

CHUCK

by

J. Edwin Bishop

The scene opens with Chuck sitting at a table near the front of the stage while a mysterious looking man sits at a table near the back of the stage. Chuck looks nervous and is

drinking a cup of coffee. Chuck addresses the audience.

CHUCK

Hey. My name's Chuck. I work for the Nerd Herd at the local Buy More and up until recently I was just you're regular run of the mill geek. I live with my sister, have no real plans for my future and spend most of my time hanging out with my best friend Marshall. But then my old college roommate, Bryce Larkin, sent me something called the intersect and now it's stuck in my head. We don't really know how it works, but sometimes I get flashes of things that I didn't know I knew before, like with this guy sitting back here. I'm eating my lunch when suddenly WHAM, I know he's Alexy Spotnov, a Russian geneticist who makes the butcher of Prague look like Ghandi. He spent the last three years actually doing what everyone spends all this time arguing about, namely cloning another human being. Now I'm stuck in this coffee shop, trying to casually call Sarah so she can show up and rescue me like she always does. Oh, yeah, Sarah is my CIA handler who I'm also kind of in love with. I have an NSA handler, too, his name's Casey. Him, I'm not so much in love with. I was hoping that Sarah would show up in the last (checks watch) six minutes I've been sitting here pretending not to know who Spotnov is, but I'm either going to pass out or piss myself if I don't do something right now.

Chuck chugs his coffee, stands to leave, looks a little woozy and grabs for the table.

CHUCK

I guess I'm going to pass out.

Chuck falls to the ground unconscious. Spotnov stands and approaches him menacingly as the lights go out. When the lights come back on, Sarah is holding Chuck's head in her lap while Casey surveys the area.

CHUCK

Wha...What's going on?

SARAH

I don't know, Chuck, you tell me. You called and didn't leave a message, then

Casey and I tracked your phone to find  
you lying here in the coffee shop,  
unconscious with this patch on your arm.

Chuck is obviously still quite woozy from whatever caused  
him to pass out, which appears to be more than just fear at  
the point.

CHUCK  
You're so cute.

SARAH  
Thanks, Chuck, but can you tell us what  
happened?

CHUCK  
Morgan and me, we used to go to this  
house out on Essex street. 1234 Essex.  
We'd play superhero and we'd always save  
the girl in the end so she could fall in  
love with us.

SARAH  
Focus, Chuck. What happened?

CASEY  
What's he saying?

SARAH  
It's nothing but gibberish, I think he's  
been drugged.

CHUCK  
I always kind of secretly wanted to save  
the day, risk my life for the good of  
mankind and all that.

SARAH  
I don't think he's going to be of much  
help here, can you help me get him up,  
Casey, and we'll get him back to Buy  
More?

CASEY  
Come on, Chuck, play time's over.

Casey and Sarah lift Chuck up and help him out as the lights  
go out. The lights come up and there is a couch facing the  
audience that Chuck is sitting on, with Sarah next to him  
and Casey pacing behind them. The NSA director's voice can  
be heard talking to them (from off stage, she talks to them  
through a television set at Buy More in a listening lounge).

NSA DIRECTOR  
What have we discovered, Casey?

CASEY

Chuck says that he spotted Alexy Spotnov in the coffee shop shortly before passing out. We believe Spotnov drugged him and then took a sample of Chuck's DNA with him.

CHUCK

We don't suspect, I've got a chunk out of my arm missing here.

Chuck rubs the bandage on his arm.

NSA DIRECTOR

What could they want with his DNA?

CASEY

We're not sure.

Casey is interrupted by Chuck.

CHUCK

Alexy Spotnov managed to clone the first fully formed and functioning human being last year. All he needs is a small sample of DNA in order to replicate and man, woman or child alive.

NSA DIRECTOR

How long does this take?

CHUCK

He's perfected the process and can grow a fully matured human clone in about a day. He could have his very own me by this time tomorrow.

CASEY

Wrong, cowboy. You were out for most of the night. He could have his very own Chuck right now.

NSA DIRECTOR

And his very own intersect.

Evil Chuck, Spotnov and International Espionage enter from back stage.

EVIL CHUCK

That's exactly right, director. Our own intersect and our own mission to accomplish. Alexy has recruited me to his side and together we've surmised a plan to make millions. Unfortunately, news of my existence needs to be kept on a need to know basis, and I don't really need anyone else knowing.

International Espionage begins to move in. Casey and Sarah take up defensive positions.

SARAH  
Who the hell are these guys, Casey?

CASEY  
I don't know!

CHUCK  
They're International Espionage. There was originally just four of them, but Spatnov has been cloning them and growing his own personal army.

SPOTNOV  
Take them now!

International Espionage swoops in and some fighting starts. The lights go out and more fighting noises are heard. When the lights come back up, two of International Espionage are laying on the ground and a Chuck is lying dead in Sarah's arms, with Casey standing over them. We assume it's Chuck, but it's actually Evil Chuck while Chuck has assumed his place with the villains.

SARAH  
Nooo!

CASEY  
Is he all right, Sarah?

SARAH  
He's barely breathing, Casey.

