

## **Devolving The Scientist**

By Soul-Controller

For over three years, Dexter Michaels and Richard Phillips had worked tirelessly in the bunker of a military lab. While their closest friends and family believed that they were simply working on creating special protein bars that could satisfy hungry soldiers stuck in the trenches, the reality was that the duo was tasked with creating the ultimate biological weapon for the United States.

The reason behind each man's employment for the program differed significantly. While the lanky and nerdy Dexter was employed solely due to the fact that the government was willing to fund his thesis project and his own desire to be considered a modern legend in the scientific industry, Richard had only really signed up to oversee the project due to the massive pay rate from the combined funding of the government and a private company entitled S-C LLC along with the potential upgrade to his career if the project was successful.

Despite his bulky and muscular physique due to a solid gym regime, Richard was a total pacifist who had no real desire to help assist the government cause further trouble for the world at large. But given how hard he had been struggling to make ends meet when the position was offered to him, Richard found himself willingly making a deal with a metaphorical devil. Add in the fact that he hoped the success of the project would assist Richard in getting funding for his research that was attempting to combat climate change and create sustainable living for future generations, the man found even more reason to temporarily go against his morals due to the pros far outweighing this one con.



Just a week after the third anniversary of the project beginning, Dexter had suddenly interrupted Richard's lunch in hysterics, instructing the man to call their superiors and inform them that the project was finally operational. Despite his own disinterest in the de-evolution ray that he had taken part in creating, Richard couldn't help but smile widely as he gave the thumbs up and began to head to their office to call their superiors. Finally after years of having government officials constantly hovering over them and

demanding faster progress the ray was complete! As he began to anxiously tap his fingers against his wood desk while waiting to reach his superiors, Richard's mind once again pondered the ethics of what they had seemingly created.

The de-evolution ray was the United States government's attempt at trying to stop the nuclear war from progressing to apocalyptic levels. With a simple zap of the ray, soldiers from opposing armies would find themselves undergoing a transformation that sent them down the evolutionary chart until they were too dumb to operate any weapons or heavy machinery. Although there would certainly be complaints from pacifists like Richard about the loss of humanity that opposing armies would face, the government believed the counter argument of stating that their weapon prevented a catastrophic loss of life would be viewed more positively in their citizens' eyes.

As Richard remained on the phone in an attempt to get ahold of their superiors, Dexter was standing in the testing area with a look of pure elation. Despite being confident in his own intelligence as a certified genius, the man had grown increasingly unsure of his de-evolution ray idea. But as he looked at a nearby table to stare at the prototype weapon, he couldn't help but scold himself for being so unsure of himself. Stuck in the large cage in front of him was a primate, although 10 minutes prior it had been a human man by the name of Caleb. After getting caught attempting to steal from a general store a few weeks back, the poor teenager had been forced to sign up for community service at his local police district. Unfortunately for the 18-year-old, all current volunteer work was full and a new slot as a "volunteer" for the government's nearby lab was the only available option besides jail time. Upon heading into the facility and descending down the elevator to the top secret lab, the man was shocked to find himself shoved into a cage and wheeled out to the lanky and bespectacled nerd. Despite his attempts to resist, Dexter's gun worked like a charm as it hit the unfortunate soul and devolved him into a primate.

Before his eyes, Dexter watched as his test subject frantically flailed around and let out animalistic grunts and oops. While the man originally thought that the de-evolution ray would keep their minds intact, a series of quick tests to figure the brand new primate's IQ proved that this wasn't the case. Along with the body, the mind also devolved into a lesser state that had little knowledge beyond simple knowledge on how to eat, sleep, and mate.

As Dexter held the gun in his hands and looked over towards his buff and attractive co-worker, the nerd deviously smiled as he quickly began to formulate a revenge plan. Throughout the several years of working together, Dexter had harbored an intense loathing towards Richard. Not only was the guy much more attractive and confident than

Dexter was (at least when it came to being out in public talking to normal people), but he also wasn't afraid of debating with Dexter and that truly enraged the hard-headed nerd. He was a literal certified genius and it was annoying that he was forced to share credit with a man who didn't even want to create the weapon in the first place!

Knowing how society worked, the realization that Richard would surely garner the most attention due to his top-tier good looks and suave personality filled the hard-working and psychotic nerd with rage. Although he was appreciative of the man's assistance throughout the several years of working together, Dexter found himself realizing that life would be better for him if his invention was revealed to be a solo project. As such, the man secretly placed the gun in his lab coat pocket and began to make his way over towards Richard.

