Westover Military Academy.

Bar Harbor, Maine.
MY NAME'S PERCY.
DON'T WORRY.
I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU SOMEWHERE SAFE.

WHISH

THUNK

FEAR NOT.
PERSEUS JACKSON.
MY POISON WILL NOT KILL YOU.

THOUGH THE PAIN MAY MAKE YOU WISH IT HAD.

NOW, ALL THREE OF YOU WILL COME WITH ME, OR I WILL SHOW YOU JUST HOW ACCURATELY I CAN SHOOT.
I will deliver the package shortly.

Unfortunately, you are wanted alive. Otherwise you would already be dead.

Who'd want us, Dr. Thorn? My brother and I... we don't have any family.

Ransom? You have no idea what is happening, you insufferable girl.

You are all to be given the opportunity to join a great army, and if you choose not to join...

Well, there are many monstrous mouths to feed. The great stirring is under way.

I will let the general enlighten you. He looks forward to meeting you.

The great what?
The stirring of monsters. The worst of them are now waking. They will cause destruction the likes of which mortals have never known.

And soon we shall have the most important monster of all—the one that shall bring about the downfall of Olympus.

We have to jump off the cliff. It's our only chance. The ocean must be down there somewhere.

Sure thing, kid—that I just met. Is that before or after the "monsters" destroy the world?

Has everyone gone completely nuts?

Silence or I'll make sure your next utterance is a plea for mercy!

...coof...

What?

Um... thanks, Annabeth.
FOR ZEUS!

YAH!

SCRTTCH

YOUR PALTRY WOODLAND MAGIC IS NO MATCH FOR ME, SATYR!
WHAT IS THAT?!
A MANTICORE!
A MANTICORE?
THOSE HAVE THREE THOUSAND ATTACK POWER AND PLUS FIVE TO SAVING THROWS!
SMACK
CRACK
WHAP

IT IS POINTLESS TO FIGHT, LITTLE HEROES.

YIELD.

GROWL!
THUNK

NO. IT CANNOT BE...

THIS IS NOT FAIR! DIRECT INTERFERENCE IS AGAINST THE ANCIENT LAWS!

NOT SO. THE HUNTING OF ALL WILD BEASTS IS WITHIN MY SPHERE.

AND YOU, FOUL CREATURE, ARE A WILD BEAST.

WHISH

THE GODLINGS ARE MINE!

SHWIP SHWIP

SHWIP SHWIP
GRRRR... VERY WELL, IF I CANNOT HAVE THE GODLINGS ALIVE, THEN I SHALL HAVE THEM DEAD!

NOT IF I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT IT!

CURSE YOU!

ANNABETH!
COME ON! WE HAVE TO HELP HER!

SHE IS BEYOND HELP.

CAN YOU NOT SENSE IT, SON OF POSSEIDON? THERE IS MAGIC AT WORK. I DO NOT KNOW HOW OR WHY, BUT YOUR FRIEND HAS VANISHED.

WHOA. TIME OUT. WHAT DID YOU JUST CALL HIM?

I AM ARTEMIS, GODDESS OF THE HUNT. THESE ARE MY HUNTERS.

THE BETTER QUESTION, MY DEAR GIRL, IS WHO ARE YOU? WHO ARE YOUR PARENTS?

WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?

I'M BIANCA DI ANGELO, AND THIS IS MY BROTHER, NICO.

OUR PARENTS ARE DEAD. WE'RE ORPHANS.

NO. YOU ARE HALF-BLOODS. ONE OF THY PARENTS WAS MORTAL, BUT THE OTHER WAS AN OLYMPIAN.

I KNOW IT'S A LOT, BUT IT'S TRUE. WE CAME TO RESCUE YOU AND TAKE YOU BACK TO CAMP.

OLYMPIAN? LIKE A...GREEK GOD? YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT?

REMEMBER THAT BUS DRIVER WITH THE RAM'S HORN? I TOLD YOU THAT WAS REAL!

AND LAST SUMMER, THERE WERE THOSE... THINGS... THAT TRIED TO ATTACK US IN THE ALLEY.

CAMP HALF-BLOOD. IT'S FOR KIDS LIKE US. YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TRAIN THERE, LEARN HOW TO FIGHT THE MONSTERS THAT HUNT US. AND YOU'LL BE SAFE.

CAMP? YOU'RE JOKING.

SWEET! LET'S GO!
Bianca, come with me. I wish to speak with you in private.

And send some of the others to retrieve our guests’ belongings.

Yes, my lady.

ENOUGH. WE WILL REST HERE FOR A FEW HOURS.

ZOE, RAISE THE TENTS AND SEE THAT THE WOUNDED ARE TENDED TO.

THE NERVE OF THOSE HUNTERS!

I’M WITH YOU. THEY SHOULD BE HELPING US LOOK FOR ANNABETH.

Think about that!

Oh, you’re with me now?

Too bad you weren’t with me when you decided to take on a manticore all by yourself.

This was supposed to be our mission. If you’d waited for us, we could’ve taken him on together. And maybe Annabeth would still be here!
That magic salve should do the trick.

Thanks, Grover. It's feeling better already.

Argg! Take that!

You sure have a bunch of those figurines, Nico. How long have you been collecting them?

Hey! Does Zeus really have lightning bolts that do six hundred damage? Can Poseidon—

—that's your dad, right?

I don't remember. That's weird.

How does he make hurricanes?

Lady Artemis will speak with thee.
FORGET THEMSELVES, BECOME SILLY, PREOCCUPIED, INSECURE.
A RESULT OF BEING SMITTEN WITH BOYS.
OH, RIGHT.

I ASKED YOU HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MANTICORE. BIANCA HAS REPORTED SOME OF THE... DISTURBING THINGS THE MONSTER SAID.

