

DREAMS OF ELYSIUM
(OPENING SEQUENCE)

Written by
Oliver O'Connor

INT. KYROS'S BEDROOM - NEW YORK - EVENING

KYROS (16), an athletic second-generation Greek kid, is standing, clutching his CRUCIFIX CHAIN with both hands - eyes closed, gritting his teeth.

He's covered in fresh cuts and bruises.

His cheap looking closed are dirty and ripped.

The TV can be heard playing in the background. A strong, deep voice talks about Greek mythology with the appropriate accompanying sound effects.

INT. KYROS'S MIND - CONTINUOUS

In the DARKNESS of Kyros's mind, he sees a SMALL WHITE SHIMMERING LIGHT.

The sound of the TV is muted now as if it is playing in another room.

INT. KYROS'S BEDROOM - RESUMING

Kyros mutters an angry prayer under his breath.

The volume of the TV returns.

Knocking at a door can be heard from downstairs.

INT. KYROS'S MIND - CONTINUOUS

The light in Kyros's mind begins to flicker.

The TV sounds are muted again, and the knocking sound continues but muffled.

The light becomes dull and faint

INT. KYROS'S BEDROOM - RESUMING

Kyros opens his eyes and huffs.

He walks over to the window of his small bedroom, opens it and leans out.

Standing on the sidewalk is AJAX (20), a tall, muscular second-generation Greek guy. He wears also wears cheap, ill-fitting clothes.

His behaviour is shifty. He's looking over his shoulders and concealing something in his sweater.

AJAX
Hurry up! Let me in.

INT. KYROS'S BEDROOM - A MINUTE LATER

With one hand, Ajax wipes away the magazines, snack wrappers and Dragon Ball Z toys from Kyros's desk, and with the other, he slams a handgun against its surface, followed by another after withdrawing it from his pants.

AJAX
I followed them. I know where they are. I know where they hang. We're going to wait until its dark, then ambush 'em. Come up behind them and fill those motherfuckers with lead.

Kyros looks concerned, he turns his head away from Ajax.

On the wall are posters of wrestlers like John Cena and CM Punk. Pre 2010 Rappers too, like Dr Dre, Lil Wayne and Eminem.

AJAX (CONT'D)
What?

Ajax grabs Kyros's shoulder.

AJAX (CONT'D)
Look at me, man! We're doing this, okay?

Kyros shakes his head but still fearful of Ajax's reaction.

KYROS
I don't know, man. We should probably tell the police.

Ajax's face drops in pure incredulity.

AJAX
Are you fucking kidding me? The police? If we tell the police we're dead. Do you understand? He'll come after us. Or he'll send someone else to. There's no point telling the cops.

KYROS

Then... maybe... maybe we should
just let it go.

Ajax's face fills up with a quiet rage.

AJAX

You'd be happy to let it go knowing
the pain he's caused to you?
Knowing the pain he's going to
cause to others. He took all your
money, man. He made you look a
bitch - a little fucking boy - and
you're going to let him get away
with that. You know what, man?
Maybe you are a fucking bitch.

Kyros scrunches his face and punches Ajax in the face.

Ajax quickly retaliates, tackling Kyros to the ground and
getting him into a jujitsu clinch, choking Kyros out.

Kyros taps Ajax's arm but he doesn't release.

He claws at Ajax's arm around his neck to no avail.

Then, Kyros's phone starts to ring.

Ajax lets go. He picks up Kyros's phone and tosses it at him.

Kyros quickly catches it before it hits him in the head, then
he answers it.

KYROS

(strained voice)
Hello?

Ajax picks up the guns and leaves, slamming the door behind
him.

NURSE (O.S.)

Is that Kyros Elias?

KYROS

Yeah.

NURSE

(sincere voice)
Hi Kyros, I'm a nurse at Saint
Christopher's Hospital. Do you know
where we are?

KYROS

Yeah. Why are you calling me?

NURSE

We tried to reach your mother but
we got no response --

KYROS

-- yeah, she's at work. What's
going on?

NURSE

Your father is here. He's been
shot. He's in a critical condition.

KYROS

My father?

NURSE

Yes, your father. I'm sorry, but
you better come as soon as possible
if you want to see him one last
time.

Dread fills Kyros's face.

NURSE (CONT'D)

Kyros? Are you there? Did you hear
me?

Kyros hangs up the phone.

Playing on the TV is a cartoon showing the fight between
Kronos and Zeus.

INT. HOSPITAL - OUTSIDE OF FATHER'S ROOM

Time moves slowly.

Kyros approaches a large window through which he can see the
room his father is in.

Blurry doctors frantically move around his father's bed, but
before his father's room gets in focus, Kyros turns his head
to a large mirror on the wall.

