

Dream State: Episode One

by

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INT. HENDRIK'S BEDROOM - DAY

The sun shines through a curtain covered window over a messy dungeon style room. Dirty clothes blanket the floor and a tumble weed of cords are knotted in bunches around the desk and TV stand.

An alarm buzzes through the room. The lump in the bed moans underneath the comforter. An arm reaches out and slams down on the old fashion alarm clock.

HENDRIK, 14, a dungeon and dragons type nerd sits up in his bed. His shaggy hair hangs over his face. He combs it back with his fingers and groans in a zombie like state.

He mindlessly flips his feet over the side of his bed and pushes himself to his feet. He gets off his bed and walks out the door.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

His feet shuffles to the door at the end of the hall. He reaches forwards and wiggles the knob.

JANNIE (O.C.)
Beat it, Hendork.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Hendrik walks into the kitchen and walks over to the sink. He picks up a cup from the drain board and turns on the water.

He lets the water hit the brim of the cup then shuts off the water. He raises the cup to his lips and drinks down every drop.

He puts the cup down into the sink. He hears the bathroom door open. He turns back down the hall.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

He walks up to the bathroom and watches as the steam hovers over the hallway carpet.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Hendrik walks into the bathroom. He turns the cold water on and leans over the sink. He reaches under the water and allows the liquid to fill his palms. He splashes water on his face.

A loud horn comes from outside.

INT. FRONT DOORWAY - DAY

MRS. THOMPSON, 42, a tiresome aged woman with poorly covered grays streak through her brown hair, opens the door.

A school bus is stationed in front of the house. She holds up a one minute finger. She turns her attention back into the house.

MRS. THOMPSON

Hendrik!

Hendrik walks into view scoops up his fantasy printed backpack and walks past his mother.

INT. BUS - DAY

Hendrik walks onto the bus. He grips his backpack strap. He eyes possible seats, and takes his place next to a fellow geeky classmate, BOBBY, 13, full on geek status with Steve Urkle glasses and everything. He looks over at him and flashes a fake smile.

BOBBY

Hey Hendrik. I like your backpack,
WOW is one of my favorite games.

Hendrik takes in a deep breath.

HENDRIK

(annoyed)
Its Final Fantasy.

Hendrik stares straight ahead.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Hendrik walks into a half filled classroom. He walks to his seat in the front row. He sits down in front of a pretty girl. He unzips his backpack and pulls out his books and places them on the desk.

A loud laugh booms into the classroom. Hendrik doesn't look up. MIKE, 15, a typical bully with his loud voice and loud style, walks into the classroom. His eyes drawn to Hendrik.

He walks over and pushes Hendrik's books on the floor. The classroom erupts in giggles.

CLASSMATE1

Dweb.

CLASSMATE2

What a loser.

CLASSMATE3

Yeah, look at his backpack, geek.

Hendrik ignores the class and walks around his desk. He picks up his books and places them back on his desk. The teacher walks in behind him.

TEACHER

Okay, class. Calm down and take your seats.

Hendrik walks back around his desk and sits down.

INT. SCHOOL COMPUTER ROOM - LATER

Hendrik sits in front of a computer. Bobby is next to him, but Hendrik doesn't acknowledge him. He stares into the screen.

ON COMPUTER SCREEN

Windows overlap of Blogs and video game walkthroughs.

BACK TO COMPUTER ROOM

Mike walks into the computer room at the far end. He gives someone a high five then looks over to see Hendrik. He smiles at his friend, nudges his arm, and walks towards Hendrik. Hendrik doesn't look away from his screen.

MIKE

Hey if it isn't Poke-geek.

Mike smacks the back of Hendrik's head.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Guess what Hendorf? Zelda called and said to stop masturbating over her picture.

The kids around them laugh. Bobby leans closer to Hendrik.

BOBBY

Just face him. Bullies always back down.

Hendrik clenches his jaw. He stands up and faces Mike.

MIKE

Ooo, hey are you with us? Here in reality?

Mike shoves Hendrik. Hendrik falls into the desk cutting his thumb on the metal frame. His eyes glaze over in anger.

He spears Mike into the desk on the other side of the isle. The computer crashes down and breaks. The wires are ripped from the wall every computer on that row shuts off.

Hendrik lands a few punches before Mike swings back knocking him backwards. Teacher races into the computer room.

TEACHER

Enough! Boys!

She pulls Mike backwards and looks at Hendrik disappointingly.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Principal's Office now!

She points out the door.

INT. OUTSIDE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

The principal's door opens and Mike walks out. He glares down at Hendrik. Hendrik meets his glare with his own. He hears loud bickering and stares back at the ground.

Mrs. Thompson And MR. THOMPSON, 44, a suit and tie guy, walks in front of Hendrik.

MRS. THOMPSON

What the heck is going on?

MR. THOMPSON

A fight son? Really?

MRS. THOMPSON

Let's go.

She leads Mr. Thompson and Hendrik down the hall.

INT. THOMPSON CAR - DAY

They sit quietly in the car. Mrs. Thompson sighs.

MR. THOMPSON

Just come out with it!

MRS. THOMPSON

What?

MR. THOMPSON

Say what ever the hell is on your mind.

MRS. THOMPSON
He's spiraling downhill. How can
you not see it?

MR. THOMPSON
I see it just fine.

(to Hendrik)
Son, you need to shape-up now.
There's no excuse for what you did.

HENDRIK
I know-

MRS. THOMPSON
No, you don't.

(to Mr. Thompson)
It's the games.

HENDRIK
No!