BUT SHE MAY NOT HAVE UNDERSTOOD THEM.
I'D LIKE TO HEAR THEM FROM YOU.

HE MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT "THE GENERAL."
THEN HE SAID THERE WAS A "GREAT STIRRING," AND THAT SOON THEY'D HAVE THE MONSTER THAT WOULD BRING ABOUT THE "DOWNFALL OF OLYMPUS."

AND HE THREATENED TO EAT US. BUT, YOU KNOW, ALL MONSTERS DO THAT.

THE GENERAL...? HOW COULD IT BE?
IT IS AS I FEARED.

WE SHALL BEGIN THE HUNT AT ONCE, MY LADY.

NO. THIS TASK IS TOO DANGEROUS EVEN FOR THE HUNTERS. I MUST GO ALONE.

I MUST FIND THIS CREATURE AND BRING IT BACK TO OLYMPUS BY WINTER SOLSTICE. IT WILL BE THE PROOF I NEED TO CONVINCE THE COUNCIL OF HOW MUCH DANGER WE ARE IN.

YOU AND THE OTHERS WILL GO TO CAMP HALF-BLOOD. CABIN EIGHT IS THE HUNTERS' TO USE BY RIGHT, AND PERHAPS THERE WILL BE ONE MORE OF YOU TO SHARE IT.
Bianca has been asked to join the hunt.

Swear loyalty to me, child, and you will be given the gift of immortality. Death may come to you only in battle.

You may still see your brother from time to time, but you will have a new family. Us.

Welcome, sister.

Remember your oath. It is now your life.

I'm sorry, Percy. I know it's sudden, but I want this. I really do.

All I ask in exchange is that you forswear romantic love forever. You will never grow up, never be married.

You will be a maiden eternally. A new family... free of responsibility.

I accept.

What about Nico? He'll be safe at camp. You said so yourself.
BREAK CAMP AT ONCE, ZOE. YOU MUST ALL HEAD TO LONG ISLAND.

I LEAVE YOU IN CHARGE OF THE HUNTERS IN MY STEAD. DO AS I WOULD DO.

YES, MY LADY.

DAWN APPROACHES. FINALLY.

HE IS SO LAZY DURING THE WINTER.

IT WOULD BE WISE IF YOU SHIELDED YOUR EYES. AT LEAST UNTIL HE PARKS.

UNTIL WHO PARKS?

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MY TWIN BROTHER, APOLLO, GOD OF THE SUN.

AND POETRY, AMONG OTHER THINGS.
Wait. I feel a haiku coming on. –ahem–

What's up, Little Sis? You never call. You never write. I was getting worried!

I am not your "little" sister.

And I am fine, brother. But I have some hunting to do alone. I need you to take my companions to Camp Half-Blood.

Green grass breaks through snow.

No sweat, sis.

Artemis waits for my help.

Hi, Lord Apollo.

Hey... Thalia, right? You used to be a tree, didn't you? Glad you're back. I hate it when pretty girls get turned into trees.

Well, we'd better load up. Ride only goes one way--West--and if you miss it, you miss it.

Cool car! But how're we all gonna fit?

Oh, right. I hate to change out of sports-car mode, but I suppose...
WOW! IS THIS REALLY THE SUN CHARIOT? HOW DOES IT WORK? I THOUGHT THE SUN WAS A BIG FIERY BALL OF GAS!

HEH. THAT RUIN probably got started because artemis used to call me a big fiery ball of gas.

SERIOUSLY, kid, it's not an astronomy thing so much as a philosophy thing.

The Sun keeps humans warm, grows their crops, powers engines...and gives a wicked tan. It makes everything, well, sunnier.

Every day I drive across the sky from east to west, lighting up all those puny little mortal lives.

The chariot is built out of human dreams about the Sun. Make sense?


I was thinking more along the lines of... Zeus's kid. Yeah! She'll do perfectly.

Oh...uh...thanks, Lord Apollo, but I'd really rather not.

Nonsense. All you need to know is speed equals heat. So start off slow, and make sure you've got good altitude before you really open her up.

You don't understand. I'm--

Aw, your old man is lord of the sky. You'll be a natural. Trust me.

WARNING: Student Driver
TWO MINUTES AND FIVE HUNDRED MILES LATER.

SPLOOSH

NOTE TO SELF: DO NOT LET THALIA DRIVE.

WHOA, IS THERE LAVA COMING OUT OF THAT CLIMBING WALL?

YEAH, IT PROVIDES A LITTLE EXTRA CHALLENGE.

COME ON, NICO. WE NEED TO REPORT TO CHIRON. HE’S A... WELL, YOU’LL SEE.
--THEN APOLLO Brought us here, and
ARTEMIS left for her hunt.
WE'RE NOT SURE WHAT
DOOMSDAY MONSTER the
MANTICORE was talking
ABOUT.

OR WHAT
HAPPENED TO
ANNABETH...

WE SHOULD
LAUNCH A SEARCH
PARTY FOR ANNABETH
IMMEDIATELY.

I'LL GO.

CERTAINLY NOT. THE POSSIBILITY IS
VERY GREAT THAT THIS ANNIE BELL
GIRL IS ALREADY DEAD.

ANNABETH.

SHE MAY
YET BE ALIVE,
MR. D.

SHE'S VERY BRIGHT.
IF OUR ENEMIES HAVE
HER, SHE WILL TRY TO
PLAY FOR TIME. SHE MAY EVEN
PRETEND TO COOPERATE
WITH THEM.

YOU'RE GLAD TO LOSE ANOTHER
CAMPER! YOU'D LIKE IT IF WE ALL
DISAPPEARED!

YOU KNOW,
JUST BECAUSE YOU WERE
SENT HERE TO BE CAMP DIRECTOR
AS PUNISHMENT, THAT DOESN'T MEAN
YOU HAVE TO BE A LAZY JERK!