Chuck, Espionage and Spotnov back towards offstage.

CHUCK  
(now pretending to be Evil Chuck)  
That's what I get for trying to be the hero and risking my life for mankind. I guess we were More-gan you bargained for.

Chuck laughs uncomfortably as he, Spotnov and the remaining members of International Espionage exit the stage. Casey bends down to check on Chuck.

CASEY  
Do you think we can get him to a hospital.

SARAH  
It doesn't matter, Casey, that was the real Chuck that just left with Spotnov

and Espionage.

CASEY

What? How do you know?

SARAH

Something he said to me when we found him at the coffee shop. About saving the world.

CASEY

That idiots going to get us all killed.

Casey stands and runs after Chuck, Spotnov and Espionage.

SARAH

I think I know where he's going, though.

The lights go out. The lights come up and Sarah is sitting on the couch while Casey paces behind her.

NSA DIRECTOR

How could you let Chuck fall into the hands of the enemy?

CASEY

(snidely) You'll have to ask Sarah, here.

SARAH

I didn't realize it right away, but I think Chuck saw when his evil clone fell and decided to take his place to determine what they were doing.

NSA DIRECTOR

But how is he going to contact us?

SARAH

That's the thing, I don't think he can. But I think I know where he's taking them.

CASEY

How could you know that?

SARAH

Because when he told me about saving the world yesterday, he also told me about an old house that he and Morgan used to play at when they were kids. At 1234 Essex.

CASEY

But how do you know he'd bring them there?

SARAH

Because right after he talked about himself saving the world today, he said they were "more-gan we bargained for".

CASEY

I just assumed that was Chuck stumbling over his own words again.

SARAH

I think he was trying to tell me where they were heading.

NSA DIRECTOR

It's more of a lead than anything else we have. Casey, some operatives are on their way, check out this 1234 Essex.

SARAH

But what about me? Chuck needs my help!

NSA DIRECTOR

We'll talk about whether or not you'll even be a field agent after letting the intersect fall out of your hands today. Casey.

CASEY

Right, I'm on it.

Casey leaves the room and Sarah looks sad and dejected on the couch. The lights go out. The lights come up and Chuck and Spotnov are sitting at a table, while four members of International Espionage are standing guard around them.

SPOTNOV

But why would you bring us here, comrade?

CHUCK

Um, well, I'm not sure what my good self told them about you. The intersect knows all of your safehouses in area, so we couldn't trust any of them.

SPOTNOV

But what is this place?

CHUCK

I used to come here when I was a kid with my friend. It wouldn't be in any files about me, we never told our parents.

SPOTNOV

Who's we?

CHUCK

My friend Morgan and I.

SPOTNOV

Then this Morgan is a security risk. We must eliminate him.

Spotnov gestures to two members of International Espionage and they step forward.

CHUCK

No, no, it's fine. Morgan probably doesn't even remember this place, not to mention his stunning lack of ability to help in any way resembling useful in the past.

SPOTNOV

What matters this Morgan to you, anyway? He's not your friend, just your dead clone's comrade. His death is inconsequential outside of keeping our whereabouts a secret.

CHUCK

That's true, but...

Chuck struggles for a response when Casey suddenly rushes in with guns drawn.

CASEY

Everybody, hands in the air! We've got the building surrounded!

CHUCK

Oh, I love you Casey. (In a thank god he got me out of this way)

SPOTNOV

What is this!?! Espionage, attack! And you, traitor, you're not Evil Chuck. You're just Chuck!

Espionage moves in, the lights go out, there's more fighting noises, the lights come up and two of Espionage are once again lying on the floor, with the other two holding Casey hostage. Chuck is sitting in a chair while Spotnov holds a gun at him.

SPOTNOV

Take this one out back and kill him (referring to Casey). I'll deal with our "comrade" here.



Espionage escort Casey from the stage as Spotnov speaks with Chuck.

SPOTNOV

You really thought your ploy to bring your friends here would work? All I have to do is take another sample of DNA from you and in 24 hours we will be back on schedule and you, my friend, you will be dead.

CHUCK

You know you don't really have to kill me. I mean, what if Evil Chuck 2 dies, uh, too. How are you going to make Evil Chuck 3 without me.

SPOTNOV

It is no problem. I will just take several samples of you now, enough to make all of the evil Chuck's I will ever need.

CHUCK

Huh. I was hoping you wouldn't think of that.

SPOTNOV

Well, my friend. It looks like your time is up. Be saying hello to evil Chuck for me when you see him shortly.

Chuck closes his eyes and a gunshot goes off, but it is Spotnov that falls to the ground, clutching his chest. Sarah enters the room with Casey right behind her, doing a sweep of the area to make sure no more agents of International Espionage are about. Chuck opens one eye, feels his chest, opens the other and sees Sarah.

SARAH

Are you all right, Chuck?

CHUCK

I thought I was supposed to be the one saving the day.

SARAH

Yeah, well, maybe not enough male fantasies end with the heroine doing the saving.

CHUCK

Oh, I've had plenty of those, too.

Chuck stands and he, Sarah and Casey exit the room. The

lights go out.