

DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR

Written by

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INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - DAY

CHARLIE, 56, wears a lab coat. Works diligently on a science experiment. Sets his glasses down. Looks intently into his microscope.

ROGER, 35, wears a lab coat. Hovers over his shoulder.

CHARLIE  
(mumbles)  
If I could just get these molecule  
to separate...

Charlie sits back. Rubs his eyes.

Roger leans over.

ROGER  
Whatcha working on?

Charlie jumps back.

CHARLIE  
Oh, geez. You scared me!

ROGER  
Sorry.

CHARLIE  
It's okay, just don't creep up on  
me like that. I'm trying to get  
these water molecules to separate.  
If I can figure this out, we could  
create a clean burning fuel  
alternative!

ROGER  
Would the world go for that? Good  
luck. They're going to think you're  
crazy. Oh, wait...

Charlie nudges Roger with his elbow.

CHARLIE  
Shut up, nimrod. Once I make this  
work, we're going to be famous.  
Well, I am, anyways...

ROGER  
(snickers)  
Not if I take all the credit  
first...

CHARLIE  
(astonished)  
How dare you! This is essential  
work. It could change the world as  
we know it...

Roger laughs maniacally.

ROGER  
We'll just see about that...

Charlie picks up his glasses.

CHARLIE  
Don't be such a dope. Hand me that  
beaker, would you?

ROGER  
This one?

Roger hands him a beaker full of coffee.

ROGER (CONT'D)  
Are you drinking coffee from a  
beaker?

CHARLIE  
(Smugly)  
That's what all the great  
scientists do.

Takes a sip. Roger slaps him on the back. Charlie spits it  
out. Drops his glasses on the desk.

ROGER  
You'd like to think that, wouldn't  
you?

Charlie glares at him begrudgingly.

CHARLIE  
What'd you do that for?

ROGER  
Just giving you a pat on the back  
for all the hard work you've been  
doing.

CHARLIE  
Oh, why don't you just get out of  
here? You're not of any help.

ROGER  
No use in sticking around to watch  
you blow yourself up. I'll see you  
tomorrow.

Roger walks up the stairs.

CHARLIE  
Don't hit yourself on the way out.

Roger shuts the door.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
(mumbles)  
Idiot...

Charlie grabs a rag. Cleans himself up.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
Now, where was I?

Looks back down in his microscope.

BEGIN MONTAGE

- Charlie wears goggles and pours water into a flask. Places it on the distillation apparatus.
- Turns on Bunsen burner. Heats it up.
- Watches vapor go down the condensation tube.
- Waits for oxygen and hydrogen to separate.

Charlie sets goggles down. Looks at apparatus.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
I think it finally worked...

SUSAN, 50, opens up the door.

SUSAN  
(shouts)  
Hunny, are you still down there?

CHARLIE  
Almost finished!

Susan walks down the stairs.

SUSAN  
Who were you talking to earlier?

CHARLIE  
Roger was here. He left awhile ago.

SUSAN  
Can I help you clean up so you can  
take a break?

CHARLIE  
Sure. Just be careful...

Susan and Charlie clean. Charlie looks the other way. Susan  
wipes up the desk. Accidentally knocks over a beaker.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
What the heck...

Charlie turns around. Susan vaporizes into thin air. Charlie  
gasps in disbelief. He screams.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
...How is this possible?!

Paces frantically.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
(mumbles)  
What am I going to do? Think,  
think, think...

Pulls at his hair.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
Err, there's no time to think...

Runs upstairs.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Picks up the phone. Calls Roger. It keeps ringing.

CHARLIE  
Come on Roger, answer the phone!

It goes to voicemail.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
Roger, if you're there, pick up the  
phone. It's urgent.

Slams the phone down.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
What now?...

Paces back and forth.

SUSAN (V.O.)  
Charlie...

Stops in his tracks.

SUSAN (V.O.)  
Charlie...

CHARLIE  
Susan?

SUSAN (V.O.)  
Yes, Charlie. It's me.

CHARLIE  
But how?

Charlie looks up as if to heaven.

SUSAN (V.O.)  
I'm still here.

CHARLIE  
That's impossible!

Charlie falls to his knees.

SUSAN (V.O.)  
Don't give up.

Charlie starts crying. Puts his head in his hands. Weeps.

CHARLIE  
(mumbles)  
This isn't real...this isn't  
real...

SUSAN (V.O.)  
Oh, but it is.

CHARLIE  
(crying)  
Just leave me alone!

SUSAN (V.O.)  
Don't cry.

Charlie wipes his tears. Gets up.

CHARLIE  
Just tell me what you want.

SUSAN (V.O.)  
I'll always be with you.

Charlie cries out.

CHARLIE  
This isn't real. It's just a  
figment of my imagination.

SUSAN (V.O.)  
Everything is okay.

CHARLIE  
(frustrated)  
No, it's not! You're gone.

SUSAN (V.O.)  
I'm right here.

Charlie sees something in the corner of his eye. Looks out  
the window. Rubs his eyes.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Hears rustling in the bushes. Peaks out the window blinds.  
Sees a dark figure dart across the lawn.

CHARLIE  
What in the world?...

Closes the blinds. Locks the door.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
This is crazy. This can't be  
happening...

Runs to the kitchen.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Picks up the phone to call the police.

CHARLIE  
Hello, operator?...

The phone is dead.

Hears a crash in the basement.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
The formula...

Drops the phone.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - DAY

Runs downstairs.

CHARLIE  
Who's there?!

Sees the lab ransacked.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
Oh God, not my work!

Notices the open window well.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
Roger...

EXT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR/LAWN - DAY

Runs outside. Looks around. Sees nobody.

Puts his hands on his knees. Breathes heavily. Blacks out.

SUSAN  
Charlie...

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - DAY

SUSAN  
Charlie...wake up Charlie...

Charlie grumbles. Opens his eyes slowly. Puts his glasses on.

Susan, wears glasses, stands over him.

CHARLIE  
Susan?...

SUSAN  
Yes, dear?

CHARLIE  
I thought you vanished!

SUSAN  
What on earth do you mean?

Charlie chuckles.



CHARLIE

Oh nothing...Roger's just at it  
again...

SUSAN

Roger?