MIND
YOURSELF,
BOY, OR--

NO WAY!

IF SHE IS--
AGAINST ALL ODDS--
ALIVE, THEN SHE WILL
HAVE TO BE CLEVER ENOUGH
TO ESCAPE ON HER OWN.
You're Dionysus, the wine dude!

I showed him the orientation video, sir. He's shockingly... not shocked.

I've got your holofil card, too.

Even though you only have, like, five hundred attack points, and everyone thinks you're the lamest god ever, I think your powers are totally sweet!

Percy, perhaps you should make your exit. Before Mr. D remembers that you insulted him.

Ah, well, that's gratifying.

You and Thalia go to your cabin and rest. I'll make an announcement that there will be a game of capture the flag.

Capture the flag? But what about Annabeth?

We need to do something!

Yeah. I bet it's real friendly.

The game is a tradition. A friendly match, whenever the hunters come to visit.
THANKS FOR THE PHONE, DAD.

I COULD USE A LITTLE CHEERING UP.

SHOW ME TYSON AT THE FORGES OF THE CYCLOPES.

PLEASE HOLD.

BROTHER!

HEY, BIG GUY! HOW'S YOUR INTERNSHIP GOING?
I love the job! We are arming the mermaids now. They need a thousand more swords by tomorrow.

Nice one!

How's Dad? You get to talk to him much?

No. Dad is very busy. Worry about the war.

Yes. The old spirits make it hard to find. Otherwise, Daddy would smash it.

Old sea spirits, Aigaios and Oceanus, are making trouble. They protect the bad boat, too.

Luke's boat? The Princess Andromeda?

But don't worry. It's going to the Panama Canal now. Very far away from you.

Panama? What's it doing...

Got to get back to work, Brother. Boss will get angry.

SAY HELLO TO ANNABETH!

Say hello to Annabeth!

Right.

Believe me, I wish I could.
WHERE AM I? WHY HAVE I BEEN BROUGHT HERE?

LUKE...?
ANNABETH!

THEY LEFT ME HERE, PLEASE... IT'S KILLING ME!

I'LL HELP YOU!

—UHNNN—

THANKS... I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU.

DON'T WORRY. HELP IS ON THE WAY. IT'S ALL PART OF THE PLAN.

HELP ME!

NO! DON'T GO!

AH!

ANNABETH...
"Huff - Huff - Huff"

GOT THEIR FLAG!

HEY!

SHOVE
NO FAIR! "cough" GAS ARROWS ARE UNSPORTSMANLIKE! "cough" "hehe"

PERCY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
NO!

OUT OF MY WAY!

-WHUFF-

GO ZOË!

THE HUNTERS ARE VICTORIOUS.

FOR THE FIFTY-SIXTH TIME IN A ROW...
WHAT IN THE NAME OF THE GODS WERE YOU THINKING, PERCY?!

I GOT THE FLAG! I SAW A CHANCE, AND I TOOK IT!

YOU MEAN YOU SAW A CHANCE TO GO SOLO! GOOD THING THIS WAS ONLY A GAME, OR WE MIGHT'VE LOST SOMEONE. AGAIN!

SORRY... I DIDN'T MEAN TO...

IZAP

ARGH!

~SPLASH~

SPILOOSH!

YEAH, ME NEITHER.
YOU WANT SOME, HERO?

NNGH!

BRING IT ON!

Huh?

WHAT IS IT?
I AM THE SPIRIT OF DELPHI, SPEAKER
OF THE PROPHECIES OF PROPHETESS APOLLO,
SLAYER OF THE MIGHTY PYTHON.

APPROACH, SEEKER, AND KNEEL.
WHAT MUST I DO TO HELP MY GODDESS?

I FIVE SHALL GO
WEST TO THE
GODDESS IN CHAINS,
ONE SHALL BE
LOST IN THE LAND
WITHOUT RAIN.

THE BANE OF OLYMPUS
SHOWS THE TRUTH.

-CAMPERS AND HUNTERS
COMBINED PREVAIL.

THE TITAN'S CURSE MIGHTY
ONE WITHSTAND, AND ONE SHALL
PERISH BY A PARENT'S HAND.
THERE IS NO TIME FOR TALK. "TIS AS I HAVE DREAMED—ARMENIS IS BEING HELD HOSTAGE. WE MUST FIND HER AND FREE HER. I WILL DEPART WITH THE HUNTERS AT ONCE.

YOU HAD A DREAM? BECAUSE I—

YOU'RE MISSING SOMETHING, AS USUAL, JOE. "CAMPERS AND HUNTERS COMBINED PREVAIL." WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DO THIS TOGETHER.

I DON'T LIKE IT EITHER, BUT YOU KNOW PROPHECIES, YOU WANT TO FIGHT AGAINST ONE?

DOES ANYONE KNOW WHAT THE "BANE OF OLYMPUS" 1ST SOUNDS KIND OF NOT-GOOD.

I HAVE HUNTED AT LADY ARMENIS'S SIDE FOR MANY YEARS, YET I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THIS BEAST MIGHT BE.

WELL, DON'T LOOK AT ME. I'M A YOUNG GOD, REMEMBER? I DON'T KEEP TRACK OF ALL THOSE ANCIENT MONSTERS, IT MAKES FOR TERRIBLE PARTY CONVERSATION.

TYPHON AND KETO ARE CERTAINLY BANES OF OLYMPUS, BUT THEY ARE BOTH SEA MONSTERS THE SIZE OF SKYSCRAPERS. IF THEY WERE STIRRING, POSEIDON WOULD ALREADY HAVE SOUNDED THE ALARM.