Just as Richard finished up the call and hung the phone up, the attractive man watched as his co-worker finally entered his office. "Oh hey there Dex," he said, accidentally saying the nickname that had always enraged the nerd ever since their first day of working together. "I just got off the phone with headquarters and General Hayes said he'll call back in the next hour or so to set up a time to demonstrate the weapon," he responded, flashing a sweet smile in his co-worker's direction.

"Good, I can't wait to show him the results," Dexter said, faking a happy smile as the man pulled out the gun and attempted his best Vanna White in terms of showing it off.

"Oh shit, that's the final prototype you came up with? It looks great! The gray color decision was a nice design choice," Richard responded, leaning against his desk as he attempted to get a better look at the weapon. "We're gonna be so rich from this!"

"Yep, we're going to be quite wealthy when we make this public," Dexter continued, putting on his best performance as he pretended as if Richard was going to end the work day with his humanity intact. "You want to know the specifics of how it works?"

Upon watching Richard enthusiastically nod his head, Dexter continued to grin as he attempted to give a hypothetical demonstration. "Alright, so when you use it, any subjects need to be within a six foot radius," he began, taking a few steps closer towards the still-seated man until he was easily within that range. "Then, once you're there, you just point it," he started, lifting the gun up, "and shoot." To punctuate his sentence, Dexter then held the weapon out with both hands wrapped around it so it was pointed directly at Richard.

For a moment, Richard simply laughed and said “oh cool” about the demonstration, but as Dexter’s smile faded and the gun remained pointed directly at him, his enthusiasm quickly faded away. “Uh, Dexter, what are you doing,” he asked, his voice beginning to tremble as the gravity of the situation became apparent.

Immediately watching as his co-worker began to stutter and sweat profusely, Dexter couldn’t help but let out a maniacal laugh that reverberated through the small walls of Richard’s office. “Sorry Richard, but I can’t have you sharing the spotlight with me. I need all of the fame and glory, especially since I’m the **real** genius between the both of us,” he coldly said, not even giving Richard a chance to respond before pulling the trigger. “Consider this a demotion,” he said with a smile, watching as the bright blue ray suddenly shot out of the weapon and hit the hunky man directly in the chest.

As soon as the ray made contact with his skin, Richard was suddenly overcome with a plethora of sensations. Immediately, warm and fuzzy sensations permeated through his chest before slowly rippling out through the rest of his body. Although he wanted so badly to sit up and fight against his two-faced co-worker, the gun had an intended side effect of temporarily leaving the subjects of the weapon dazed and unable to think properly. Although the feelings running through his head and body were reminiscent of a top-tier hangover, the horrifying realization of his eventual fate along with the sudden shortening of breath as if he had been sucker punched prevented him from really savoring the calming sensations.

Although he knew deep down that he needed to get out of that office and find help before it was too late, Richard found his body and mind disobeying him. It was as if the man was a passenger in his own body as it refused to cooperate with his desire to stand up or formulate an escape plan. In fact, the man soon found that his attempts at regaining control seemed to only put a heavier fog over his thoughts that left him struggling to formulate the simplest of thoughts. In horror and confusion over what was happening to him, Richard could feel tears beginning to run down his eyes as he looked up at the smirking face of his co-worker turned enemy.

“Shhhh, don’t worry about anything Richard,” Dexter said in a clearly snarky tone. “Just be a good little ape and let the changes wash all over you. You’re smart enough to realize that there’s no way to stop what’s happening to you,” he continued before suddenly stopping and shifting his face into an expression of deep thought. “Wait, you **are** still smart enough to get what I’m saying right? I know you’re going to become a total idiot eventually, I just don’t know how long it takes before all of those smarts of yours are gone forever.”

Upon hearing Dexter so happy while making fun of his impending intelligence loss, Richard couldn't help but clench his teeth in frustration and grunt in pure rage. Unsure of how long it would be before he had fully lost all of his intelligence and became a simple primate, the man took a quick trip down memory lane to recall his life as an intelligent hunk. All of those years of hard work and graduating at the top of his class in both high school and college would all amount to nothing in the span of a few minutes, which left him continuing to shed tears due to just how unfair life was. Not only was he getting betrayed by his co-worker solely due to jealousy but he was also going to miss out on the chance to achieve his dreams of helping combat climate change and make life easier for future generations.

