

## GRAY MARTYN

### **IN SEARCH OF ORPHEUS – ONE-PAGE SYNOPSIS (\*\*SPOILERS\*\*)**

In this dual-timeline drama, two recent college graduates – EDDIE KEENE-DEW and GREG AMASH – embark on a road trip from Wisconsin to Los Angeles in search of JEREMY FAIRCHILD, The Merry Band of Pranksters' reclusive former frontman, who suffered a breakdown in the streets decades earlier.

In the present timeline, Eddie – a Black jazz scholar primed for graduate study – skeptically accompanies his friend Greg, who idolizes and hopes to learn from Jeremy. Greg carries CLAIRE DRISCOLL's memoir *My Time With the Pranksters* as his personal bible, romanticizing her relationship with the rocker despite pushback from Eddie, who challenges his companion's veneration of a white musician he considers guilty of cultural appropriation and exploitative tendencies. Their journey is derailed when police discover drugs hidden in Greg's van. They are arrested, and Eddie abandons the quest in Phoenix.

The past timeline portrays Jeremy's fame and fall, mainly from Claire's perspective. A 20-year-old college student in 1999, she joins the band on tour after interviewing Jeremy and begins documenting her experiences. Initially captivated by his charm and attention, Claire becomes his lover. However, Jeremy's volatile behavior and controlling tendencies gradually reveal themselves as the tour progresses from Milwaukee to Chicago, St. Louis, and – finally – Phoenix. It is there that Claire bears witness to a violent altercation between Jeremy and a bandmate, leading her to break from their toxic relationship. She returns home and begins the quiet work of healing.

Following Jeremy's subsequent breakdown in Los Angeles – depicted through surreal, biblical hallucinations involving a "mothership" – he spends time in a psychiatric ward before turning to a reclusive life in the Hollywood Hills.

Back in the present, Greg finally meets the aging Jeremy, discovering not a mythic figure, but a bitter, manipulative man who has entertained other "seekers" and centers the "passion" of his past in conversation. After spending the night at Jeremy's residence, Greg leaves – disillusioned – for the airport.

The screenplay concludes with Claire, now an established academic, receiving a letter from Eddie, suggesting that while Jeremy is trapped in his myth, others continue to forge paths toward truth and healing through outreach and the sharing of resonant experiences, allowing for narrative reclamation.

Throughout, *In Search of Orpheus* examines power – who wields it and to what end – as it explores appropriation, mental illness, and the quest for authentic identity. It questions the extent to which someone might hope to understand their heroes and the costs of pursuing vacant mythology.