I FEAR THE ORACLE SPOKE OF SOMETHING MORE ELUSIVE, AND POWERFUL.
TIME IS ALREADY SHORT. FIVE DAYS FROM NOW IS DECEMBER 21ST, THE WINTER SOLSTICE. ARTEMIS MUST BE PRESENT AT THE COUNCIL.

NOW, WHO WILL GO ON THIS QUEST?

THE ORACLE SAID "FIVE WILL GO WEST."

HOW ABOUT THREE HUNTERS AND TWO FROM CAMP HALF-BLOOD? THAT SEEMS FAIR.

SO BE IT. PHOEBE IS OUR BEST TRACKER. I WILL TAKE HER.

I ALSO WISH BIANCA TO GO.

SHE MAY BE OUR NEWEST, BUT THERE IS NO BETTER WAY FOR HER TO PROVE HERSELF.

AND FOR CAMPERS?

ME! YOU'LL NEED A SATYR'S SENSES, AND I'VE BEEN WORKING ON MY WOODLAND MAGIC.

AND MAYBE I CAN FIND SOME CLUES ABOUT PAN. THE TRAIL HAS GONE COLD SINCE LAST SUMMER....

I'LL GO.

I'VE GONE UP AGAINST MORE THAN MY SHARE OF MONSTERS. MY BATTLE EXPERIENCE WILL COME IN HANDY.

HOLD ON A SEC. ZOE ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WITH DREAMS. I HAD A REAL DOOZY THE OTHER NIGHT. I'M NOT SURE WHAT IT MEANT, BUT I KNOW ANNABETH NEEDS HELP.

I WANT IN ON THIS QUEST, TOO!
OH, RIGHT. I DIDN’T MEAN...

PERCY SHOULD GO IN MY PLACE. ABSOLUTELY.

ABSOLUTELY NOT. I FORBID IT. HE IS A BOY, AND I WILL NOT HAVE HUNTERS TRAVELING WITH A BOY.

WHAT? YOU WERE JUST ABOUT TO LET GROVER GO! HE IS A SATYR. HE IS NOT TECHNICALLY A BOY.

I INSIST UPON THIS.

I WILL TAKE A SATYR IF I MUST, BUT NOT A MALE HALF-BLOOD.

WHO MADE HER BOSS? CHIRON, TELL HER I CAN GO!

SO BE IT. THALIA AND GROVER WILL ACCOMPANY ZOE, BIANCA, AND PHOEBE.

YOU SHALL LEAVE AT FIRST LIGHT.

THE QUEST IS FOR ARTEMIS. THE HUNTERS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO CHOOSE THEIR COMPANIONS.

AND MAY THE GODS BE WITH YOU.
I'M SORRY, PERCY. I WAS SO FOCUSED ON SEARCHING FOR PAN. I WASN'T THINKING... BUT I PROMISE, I'LL LOOK EVERYWHERE FOR ANNABETH.

IF I CAN FIND HER, I WILL.

I KNOW. THANKS.

I KNOW YOU'RE DISAPPOINTED, CHILD. THALIA WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN MY FIRST CHOICE TO GO ON THIS QUEST. SHE ACTS WITHOUT THINKING. SHE IS TOO SURE OF Herself.

THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU SPEAK UP FOR ME?

YOU AND THALIA ARE MUCH ALIKE. THE DIFFERENCE IS YOU ARE LESS SURE OF YOURSELF THAN THALIA. THAT COULD BE GOOD OR BAD.

THALIA!

BUT ONE THING I CAN SAY WITH CERTainty: BOTH OF YOU TOGETHER WOULD BE A DANGEROUS Thing.

WE COULD HANDLE IT.

THE WAY YOU HANDLED IT AT THE CREEK TONIGHT?

CALL YOUR MOTHER AND TELL HER YOU'LL BE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS. SHE WILL APPRECIATE THE NEWS.

THE QUEST IS IN ABLE HANDS. IF WE NEED YOU...
"--We'll call."

THUMP THUMP

Yo, boss!

Blackjack? It's the middle of the night. You're supposed to be in the stables.

Meh. You see Chiron staying in the stables?

Well... no.

Exactly.
Listen, there's a little sea friend that needs your help. I told the hippocamp! I'd come get you.

Again?

Sorry, boss. Who else am I gonna tell? You're the only one around here that speaks horse.

Right, one of the perks of my dad being the guy who created horses out of sea foam.

I'll be sure to thank him for that one.

And do me a favor, will you? Stop calling me "boss."

I know you think I got the centaurs to storm Luke's ship last summer and help you go free, but that was all Chiron's doing. Really.

Whatever you say, boss. You're the man. You're my number one.
HERE YOU GO, BOSS. STRAIGHT DOWN ABOUT ONE HUNDRED FEET.

PERFECT. SHOULD BE NICE AND WARM DOWN THERE.
Free th' lord!

We don't know what it is.
Many strange things are stirring.

Moo!

Whoa!

I'll say... take it easy, little one. I'll cut the net.

Moo!

Okay, no more sword, see?

Settle down, Bessie. Good cow.
NICE COW. YOU STAY OUT OF TROUBLE NOW, BESSIE...

MOO!

Thank you, lord!

NO PROBLEM. IT'S NICE TO KNOW I CAN STILL SAVE SOMETHING.
A foolish prank by those cursed Stoll brothers from the Hermes cabin. It appears they do not admire Phoebe's prowess at capture the flag.

She will be bedridden with hives for weeks. There is no way she can take part in the quest. It is up to me... and thee.

But the prophecy... if Phoebe can't go, we only have four. We'll have to pick someone else.

There is no time. We must leave at first light. That is immediately.

You should tell Thalia the rest of your dream. If your suspicions about the general are true...

I have thy word not to talk about that.

Now come. Dawn is breaking.
SO WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

NICO? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

SPYING, SAME AS YOU.

YOU HEARD BIANCA. THEY NEED OUR HELP. SO LET'S FOLLOW THEM.

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. IF BIANCA WAS MY SISTER, I'D BE THINKING THE SAME THING, BUT YOU CAN'T GO WITH THEM. YOU'RE TOO YOUNG.

BESIDES, IF THEY CATCH YOU-- AND THEY WILL CATCH YOU-- THEY'LL JUST SEND YOU BACK HERE.

MAYBE... BUT... YOU CAN GO!

YOU'RE PLANNING TO GO ANYWAY, AREN'T YOU?

THAT HAT. IT MAKES YOU INVISIBLE, RIGHT? LIKE YOUR FRIEND, ANNABETH, WHEN SHE SURPRISED THE MANTICORE.

SO YOU CAN FOLLOW THEM, ALL INVISIBLE-LIKE. I WON'T TELL ANYONE WHERE YOU WENT. I SWEAR!

YEAH... I HAVE TO HELP THEM, EVEN IF THEY DON'T WANT ME TO.

THEN GO! YOU CAN KEEP AN EYE ON MY SISTER, TOO.

AW, JEEZ. I CAN'T--

SHE'LL BE SAFE WITH YOU AROUND. I KNOW SHE WILL!
GOOD LUCK, PERCY! AND THANKS!

I’LL DO MY BEST.

NOW LISTEN, ABOUT CHIRON—

DON’T WORRY, I’LL MAKE UP SOMETHING. I’M GOOD AT THAT.

NOW, GO ON!

NOW WHAT?

IF I WAS GUESSING, BOSS, I’D SAY YOU NEED A GETAWAY HORSE.

YOU INTERESTED?
I may not have done so hot with the Sun Bus, but we’re going to get arrested with you driving, Zoe.

I look closer to sixteen than you do.

Perhaps, but I have been driving since automobiles were invented.
SORRY FOR THE LONG FLIGHT. I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D GO SO FAR WITHOUT STOPPING.

IT'S NOTHING. HUFF HUFF I CAN GO ALL DAY. HUFF

REST I CAN DO, BUT BE CAREFUL, BOSS. I GOT A FEELING THEY DIDN'T COME HERE TO MEET ANYTHING FRIENDLY AND HANDSOME LIKE ME.

I'M NOT SURE WHAT THEY'RE DOING HERE. THE ORACLE SAID TO GO WEST, NOT SOUTH.

NO, YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH. GO BACK TO CAMP AND GET SOME REST. I'LL BE FINE.

WHATEVER IT IS, I NEED TO FIND OUT.
YES. I KNOW WHERE THE ROOM IS.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.
REPORT, THORN.

THEY ARE AT THE AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM, GENERAL.

THERE ARE FOUR OF THEM: THE SATYR, JESUS'S SPAWN, AND TWO HUNTERS. ONE OF THEM WEARS A SILVER CIRCLET.

THAT ONE I KNOW.

LET ME TAKE THEM. I'LL END THIS.

PATIENCE, LUKE. THEY'LL HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL.

I THOUGHT I WAS TO FINISH THEM. YOU SAID I WOULD HAVE REVENGE. A COMMAND OF MY OWN!

BAH! I AM LORD KRONOS'S SENIOR COMMANDER, AND I WILL SELECT LIEUTENANTS WHO GET RESULTS.

I SENT YOU TO CAPTURE A CHILD OF THE THREE ELDER GODS, AND YOU BROUGHT ME A SCRANNY CHILD OF ATHENA!

I'VE SENT A LITTLE PLAYMATE TO KEEP THEM COMPANY.

IT IS ONLY BECAUSE OF LUKE THAT OUR PLAN WAS SALVAGED AT ALL.

NOW, LET ME SHOW YOU HOW WE WILL END THEIR FOOLISH QUEST.
Dinosaur teeth, ha! Those foolish curators don’t even know they have Dragon teeth in their collection.

And not just any teeth. They come from the ancient Sybaris herself!

Soon, Luke, we will command soldiers that will make that army on your little boat look insignificant.

They will do nicely indeed.

Rise! It is time to report for duty.
Here it is, General.

Excellent. Once my warriors catch the scent, they will pursue its owner relentlessly.

Nothing can stop them—no weapons known to half-bloods or hunters.

Breathe deeply, soldier.

Tear its owner and all who travel with her to shreds.

What?!

Oh... uh... Hey.
PERCY!

STOP HIM!

RIIP

SNIFF SNIFF

CHITTER CHITTER
Hey! You! How dare you show thy face here? Your presence is forbidden!

What is it with you, Zoe? Boys don’t really have cooties, you know.

Percy! Thank goodness!

Listen, Luke is here. Dr. Thorn and the general, too.

The general is here? That is impossible.

You must have seen an Iris message, or some other illusion.

Iris messages don’t grow skeleton warriors from dragon teeth.

What? How many?

Six. I think. And that’s not all. He said he was sending a ‘playmate’ to distract you over here.

Um, guys...?

I think I know what he meant.
THE NEMEAN LION!

SEPARATE! WE MUST ATTACK IT FROM ALL SIDES.

ROAR

TRY TO FLANK IT!

AH-YAH!
ROAR

EAT THIS!

THE MOUTH! THERE'S NO ARMOR IN ITS MOUTH!

KACK

KACK

HACK

THUNK
WHUMP

THAT WAS AN... INTERESTING STRATEGY.

HEY, IT WORKED.

TAKE THE BEAST’S PELT. IT IS RIGHTLY THINE.

NOT MY USUAL FASHION.

MORE TROUBLE COMING.

DOESN’T LOOK LIKE WE CAN GET BACK TO THE VAN WITHOUT THEM SEEING. WE NEED TO FIND ANOTHER WAY WEST.

YOU GUYS GO AHEAD. IT’S ME THEY’RE HUNTING.

NO. WE GO TOGETHER. I DO NOT LIKE IT, BUT YOU ARE PART OF THIS QUEST NOW. YOU ARE THE FIFTH MEMBER--

UH-OH.
"--and we are not leaving anyone behind."

"snore--"

You should be sleeping like the others.
Can't dream if you don't sleep.

Dreams like a podcast.
Downloading truth to my ears.
They tell me cool stuff.

Apollo?

Oh. I'm incognito.


So you're going to help us, then? Where is Artemis? And Annabeth?

I know a lot, and I see a lot, but I don't know that.

They're... clouded from me. I don't like it.

What about the monster? Do you know what it is?

No. But there is one who might. Go to the waterfront in San Francisco and find Nereus, the old man of the sea.

He knows things that are hidden even from my oracle.

But it's your oracle! Don't you know what the prophecy means?

Mmmph. Might as well ask an artist to explain his art. It defeats the purpose. The meaning is only clear through the search.

Ah, look at the time. Gotta run.

Take care, kid. I doubt I'll be able to risk helping you again.
Wait, are those mountains? As in the Rocky Mountains? How long was I asleep?

Just a couple of hours.

I guess you could say we took Apollo's high-speed "light" rail.

What's going on?

Were you just talking to yourself?

"It's a good thing this quest has us heading in the same direction as the sun."
“So... how do you like being a hunter?”

“It’s definitely cool. I feel calmer. Everything seems to have slowed down. I guess that’s the immortality.”

“Nico didn’t understand my decision, though. You know, if I hadn’t met you, I never would have felt okay leaving him. I figured if there were people like you at camp, he’d be fine.”

“What’s the story with you two, anyway? You never lived with your parents? I mean... your mortal parent?”

“All we know is our parents are dead. Well, one of them is, at least. We don’t even know who they are.”

“We traveled a long way, stayed in a hotel for a while. Then the lawyer came and got us again, drove us to Maine, and we started going to Westover. That was just a couple of weeks ago.”

“It wasn’t long after that, you came to get us.”

“And it’s always been just the two of you? Besides the lawyer, I mean.”

“Yeah. I love Nico, but that’s why I wanted to join the hunters.”

“There was a trust fund for us. A lawyer would come by once in a while and check on us at boarding school. Then, one day, he came and took us away.”

“I wanted my own life and friends. To find out what it’d be like to not be a big sister twenty-four seven.”
HAS THALIA ARRANGED OUR TRAVEL?

SHE'S NOT BACK YET.

WELL, DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP. THE CLERK SAYS THERE'S NO WAY OUT OF THIS TOWN, UNLESS YOU HAVE A CAR.

GROVER! TALK TO ME, PAL!

YOU'D BETTER GET HIM UP, WE'VE GOT COMPANY.

HEY! I JUST...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH GROVER?

I DON'T KNOW, HE JUST KEELED OVER.

...HRRRRRRRRH...
CHITTER

...WHHHH...

SURROUNDED.

THE GIFT IS NEAR...

IT'S NEAR...

WE'LL HAVE TO GO AT THEM ONE-ON-ONE.

MAYBE THEY'LL IGNORE GROVER THAT WAY.

YAH!
SWISH

MY ARROWS HAVE NO EFFECT!

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MY SWORD DOES EITHER....

CHITTER

CHITTER
GO AWAY!

HOW'D YOU DO THAT?!
I...DON'T KNOW.

FIGURE IT OUT, SO YOU CAN DO IT AGAIN!

THE GIFT FROM THE WILD!
REEEEE!

FWUMP

RUN!
N-No! I don't--!

Jump!

CRACK

REEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!
"THOOMPP"

Tis our ride west, we must use it.

A blessing from the wild, so cool.

Oh, you've snapped out of it now?

Maybe you can tell me why you keep calling this thing a blessing.

Reet! Reet!

This is the Erymanthian boar. Do you have any idea how fast it can travel?

We'd better climb aboard. Once it gets unstuck, there'll be no stopping it.

Do you have a clue what he's talking about?

Did you not feel it in the wind?

Just before the boar arrived I felt the presence of Pan, Lord of the Wild. Clearly, he sent this beast to aid us.

This ought to help me drive.

Sniff, sniff
SOMEBODY
IN ARIZONA.

This is as far as the boar will take us. We should get off while it’s drinking.

Thanks for the lift, Porky!

Where are we?

Wherever we are, I highly doubt we’ll be able to find a rental car.

Guys? What are those?

We are on the edge of one of Hephaestus’s junkyards. It is where he discards all his failed machines and inventions.

And the path to Artemis leads straight through it.

I do not like this. Let us rest until nightfall. We will cross the junkyard at night when it is cooler.

And when we will be less easy to detect.
Maybe it was the coffee. I was drinking coffee, and then that breeze came through.

What I'm wondering is how you destroyed that skeleton. There are five more out there, and we need to know how to fight them.

I don't know...my knife is the same as Joe's. Maybe I just hit it in the right spot?

I don't know how or why, but he sent us help.

After this quest, I'm going back to New Mexico and drinking lots of coffee.

It's the best lead any satyr has had in two thousand years. I was so close.

Never mind. What we should do now is plan our next move.

When we get through the junkyard, we should continue west to the nearest city. That would be Las Vegas, if I'm not--

No way! Not there!

Nico and I stayed at a hotel in Vegas when we were traveling. And then...I can't remember...
A couple of years ago, Grover, Annabeth, and I got trapped there. It's designed so you never want to leave.

The Lotus makes time speed up, too. We thought we were only there for an hour, but when we went outside, five days had gone by.

Bianca, who is the President of the United States right now?