While Richard was struggling to recall his memories and plans of how he was going to change the world, Dexter watched with wide eyes as the first physical changes began to manifest. From underneath the man's attire that was composed of a plaid dress shirt, black dress pants and a lab coat, dark brown fur was quickly pushing forth and completely covering up his body. Although the increased heat from the fur growth underneath his shirt was momentarily noticed by Richard, his determined mindset about recollecting his life overtook that bizarre sensation. This was hilarious to Dexter though as he watched as the man's torso seemingly began to finish its fur growth as he watched the fur beginning to spread down his arms and up his neck.

"Damn, I didn't realize how hairy you were Richard. I should have gotten you a razor at the last holiday party," Dexter said with a chuckle, breaking the man out of his daze and causing him to look around in confusion. Upon doing so, the man screamed out in shock as he looked at the dark brown pelage that was covering up practically every inch of his body.

"Fuck... you..." Richard said, his words slurring and struggling to fully come across due to the effects of the ray. Immediately, Dexter chuckled as he heard just how dopey the formerly confident man's voice was now sounding. Although Richard wanted to say so much more, his attention and thus all of his brain power was suddenly devoted to the realization that his body was beginning to shrink.

Looking down at his body in shock, the man watched as his body was clearly shrinking and growing smaller than his normal 6'2" stature. Not only that, but it was also clear that his muscular physique was fading away until he was simply a slightly toned man! While it was clear based on the slight discomfort he felt from his bones grinding together and shrinking as a result, the visual sight of seeing his pants beginning to bunch at the ankles along with his sleeves growing closer towards his forearms was the biggest way for the dopey soon-to-be primate to realize what was occurring. As he continued to

watch himself shrink down past 4', the man couldn't mentally curse his stars due to how the universe was playing the cruelest possible joke on him. Life truly wasn't fair!

To add to the horror of what he was going through, Richard looked down and caused his jaw to drop at the sight of his arms. Upon pulling on the baggier sleeves of his lab coat so he could see his hands again, the man was terrified to see what had become of his hands. Given the fact that he used to be a man who frequently groomed and refused to allow his facial hair to grow beyond fresh stubble, the thick patches of dark and wiry fur that was running along his forearms and against the back of his wider hands. Moving one hand to feel the still-growing fur, the man gagged in disgust at how thick and awful it felt. While he wanted so badly to believe that this was some lucid nightmare that he was going through, the man would never find himself waking up in a cold sweat like he so desperately longed for.

"Fuck me huh? You better watch who you're talking to, monkey boy," Dexter warned, leaning closer towards the devolving ape to showcase just how larger the human now was. As he did so, the man stifled his chuckle as he watched Richard's ears beginning to grow on the sides of his head. "I've got countless connections here and I can easily make sure you either stay here as a permanent test subject for the government or end up in some dirty circus to be their low-rate performer. I'm sure I can get some ringleader to pay a pretty penny for a human-turned-monkey experience," he proposed, immediately causing Richard's eyes to raise in alarm.

Upon finishing hearing the human speak, it took Richard a minute or two before he was able to fully comprehend what Dexter had said to him. His mind was growing slower by the minute, with the biggest struggle coming when it came to hearing and comprehending English. So by the time the man had finally gotten around to hearing and realizing what Dexter was saying, Richard was terrified not only due to his words but also at the realization that his brain was becoming much more simple and primitive. Before long, he knew that the primate mentality would eventually take over and cause all of the last vestiges of his humanity to finally fade away forever.

Although this was a horrifying concept to envision, Richard was even more terrified when it came to attempting to figure out how the remainder of his life would play out. Despite how embarrassing it must be to be gawked at 24/7, the man couldn't help but mentally wish that he could end up at a zoo where he would be properly taken care of and treated with respect. But given how conniving and cruel Dexter was, he knew that it was never going to happen. As such, the man pondered the potential homes proposed and tried to figure out what would be the best option. While the concept of becoming some performing animal at a zoo that would surely be abused to make sure he

performed as his owners wanted was terrifying, it was also scary to envision a life as an animal test subject for the government. His limited remaining knowledge recalled the rumors he heard of private programs that were being ran on other floors in the facility, so the concept of somehow being experimented on and ending up as something worse was a fearful notion.

While he wanted to continue traveling down this train of thought, Richard's shorter attention span suddenly derailed his train of thought as he recalled how Dexter looked at his head and chuckled. Knowing that there was a slight tingling sensation near his head, Richard took a moment to gingerly move his hairier hands up to his ears. As he did this and felt the altered shape of his ears, the man gasped in shock (although it now came out as a loud ooh which left Dexter quite amused).