The mirror does not reflect the room he is in.

Instead, it reflects a young, scared boy in a dark apartment.

It's Kyros as a child, who will now be referred to as CHILD
KYROS (5).

He looks back at teenage Kyros with trembling eyes.

INT. DARK APARTMENT - OTHER SIDE OF THE MIRROR - NIGHT

On this side of the mirror, Child Kyros is just looking at himself for comfort.

There's the sound of arguing, then a woman screaming, then something smashing.

Child Kyros turns his head away from the mirror and then slowly walks down the hallway towards the sounds.

At the end of the hallway is a door that is open ajar.

Child Kyros reaches it.

CHILD KYROS

Mom?

He pushes the door open.

In the dark, dingy room he sees his FATHER (30), shirtless, with his hair tied into a ponytail, and on his chest is a tattoo of a vicious looking three headed dog.

Kyros's MOTHER (28) is fairly slim and wearing pyjamas. She's shouting and crying .

Kyros's father punches her in the face, knocking her to the ground.

The father turns to Child Kyros.

With a look of pure distain and disgust in his eye, the father slams the door on Child Kyros's face.

INT. HOSPITAL - OUTSIDE OF FATHER'S ROOM - RESUMING

Kyros is looking through the window now at his father.

His three-headed dog tattoo is on full display, and even though most of his face is covered by an oxygen mask, an aggressive expression is still clearly visible.

His wandering eyes meet with Kyros's.

Kyros's gasps a little.

His father's gaze is unwavering, and just as disgusted and disdainful as the look he gave Kyros when Kyros was just a boy.

Kyros turns away.

INT. HOSPITAL - OUTSIDE OF FATHER'S ROOM - LATER

Kyros holds his crucifix chain as he sits hunched over on a chair.

He hears loud footsteps and looks up.

KYROS

Mom!

He stands up and walks towards his mom who is fast approaching but she, now heavily overweight, pushes him out of the way with ease.

She barges into the father's room and begins crying and moaning by his side.

Kyros doesn't look.

Kyros's mother's moans become louder.

KYROS'S MOTHER

Someone help! Something's wrong!
Quick! Something's wrong! No!

Doctors quickly enter the scene barging past Kyros.

DOCTOR

Clear the way!

INT. KYROS'S MOTHER'S CAR - NIGHT

Kyros's mother is sobbing loudly as she drives.

In one hand she has a cigarette in the other she has a bottle of wine.

Kyros slouches in the passenger seat, looking out of the window to his left side.

His mother drops the bottle of wine. It makes a thud on the floor of the car, then a slosh as the wine pours out.

As she reaches down to get it, she starts to swerve the car into oncoming traffic.

Kyros panics and grabs the wheel to steer them out of danger.

KYROS

Mom! What are you doing?

His mother reemerges from under the steering wheel.

KYROS'S MOTHER

Get off!

She pushes Kyros's hands off the wheel.

Kyros hyperventilates in anger.

KYROS

Why do you even fucking care so much?

KYROS'S MOTHER

What?

KYROS

Why do you care so much that he's dead?

KYROS'S MOM

(total incredulity)

Excuse me?

KYROS

He treated us like shit and then left us alone and you're crying like he's important, like he's some specia--

KYROS'S MOM

(booming)

How *dare* you speak this way about your father.

His mother suddenly becomes alert with rage.

KYROS'S MOM (CONT'D)

You're a spoiled little shit, you are.

Her scornful eyes are fixed on him, only sparing the occasional darting glance to check the road ahead.

KYROS'S MOM (CONT'D)

You have no idea what he and I had to go through when we were your age. You've had it so easy compared to him. He didn't like you, it's true. But that's because you're weak. You're soft - and here you are now speaking badly about him... after he just died? Fucking pathetic. You fucking coward.

Kyros's eyes well up with tears.

KYROS

I'm still angry at him, mo--

His mother turns on the radio and blasts the volume up to drown him out.

Kyros swallows his tears and his eyes become focused.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Kyros now wears a hood, he approaches another hooded guy who stands in the shadows - it's Ajax.

Ajax holds out one of the handguns by the nozzle.

Kyros snatches the handle and pushes the gun into the waistband of his jeans.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - BENEATH A LIGHT - LATER

A YOUNG GUY (19) gets pushed up a wall by his throat. The hand holding his throat is covered in tattoos.

A knife appears by his face.

TORO

Listen to me, little bitch...

TORO (32) is covered in tattoos, they're all over his bald head, down his neck, beneath his shirt, and even on his eyeballs which are entirely black.

TORO (CONT'D)

...my father used to make me skip school to gut his cows... fillet them. I can do it with my eyes closed. I can gut you, turn you into a little steak without even looking. Maybe you didn't know that about me. Maybe if you knew that about me you wouldn't have tried to **fuck** with me!

