
DELUSIONS
OF
GRANDEUR

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You don't know me. I am not famous. There is no particular reason for you to read this or care about what I have to say.

But somewhere inside there is something that burns, has always burned; and there is a part of me that knows, in the most vague yet profound of ways, that this is a very important thing.

So this needs to be said, and so I will Delusions of Grandeur try to say it.

Every day I walk in off the Main and down the two short steps. The place is all post-industrial/nouveau bohemian hipster. Concrete walls and funky little Delusions of Grandeur tables. I stand at the doorway with my shoulder bag hanging across my chest and scope out the scene, looking for the best spot to grab a seat.

But it's all an act.

I thank the guy for the tall espresso and crack a few one-liners with him. I'm a regular here. Great coffee and cool tunes and the right kinda crowd. They know what's up. These people sitting around me, they could be my friends, could be my brethren.

But it never happens.

Because this is where I really want to be. Where I need Delusions of Grandeur to be. Sitting here alone, in the back of a café. Out here all on my own.

This is what monks used to do. Monks. These men Delusions of Grandeur of faith would give up all their worldly possessions and leave their comfortable lives, climbing to secluded mountaintops so they could be away from the world, alone and pure. In search of Delusions of Grandeur revelation, clarity, redemption.

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That is me. Well, the revelation part for sure. Want that. Clarity too.

But I'm no monk. I don't take the easy road. I ain't soft like that. I don't cop out like those followers did. No way. I sit here right in the middle of it all. I don't run to the hills. I don't run from anything. Don't put it out of sight so that it can be out of mind. That would be too painless. No, I stay right here. A fake, a double agent, an active member Delusions of Grandeur and yet a constant reject – taking it in the Delusions of Grandeur face every fucking day.

Now *that's* sacrifice.

So I'm in the back corner of this café with my earphones on, hunched over my laptop. I blend right in. Nobody knows what I'm up to.

Sometimes when I'm feeling upbeat, or Delusions of Grandeur after a strong coffee, I'll tell myself that this is okay. That this is good. Not a waste of time at all. I will then feel motivated and inspired. I'll tell myself that this is about doing what you can. That it's about giving a shit. And how, if you break it down far enough, that is the only thing any of us can really do. The only way anything Delusions of Grandeur will change. Because we are both mother and child, cause and effect, villain and victim.

You see, I have gone underground. Delusions of Grandeur That's what all this is. Going on three-and-a-half years now.

Nobody knows exactly what I've been up to, just that I spend a lot of my free Delusions of Grandeur time in coffee shops "working on something."

It has been grueling. A marathon. And I am a tortoise. An insecure but passionate tortoise. Moving forward ever so slowly, hoping that sure and steady may one day win the race.

I have started and restarted a dozen times, deleted entire files, thrown out a full year of work in embarrassment and disgust. Living and rooting in my own filth, I have descended to very dark, very lonely places; telling myself that I am full of it and that I am trying wayyy too hard and that really, like who the hell do I think I am.

But still I persist.

Because I know now that there is nowhere else for me to go. Been there, done all that. No acting like nothing's wrong. No pretending that I'm cool with the way things are. No running and stumbling to any next stage.

So I sit here and fight the good fight.

Speak until one day I am heard.

Stand arms outstretched. Delusions of Grandeur Stare the sun down. Swallow poison. Scream my lungs out until it fills this room.

Even if it's in the dark. Even if I'm tucked far away in the back and nobody can hear me but me. Even if, in the end, it doesn't make much of a difference.

My story is becoming an old one. Went to school, got a diploma, got a job, and now, suddenly, here I am.

In my wallet I have a credit card with a balance that never seems to get any lower. If I go back far enough, if I call my credit card company and ask them for a summary, I will find the history of my last ten years, accruing interest.

Sometimes I walk around the city. I'll get myself excited about some errand I have to run – the video store, Delusions of Grandeur the pharmacy. I'll get dressed and then hit the streets, taking the long way, walking slowly around my neighborhood, pretending that I'm not secretly waiting and wishing for that certain something to happen. The way it does in the movies.

From the outside I look like any other guy.

After college I got a job and started working. This new career had absolutely nothing to do with my degree.

With the money from this job I leased a nice new car and thought it was really great. Delusions of Grandeur I paid my taxes and contributed to a retirement fund. Planned for my next vacation. Set up monthly bill payments to be automatically withdrawn from my account.

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