The shock of the deep and animalistic noise that came out of his mouth caused Richard to momentarily lose focus over what was occurring to him. As a result, his unshielded mind was suddenly assaulted with severe regression that began to alter everything about him. All at once, the man's impressive vocabulary and grammar skills were dwindling down to a bare minimum level. In an instant, he was left with simple speech and broken sentences to the point where the simple thought of "need help" was enough to make him break a sweat due to the sheer willpower necessary.

Unfortunately, this dwindling intelligence soon provided a perfect opportunity for the animalistic instincts of a primate to take up space in his near-vacant mind. Deep down, this led to intense alterations towards the man's connection between his primate-like body. Although he could recall the notion of somehow standing and walking for long periods of time on two feet, the man found comfort in the visual of walking on all fours and using the brand new tail which had been quietly sprouting beneath the fabric prison of his pants.

While the man soon became distracted by his still-growing tail and thus began to sit up out of his chair in hopes of pulling it out of his pants, Dexter was given an up-close look at how the rest of his body was changing. By this point, his height had dwindled down to a miniscule 2' stature so the simple notion of standing up on the seat of his chair allowed Richard's clothing to suddenly fall down and reveal the nude monkey in all of its glory.

Now without the hindrance of clothing, Dexter observed the thick black fur which now traversed across all of Richard's neck, back, chest, and legs. Although the man's socks were still stuck onto the brand new primate's feet, it was clear that they had adopted a primate-like appearance that would allow him to swing through trees with ease.

Unfortunately for Richard though, Dexter had no intention of allowing Richard to enjoy his new animal life and experience that type of thrill.

Continuing to watch as Richard's fur moved up to his face in one quick swoop, Dexter couldn't help but chuckle as the man's gorgeous facial features began to alter and become more ape-like and rugged. Although it was clear that the new monkey was horrified over this last major change due to the way that it grunted and ooked while running its paws along its visage, the dumb monkey was too dumb to do anything about it and that filled Dexter with intense joy as it meant that he had finally won and gotten rid of his biggest competitor.

While Dexter continued to widely smirk and watch as the monkey on the office chair began to move around to get acquainted with its new form, the last remnants of Richard's personality were going out with a bang. Upon realizing that his face had finally changed and solidified his transformation into a primate, the agitated sounds of a monkey instinctively rang up. Given the fact that he could no longer speak English nor comprehend it, the man felt no real shame for making his voice heard in such an aggressive and loud way. In his opinion, Dexter deserved worse than just simply hearing the loud series of grunts and growls that were coming out of his mouth!

Upon looking down to take a look at itself, the brand new monkey grunted as it realized that it looked just like the countless test subjects he had been forced to test out the de-evolution gun on over the past three years. The concept was horrifying, especially given how small and helpless he felt due to how Dexter towered over him and how large everything in the office felt now.

Angry and wanting to lash out over how frustrated the former human felt about this new size difference, the primate acted impulsively as it grabbed onto a stapler on the desk and chucked it at the still-smirking scientist. Upon letting go of the item and watching as it rapidly soared through the air, the monkey ooked in shock due to just how strong it now felt. Although there was a faint memory that made him believe that he had been even stronger earlier today, the specifics were quite vague and the primate had no idea what was going on with its head.

Looking up as it realized that the scientist had run out of the room in shock from the thrown item and slammed the door, the monkey smiled and scratched its armpits. It didn't know why but it had this deep hatred for the lanky and gross-looking man. The primate didn't know why it was so afraid though because it could easily overpower the man if it needed to come to that.



As a sudden pang of hunger hit the animal's stomach, it quickly jumped up from the chair and onto the wood desk that had once been its work station. By this point though, every memory and personality trait relating to Richard had been erased and left a clueless yet aggressive primate in its place. This was especially obvious as the primate opted to ignore the half-eaten sandwich sitting on the desk and instead jumped to grab onto the unopened banana sitting on the desk. Upon easily using its strength to peel open the banana, the monkey enthusiastically ooked as it devoured the fruit.

Being a primate was damn great and the brand new monkey was excited for what else it could do while the random human was gone. As it sat there in a rare moment of thought though, a distant memory of a bright and silver object in the human's pocket came to mind. Like a little kid, the primate couldn't help but ponder how great it would be to wrestle it away from the human and play with it...