YOUNG GUY

(struggling)

I didn't try to do--

TORO

Shut up! Shut the fuck up!

He presses the point of the knife into his cheek, just before the point of penetration.

Toro licks the sweat off his top lip, then looks back at the POSSE he has standing behind him. Three men: TORO'S MAN #1, TORO'S MAN #2 and TORO'S MAN #3.

They are eagerly watching the scene with a look of dark desire in their eyes.

Toro turns back to the young guy.

TORO (CONT'D)
Nobody fucks me and lives.

Toro grits his teeth then pulls the knife back, about to stab it into his throat but:

BANG.

Toro turns his head. Toro's Man #3 has been shot in the chest. He drops to the floor.

TORO (CONT'D)
Bounce!

Toro lets go of the young guy, then he and the remainder of his posse run into the dark and narrow alley, each of them withdrawing a handgun from their pants.

They split up down different avenues of the maze-like alleyways.

Ajax and Kyros enter the scene, running like hooded FBI agents, holding their guns with both hands by their hip.

They too run into the alleyway.

INT. ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS

They see Toro's Man #2 make a right turn down the alleyway and so they run to that junction.

Kyros garishly turns the corner but gunshots come out of the alleyway.

Ajax quickly grabs him and pulls him back behind cover.

AJAX
Yo watch out!

From a left turning further down the main alley, Kyros sees Toro's Man #1's head lean out. From his position, Kyros and Ajax are in plain sight.

Kyros panics - Ajax is focused on Toro's Man #2 and so is unaware.

Toro's Man #1 leaves cover and aims his handgun.

Kyros aims too.

Toro's Man #1 fires - misses, but hits the wall close to Kyros's head.

Kyros fires two bullets in rapid succession. The first one is massively off target, but the second hits Toro's Man #1 in the neck and that drops him.

KYROS

Holy shit.

Ajax is now aware and aims his handgun down that direction of the alley.

Toro leans out his head from the same area Toro's Man #1 was standing.

Both Ajax and Kyros fire two shots each at Toro, but he quickly ducks back behind the corner to evade the bullets.

Kyros runs after him, nearly getting shot by Toro's Man #2 from the alley on the right side as he passes by.

Ajax pops out of cover to shoot at Toro's Man #2

EXT. THROUGH THE ALLEYWAYS - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Kyros is chasing Toro as fast as he can through the various turns and bends of the alleys until he comes out at a...

EXT. CAR PARK - BEHIND APARTMENT BUILDINGS - A MOMENT LATER

Cars, boxes and waste containers are scattered around this big open space.

Kyros stands panting for a moment, searching for Toro - he's nowhere to be seen.

Suddenly Toro pops up from behind a large waste container and fires at Kyros.

Kyros fires back whilst running to cover behind some boxes, but as he does, his gun runs out of ammunition and so a click resonates through the square.

Lights come on in the buildings that encompass them. Silhouettes of people stand by their windows watching the scene in the square.

An evil grin appears on Toro's face as he hides behind the waste container.

TORO
(echoed)
I heard the click. You're out of
ammo.

Toro slowly stands up.

TORO (CONT'D)
I heard the click, you little
bitch. Are you gonna reload?

He walks around the waste container and looks at the boxes Kyros is hiding behind. He waves his gun around the area, aware that Kyros may have moved.

TORO (CONT'D)
I can't hear you reloading... don't
tell me you didn't bring another
clip. You fucking idiot. You're
going to die.

Behind the boxes, Kyros quietly puts his gun down and takes a knife out of a wrap on his leg. He clutches his crucifix chain with his other shaking hand.

TORO (CONT'D)
Say goodnight.

Toro hears a jingle and a clang, that of a necklace behind some boxes slightly to his right. He shoots through the boxes, empties his clip into them.

Then the sound of fast footsteps followed by *THWUCK*.

Kyros stands in front of open-mouthed Toro, now pushing a knife deep into his belly.

Toro holds Kyros firmly by his arms, staring at his face.

They both collapse to the floor.

Sirens can be heard in the distance.

Then a single person's footsteps.

AJAX (O.S.)
Come on. We've gotta go.

Ajax grabs Kyros, releasing him from Toro's grip. Then together, they dart off - leaving Toro on the ground.

EXT. ALLEY SQUARE - TO THE SIDE OF SOME BOXES - CONTINUOUS

Kyros's crucifix chain lies strewn on the ground. It's clear now that Kyros used its jingling sound as a diversion to get the advantage over Toro.

Thunder booms, then rain falls, then the flash of lightning, then...

SMASH CUT TO: