

## 49. Grimes

Grimes became an unexpected yet pivotal presence in Elon Musk's life during a particularly chaotic period in 2018, when he faced mounting scrutiny over Tesla's financial struggles and his increasingly unpredictable public persona. Their connection was rooted in a shared fascination with technology, philosophy, and the intersection of art and artificial intelligence, creating a bond that was both unconventional and intellectually charged. Their relationship gained public attention after Musk playfully referenced Roko's Basilisk, a niche AI thought experiment, which coincidentally was a concept Grimes had previously incorporated into her music. This shared curiosity set the stage for an unconventional romance, blending elements of sci-fi futurism with Musk's vision for humanity's technological future.

As their relationship deepened, Grimes became more than just a creative force in Musk's life—she provided an outlet for escapism and intellectual stimulation amidst the pressures of running Tesla and SpaceX. Their time together often involved late-night philosophical discussions about AI, space colonization, and the potential existential risks of unchecked technological advancement. Musk, known for his relentless work ethic, found moments of respite in Grimes' company, whether through casual trips to his Tesla factory or through her avant-garde artistic endeavors, which intrigued him. Unlike his previous relationships, which were often shaped by traditional dynamics, his connection with Grimes was marked by an eccentric synergy that blurred the lines between creativity, technology, and personal companionship.

However, their relationship was far from smooth, as their highly publicized romance attracted media scrutiny and controversy. The presence of figures like Azealia Banks, who became entangled in their personal matters, led to dramatic social media conflicts that played out in the public eye. These incidents highlighted the challenges of maintaining a high-profile relationship under constant media surveillance, with both

Musk and Grimes struggling to balance their private lives with their public personas. Despite the turbulence, Grimes' influence on Musk remained evident, as she continued to introduce him to alternative perspectives and artistic expressions that diverged from his usual circles of tech entrepreneurs and engineers.

Beyond their romantic involvement, Grimes' impact on Musk extended to the broader cultural and technological discourse surrounding their relationship. She embodied a fusion of artistic innovation and futurist ideologies that aligned with Musk's grand ambitions for artificial intelligence, space exploration, and human augmentation. Their relationship was emblematic of the evolving relationship between technology and creativity, as they both sought to push the boundaries of what was possible in their respective fields. Whether collaborating on ideas for AI-driven music or engaging in conversations about post-humanism, their interactions illustrated the intersection of art and science in ways rarely seen in high-profile relationships.

As time passed, their relationship evolved, with both individuals recognizing the need for independence while maintaining a mutual respect for each other's work. Despite their eventual romantic split, their bond persisted in different forms, particularly through their shared commitment to co-parenting their children. Musk, often perceived as an unemotional figure in the business world, showed glimpses of vulnerability in his relationship with Grimes, revealing a side of him that was rarely seen in public. This period in Musk's life underscored the complexities of balancing personal relationships with professional ambitions, as he navigated the fine line between technological revolution and emotional fulfillment.

In many ways, the relationship between Musk and Grimes symbolized the convergence of science, art, and philosophy, encapsulating both the promise and challenges of living at the forefront of innovation. It was a union that defied conventional norms, challenging traditional expectations of how the worlds of tech and music could intertwine. Their time together, though tumultuous, left an undeniable imprint on each other's lives, influencing their perspectives on creativity, artificial intelligence, and the ever-evolving landscape of human relationships in the digital age.