

Original Character

Vincent Placard slumps over a little when he shuffles around. His posture is his reward for over fifty years of conducting experiments and leaning over electron microscopes. He is a short 5'6" man of Russian and German descent, with a little pouch for a belly. He wears thick glasses and is partially blind with 60% vision in his right eye, and that is the good one. He is completely deaf in his left ear, but that is ok with him, because that is normally where his annoying lab assistants stand. Both of his pinky toes do not touch the ground, so he has to be very careful going up and down steps. Vincent loves raisins and hates fancy restaurants and rude people.

His father was a pharmacist and his mother was a psychologist. Vincent is the world's most highly regarded Quantum Chemist and Theoretical Subatomic Physicist. At the age of seventy-two, he became the only person to ever receive a third Nobel Prize. In 2099, he won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry and in 2105 and again in 2108, he won the Nobel Prize in Physics for his research and development of the Chronos XI. For years, he has received countless awards and accolades from all over the globe and from the United Council of Nations for his work on Chronoscism, a science that he discovered which deals with manipulating time. He had finally achieved his greatest feat and the greatest invention ever known to humankind, the creation of a device that allowed time travel to be a reality. One would think that Mr. Placard would be on top of the world as a three-time Nobel Prize winner with enough awards to fill up a warehouse, but he has no true happiness.

It had taken him over forty years, working tirelessly and endlessly, day and night, with little to no social contact outside of his laboratory grounds to complete his Chronos Device. His eleventh try was successful. Unfortunately, his debt was astronomical and the United Council of Nations started to question the ethics of such a device. He wondered why they were changing their minds now. Perhaps they never thought it would actually work. However, Vincent was an extremely ethical man, and had never planned or wanted to use the device as a way to interrupt history, at least nothing in a history book. He had even helped write the Ten Codes of Historical Observation, which were the laws to be followed if time travel was ever successful. His goal was to travel back in time to observe history in its truest state so that future generations would have the best historical information available. Rule number one was to never interrupt or alter the course of history.

No one knew however, that Vincent carried with him a dark torment. It was always inside his inner jacket pocket and in the form of an old yellowed newspaper clipping from The Boston Globe with the 2068 headline "Young Woman Killed in Car Crash." The woman was Lora Trousdale. She was twenty-eight when she died tragically on Vincent's birthday. She was his first and only love. He had just turned thirty-two when they were having a simple birthday meal at a small diner in Cambridge, Massachusetts. They had been dating since they were high school sweethearts and recently, she had put pressure on him to settle down, start a family, and to stop working so much. He learned how to be emotionally unavailable from his father who was rarely home and left Vincent's mother on Vincent's thirteenth birthday.

Lora and Vincent's quarrel caused her to storm out of the diner and to her untimely death. This is the moment that Vincent traveled back in time to prevent. That night had haunted him for forty years. Nothing brought him pleasure except the thought of going back in time, and he did just that. He was able to convince his younger self to go through with the proposal that was originally planned that night. The younger Vincent had a ring in his pocket, but was afraid to go through with it. This time was different, he proposed and she accepted. As the couple exited the diner, the older Vincent sat nearby, staring down at the old newspaper clipping. He heard a loud crash and people scream. As the headline changed to read "Young Lovers Killed in Car Crash," a tear dropped from Vincent's eye onto the newspaper. Vincent disappeared, as if he never existed. Vincent is a man who believed that a few minutes with the one you truly love is more important than a life full of regret.