Franklin Roosevelt. Why...?

No. That was over seventy years ago.

Do you remember anything else about before you stayed there? Maybe something about your parents?

You guys are freaking me out. Let's just go.
There's the road. We made it.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

GET CLEAR OF THE MOUNTAIN! QUICKLY!

IS IT AN AVALANCHE?

NO. THE MOUNTAIN ISN'T FALLING DOWN.

IT'S STANDING UP.
SOMEONE HAS TAKEN SOMETHING FROM THE JUNKYARD! WHO DO IT?

NOT ME! JEEZ, WHY DO I ALWAYS GET BLAMED?

YOU CAN ARGUE LATER, GUYS! TAKE COVER!

SLAM

SO MUCH STUFF... I DON'T KNOW...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I FOUND IT IN THE JUNK PILE. IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE WANTED IT.

IT'S THE ONLY FIGURINE NICO DOESN'T HAVE....
CLATTER

AAAH!

CRUNCH

HI-YA!

ZZ-ZAT

WHOOM
DID YOU SEE THAT HATCH? MAYBE THERE'S A WAY TO STOP THIS THING FROM THE INSIDE. IF I CAN--

NO.

THIS IS ALL MY FAULT. I SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN THE FIGURINE.

IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME, GIVE IT TO NICO. TELL HIM I'M SORRY.

BIANCA! WAIT!

HEY, RUST BRAINS! DOWN HERE!

BOOoom

NO!
Bianca!

It happened just like the Oracle said: "One will be lost in the land without rain."

Talk about blowing a fuse.

Bianca is gone.

Where is Bianca?
THE BORDER BETWEEN ARIZONA AND NEVADA.

OF ALL THE PLACES, I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE HERE. ANNABETH WOULD LOVE THIS.

I CAN HEAR HER NOW. "SEVEN HUNDRED FEET TALL. BUILT IN THE 1930S."

"FIVE MILLION CUBIC ACRES OF WATER."

"LARGEST CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES."

WE SHOULD CHECK IT OUT. SHE'D WANT US TO.

ORDINARILY I WOULD SAY THERE IS NO TIME, BUT PERHAPS WE CAN FIND SOME FOOD INSIDE.

HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE?

ANNABETH IS INTO ARCHITECTURE. THIS IS ONE OF HER FAVORITE STRUCTURES. SHE'S ALWAYS SPOUTING FACTS ABOUT IT.

I WISH SHE WERE HERE TO SEE IT....

PERCY? YOU COMING?

YEAH... UM... YOU GO ON AHEAD. I'LL MEET YOU AT THE SNACK BAR.
Bessie?

No, I can’t come with you right now. I have to stay with my friends.

Moo!

How’d you get here? We’re thousands of miles from camp, and so far inland, too.

Moo! Moo!

Splish!
YOU'RE SURE ACTING FUNNY, GIRL. WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME...?

OH. RIGHT.

CHITTER
CHITTER

HEY!
DOES THIS ELEVATOR GO TO THE SNACK BAR?

NO. IT GOES TO THE TURBINE LEVEL. THE SNACK BAR IS LOCATED ON THE FLOOR WE JUST LEFT.

OH, YEAH... THE TURBINE LEVEL... RIGHT.

IS THERE, LIKE, AN EXIT DOWN THERE?

NOT UNLESS YOU'RE MADE OF WATER. THE ONLY EXITS ARE THE ELEVATORS.

WEREN'T YOU LISTENING TO MY PRESENTATION, YOUNG MAN?

GREAT. ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, AT LEAST THERE AREN'T ANY CHIHUAHAS ON THIS ELEVATOR.

EVERYONE, CONTINUE TO THE END OF THE HALL. ANOTHER PARK RANGER WILL BE CONDUCTING THE REMAINDER OF THE TOUR.

YOUNG MAN?

YEAH?

THERE IS ALWAYS A WAY OUT, FOR THOSE CLEVER ENOUGH TO FIND IT.
THANKS FOR THE TIP.

IS THAT A SWORD?
THIS?
THIS ISN'T A SWORD.
IT'S A... BALLPOINT PEN.

NO, IT'S A SWORD, WEIRD. HOW DID YOU GET IT PAST SECURITY?

AND WHY ARE YOU WEARING A LION PELT?

YOU MEAN...
THIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A COAT TO YOU?

WHO ARE YOU?
RACHEL ELIZABETH DARE.
NOW, ARE YOU GOING TO ANSWER MY QUESTIONS, OR SHOULD I CALL SECURITY?

UH, NO-O.

DON'T DO THAT!
I'M KIND OF IN TROUBLE HERE.

OKAY, HOW DO I EXPLAIN THIS...?

IN THE BATHROOM!

HUUUUUH?
IT'S ABOUT TIME! DID YOU SEE THAT KID? HE HAD A SWORD, FOR PETE'S SAKE. YOU SECURITY GUYS LET A SWORD-SWINGING LUNATIC INSIDE A NATIONAL LANDMARK?!

ALL CLEAR, YOU'D BETTER HURRY. THEY'LL BE BACK BEFORE TOO LONG.

CHITTER CHITTER

HE RAN THAT WAY. YOU BETTER CATCH HIM BEFORE HE KILLS SOMEBODY. JEEZ!

I OWE YOU ONE, RACHEL ELIZABETH DARE.

NO PROBLEM. I KIND OF HAVE A RULE: WHEN IN DOUBT, ALWAYS SIDE WITH THE PERSON THAT STILL HAS SKIN ON HIS FACE.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME, ANYWAY?

PERCY--

GOTTA GO!

WHAT KIND OF NAME IS PERCY? GOTTA-GO?
TIME TO GO!

PLUNK

WHUNK

WHACK

THIS WAY!
There's no way out.