MR. THOMPSON
Jesus christ, Barbara. I knew this
was the underlining issue. There's
nothing wrong-

MRS. THOMPSON
How could you even think that
that's healthy!

EXT. THOMPSON'S HOUSE - DAY

The car skids into the driveway. Hendrik gets out of the car
and slams the door. The mom opens the door.

MRS. THOMPSON
Hendrik!

Hendrik pushes open the front door and slams it behind him.

Mrs. Thompson opens the house. Mrs. And Mr. Thompson follow
him inside.

INT. THOMPSON'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The father throws the keys on the table and the mother storms
past him.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Mrs. Thompson jiggles Hendrik's doorknob. She pounds on the door. Music blasts from the other side. Mrs. Thompson walks away angrily.

INT. LIVINGROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mrs. Thompson stands in front of Mr. Thompson. Mr. Thompson doesn't look up from his phone.

MR. THOMPSON
Here to yell some more?

MRS. THOMPSON
This behavior needs to stop.
Starting with those games!

Mr. Thompson stands up.

MR. THOMPSON
Fine! You win. Take them all away
and you'll deal with it for now on.

Mrs. Thompson picks up the laundry basket and walks away.

MR. THOMPSON (CONT'D)
(yells after her)
It's not like I'm included in any
decisions anyway!

Mrs. Thompson unlocks the door and walks in. Hendrik sits on his bed with a hand held game inches from his face. He doesn't look up.

Mrs. Thompson walks over to the TV and unplugs everything and tosses them into the basket. Hendrik looks up.

HENDRIK
What the hell are you doing?

MRS. THOMPSON
Watch your mouth!

HENDRIK
This is crazy you are being crazy!
I didn't even start anything. That
prick did!

MRS. THOMPSON
Watch your God Damn mouth!

She puts the last game into the basket and walks out. He follows her to the doorway and slams the door closed.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The picture that hangs next to his door shatters on the ground.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Thompson, Hendrik, and Jannie sit quietly at the table. Mrs. Thompson clears her throat and places her fork down.

MRS. THOMPSON

Hendrik, I've thought about how you are going to be grounded.

HENDRIK

Yeah, I'm aware.

MRS. THOMPSON

You will be staying home with Brittany next week.

Hendrik and Jannie's mouths drop.

JANNIE

What? Why does he get to stay home?

MRS. THOMPSON

Stay out of this.

(to Hendrik)

You need alone time to reconcile what you did and how you are going to stop acting like a child.

HENDRIK

Fine.

Mr Thompson and Jannie look at each other unhappy.

EXT. THOMPSON'S HOUSE - DAY

Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Thompson, and Jannie pack up the SUV. Jannie looks over at Hendrik. He sits with his chin in his hands on the porch.

A car pulls up and a young teenager steps out. BRITTANY, 16, young and pretty will be very beautiful once she grows into her body. She walks up to the Thompsons.

MRS. THOMPSON

Hello, Brittany. Thank you for watching Hendrik.

BRITTANY
No problem, Mrs. Thompson.

Brittany walks up to Hendrik.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)
Hello buddy.

MRS. THOMPSON
Remember, Brittany, this is
punishment. No fun and especially
no games.

BRITTANY
Yes, ma'am.

Brittany stands with her arm around Hendrik. They watch the SUV back up and drive down the street.

Hendrik walks away from Brittany. Her arm drops to her side. She watches him walk sadly into the house; she follows.

INT. THOMPSON'S HOUSE - LIVINGROOM - NIGHT

Brittany watches a reality show as she sits on the couch.

INT. THOMPSON'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Hendrik is in the kitchen. He scrubs away at the dishes. Hendrik shuts the water off and walks into the livingroom.

INT. THOMPSON'S HOUSE - LIVINGROOM - CONTINUOUS

He sits on the floor and leans his back up against the couch.

INT. THOMPSON'S HOUSE - LIVINGROOM - LATER

Brittany rubs her eyes. She glances at the time on her watch and shuts the TV off.

BRITTANY
Okay kid. Bedtime.

She stretches. Hendrik gets up and walks into his bedroom and shuts the door behind him. Brittany watches the door shut and shrugs. She pulls out her phone and presses it on.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)
This will be the easiest money I
made so far.

INT. HENDRIK'S ROOM - NIGHT

Hendrik is fast asleep in his bed. He tosses and turns under his sheets. He hears TV static and uncovers his head. He sits up and sees his TV on. He groans and walks over to the TV. He shuts it off and walks out of the room.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

He grabs a water bottle from the cabinet and turns about face.

INT. HENDRIK'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He walks back into his room. The TV is back on. He stares at it briefly then shuts it off again. He climbs into his bed and gets comfortable.

The TV turns on again.

HENDRIK

What the hell?

He peeks over the footboard and stares into the static. He begins to hear tiny voices. He gets up and cautiously walks over to the TV.

The voices become clearer and he absentmindedly reaches forward and his hand goes through the screen. He tries to retract his hand, but fights something unseen. He is pulled into the TV.

EXT. BORDERLANDS - DAY

Hendrik wakes up in a hot desolate rocky tundra. He rubs his head and looks down at them. He examines his skin.

His skin is comic-ish. He glances around and sees an almost comic book style terrain. His mouth hangs open and he pushes himself to his knees.

He walks around in a daze. He rounds a corner of a rock formation into gunfire. He throws himself backwards to cover. Hendrik glances around frantically. He notices a pod nearby.

HENDRIK

No, it can't be.

Hendrik races over to the pod and pulls the level. Ammo and a gun spits out at him. He examines the gun and glances back over at the comic landscape.

HENDRIK (CONT'D)

This cannot be happening.

He looks around and takes in the new world.