

"Celephaïs"

Homestead on the Corner - Audio Experiment 01
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by

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Homestead on the Corner

0 - UNKNOWN

Dark, shadowy void.

UNKNOWN VOICE

Wake.

1 - MONTAGE

Rapid, frantic montage of a day -- rising from bed, eating, brushing teeth, catching the bus, sitting at an office job, phones ringing, inane chatter, catching the bus home, ordering takeout, eating, watching inane YouTube videos, getting into bed...

Heartbeat rising beneath montage suddenly slows, the world becomes liquid.

UNKNOWN VOICE

Sleep...

2 - UNKNOWN

Dark, shadowy void -- faint movements like swimming up in a deep, dark lake of still water.

UNKNOWN VOICE

(distant, echoing)

...In a dream it was also that he came by his name of Kuranos... for when awake he was called by another name...

A muffled, drowning scream -- then...

UNKNOWN VOICE (CONT'D)

Wake.

3 - BEDROOM - MORNING

KURANOS wakes suddenly, COUGHING AND CHOKING as if they've just surfaced from underwater. After a moment they recover, looking around the room.

KURANOS

What the fu--?

Alarm suddenly blares on phone, and Kuranos realizes the time, jumping out of bed.

4 - MONTAGE

Another rapid-fire montage - pouring cereal, missing the bus, getting an Uber, running to the office, phones already ringing, stomach rumbling, getting crisps from the vending machine, inane chatter, staying late, saying very late, YAWNING...

UNKNOWN VOICE

SLEEP.

5- UNKNOWN

Dark shadowy water, and the same faint movements of someone swimming, clawing towards the surface. Distant waves grow closer until...

UNKNOWN VOICE

In a dream Kuranes saw the city in
the valley, and the sea-coast
beyond, and the snowy peak
overlooking the sea...

Finally, Kuranes breaks the surface of the waves...

UNKNOWN VOICE (CONT'D)

Wake.

KURANES

(coughing)

No, no, not yet, not--

UNKNOWN VOICE

WAKE.

6 - BEDROOM - MORNING

KURANES CRIES OUT as they wake in bed... then pauses, confused.

KURANES

Wasn't I...?

The alarm on their phone rings, and on instinct they jump out of bed, grabbing it.

KURANES (CONT'D)

Shit...

7 - MONTAGE

Slightly slower paced montage... Kuranos paying more attention to individual moments, confused by the events of last night.

They board the bus, paying the fare and sitting down. The bus pulls away from the stop, and they stare out the window as...

They've missed their stop. Panicked, they pull the next stop cord and jump out of their seat, running down the sidewalk...

Muffled yelling as their boss berates them for being late, sitting down at their desk and picking up the phone.

KURANOS

Wakefield Consumer products, how may I direct your call...?

Stomach rumbles as lunch rolls around, but KURANOS JUST MOANS, forcing the hunger down as the phone rings again.

KURANOS (CONT'D)

Hello, Wakefield Consumer products?

Clock ticks loudly on the wall as 5 o'clock approaches. After a moment, they grab their bag... but then the phone rings again. KURANOS GROANS, then cuts short as their boss clears their throat.

KURANOS (CONT'D)

(beat, reluctance)

Yes... this is Wakefield Consumer products, how may I direct you?

Quite a bit later, on the bus... the sun has already set, and late night traffic fills the street. Kuranos leans against the window, BREATH SLOW AND SLEEPY as they stare out into the darkness -- then...

UNKNOWN VOICE

SLEEP.

8 - UNKNOWN

Kuranos awakes, SPATTERING and treading water in a strange sea. After a moment, they get their bearings and start swimming towards a nearby shore.

The waves crash as they crawl out of the water, COUGHING. Once they recover they stand, looking around.

KURANES

Where the hell...?

An instant later, Kuranès is walking down a paved alleyway in a silent city, waves crashing in the distance.

UNKNOWN VOICE

Perhaps it was natural for him to dream a new name; for he was the last of his family, and alone among the indifferent millions of London, so there were not many to speak to him and to remind him who he had been.

KURANES

(calling out)

Who said that? Who are you?

UNKNOWN VOICE

The more he withdrew from the world about him, the more wonderful became his dreams; and it would have been quite futile to try to describe them on paper...

KURANES

(irritated)

Can you hear me!? Hello?

UNKNOWN VOICE

There are not many persons who know what wonders are opened to them in the stories and visions of their youth; for when as children we listen and dream, we think but half-formed thoughts, and when as men we try to remember, we are dulled and prosaic with the poison of life...

KURANES

I know you can hear what I'm saying! Answer me!

UNKNOWN VOICE

(beat, slowly resolving
and becoming clearer)

And why should I answer you? What words could I speak that would make you understand? What explanation for all you've seen would make you happy? That it was all but a simple dream, a fluke of somnambulism?

(MORE)

UNKNOWN VOICE (CONT'D)

That the darkness you've seen
exists only in your mind, and you
do not seek these dreams to dull
the ache? Or that it is not in
these dreams alone that you live,
and the life you lead awake is when
you truly sleep, numb to the world
around you?

KURANES

This.. This isn't my life -- I'm
more than this.

UNKNOWN VOICE

(voice now clearly
Kuranés')

Are you? Are you sure that's what
you really want? Or wouldn't you
rather be Kuranés, wandering lost
in the streets of Celephaïs until
you cannot remember the pain of
living as someone you're not?

Kuranés has no answer -- then finally, they answer.

KURANES

(seeing the truth)
You're me.

UNKNOWN VOICE

(acknowledging it)
I am you.

KURANES

And I am Kuranés.

UNKNOWN VOICE

(agreeing)
You are Kuranés.

KURANES

(making a decision)
And I do not wish to remain here.

UNKNOWN VOICE

(worried)
You will find nothing but pain out
there.

KURANES

(determined)
Maybe. But it will be my pain.

UNKNOWN VOICE
 (long beat, accepting and
 grateful)
 Then wake, Kuranos... *wake up.*

9 - BEDROOM - MORNING

Kuranos wakes gently in their bed, staring up at the ceiling for a long moment.

The alarm on their phone rings, but they don't jump out of bed... instead, they let it play for a few moments, then slowly turn it off, remaining in bed.

10 - KITCHEN - LATER

A few hours later, Kuranos cracks an egg into a skillet, listening as it cooks. After a moment, their phone rings, and they answer.

KURANOS
 Oh hi Mister Warden... No, no, I
 know what time it is. Where am I?
 I'm home, making breakfast. Oh?
 Fine by me. I was honestly going to
 send you an email in a bit. Yeah,
 of course I'm serious.
 (listens for a moment,
 muffled yelling)
 Yeah, I thought you might say that.
 Take it easy, Mister Warden.

Kuranos hangs up on Warden as he continues yelling, pushing his spatula into the eggs and stirring them slightly... then they have a thought, dialing another number and waiting.

KURANOS (CONT'D)
 (soft, expectant)
 Hey Lucy? Yeah, it's me... it's K.

ROLL END THEME
 AND CREDITS