, leading to a mutual breakup in light of their awaited second child via a surrogate. Their dynamic, fraught with tensions and reconciliations, mirrors Musk's broader struggle with personal connections amidst his expansive ambitions.

The narrative ends with Musk and Grimes attending the Met Gala in September 2021, depicting a chaotic yet glamorous life that straddles the heights of tech innovation and the flamboyance of celebrity culture. Their ever-evolving relationship reflects both the volatility and the vibrancy of Musk's extraordinary life trajectory, marked by unparalleled achievements and profound personal journeys.