Four against five.
And they cannot die.

It's been nice adventuring with you guys.

"There is always a way out, for those clever enough to find it."
THALIA!: PRAY TO YOUR DAD. ASK HIM FOR HELP.

WHY? HE NEVER ANSWERS.

JUST DO IT! I THINK IT'LL BE DIFFERENT THIS TIME.

SAYS WHO?

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO LOSE?

FATHER? WE COULD USE A LITTLE HELP HERE... IF YOU DON'T MIND.

SEE? I TOLD YOU, HE NEVER ANW--

WHOA!
MAN, IT FEELS GOOD TO STRETCH MY WINGS!

A-ARE WE VERY H-HIGH?

KIND OF. WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

I'M AFRAID OF HEIGHTS, OKAY? I DON'T LIKE TO FLY!

JUST DON'T TELL ANYONE! PLEASE?

DON'T WORRY, YOUR SECRET IS SAFE WITH ME.

GO, WHERE TO?

SAN FRANCISCO. THE WATERFRONT.

BUT YOUR DAD IS, LIKE, LORD OF THE SKY.

YOU HEAR THAT, CHUCK? WE'RE HEADED TO FRISCO!

OH, I AM SO THERE. PARTY!
SAN FRANCISCO.

Apollo said you should talk to Nereus. You will find him at the end of the pier.

Mean the homeless guy?

He uses disguises so he can sun himself without being disturbed. You must capture him first, then he will answer thy questions.

Gotcha!

Help!

I don't have any money, I swear!

Just hold still, will you? I don't want your money. I'm a half-blood, and I need answers!

A hero? Blast! Why does your sort always pick on me?
DO YOU YIELD?

-GROAN-

VERY WELL.

THE NORMAL DEAL, I SUPPOSE? YOU'LL LET ME GO IF I ANSWER YOUR QUESTION?

YOU GOT HIM!

SURE, BUT I HAVE MORE THAN ONE QUESTION.

ONLY ONE QUESTION PER CAPTURE. THOSE ARE THE RULES.

BUT THERE'S ANNABETH, AND ARTEMIS, AND THE MYSTERY MONSTER...

ASK ABOUT THE BEAST. LADY ARTEMIS WOULD WISH FOR US TO SAVE OLYMPUS.

YEAH, ANNABETH WOULD, TOO.

-HEH-

TELL ME WHERE TO FIND THIS TERRIBLE MONSTER THAT COULD BRING AN END TO THE GODS.
THAT’S TOO EASY. "ACCOFF—JUST LOOK DOWN."

BESSIE? I DON’T UNDERSTAND...

THE FATES ORDAINED A PROPHECY EONS AGO, WHEN THIS CREATURE WAS BORN. THEY SAID WHOEVER KILLED IT AND SACRIFICED ITS ENTRAILS TO FIRE WOULD HAVE THE POWER TO DESTROY THE GODS.

HE SAYS HIS NAME ISN’T BESSIE, IT’S OPHIOTAURUS.

SHE’S A HE? AND WHAT’S AN OPHIO-THINGIE?

IT MEANS “SERPENT-BULL.”

I KNOW THIS STORY. IT’S AN OLD TALE MY FATHER TOLD ME....

WE HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR A DANGEROUS BEAST, BUT THE OPHIOTAURUS’S POWER LIES NOT IN WHAT IT WILL DO, BUT WHAT WILL BE DONE TO IT.

THE POWER TO OVERTHROW OLYMPUS... THAT’S HUGE.

YES, IT IS, MY DEAR--
SURELY IT IS CLEAR, THIS IS WHY LORD KRONOS RESURRECTED YOU, SO YOU COULD SACRIFICE THE OPHIOTAURUS AND BRING ITS ENTRAILS TO THE SACRED FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN.

---AND YOU SHALL UNLEASH IT.

THALIA, IT IS TIME YOUR FRIENDS WITNESSED YOUR GREAT VICTORY.

ME? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

YOU KNOW IT IS THE RIGHT CHOICE, YOUR FRIEND, LUKE, RECOGNIZED IT, TOO.

YOUR FATHER ABANDONED YOU. THALIA, HE CARES NOTHING FOR YOU.

CRUSH THE OLYMPIANS UNDERFOOT AS THEY DESERVE. SLAY THE BEAST AND BECOME MORE POWERFUL THAN THE GODS!

I...I DON’T...

NO!
COLLECT CALL! CAMP HALF-BLOOD!

PLEASE HOLD.

WE'RE ABOUT TO DIE! WHERE'S CHIRON?

ABOUT TO DIE? HOW AMUSING. I'M AFRAID CHIRON ISN'T HERE RIGHT NOW. SHALL I TAKE A MESSAGE?

THE MANTICORE IS IN SAN FRANCISCO, AND SO IS THE OPHIOTAURUS. THORN IS TRYING TO GET THALIA TO SACRIFICE IT.

WELL, NOW, I HAVEN'T HEARD THE MAGIC WORD.

THE WHAT?!

HELP US, MR. D. PLEASE.
SPARE THE DAUGHTER OF ZEUS. SHE WILL JOIN US SOON ENOUGH.

KILL THE OTHERS.

NO! NOOOOO!

FOOMP

BUSTLE

FOOMP
YOU SAVED US, I CAN’T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY SAVED US.

SUCH GRATITUDE. HOW TOUCHING.

I HOPE YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSON, THERESA. POWER ISN’T EASY TO RESIST, IS IT, GIRL?

NOW RUN ALONG, ALL OF YOU, I’VE BOUGHT YOU A FEW HOURS AT MOST.

OH, I THINK THE HUNTRESS KNOWS. YOU MUST ENTER AT SUNSET, OR ALL WILL BE LOST.

BUT WHERE DO WE GO?

GOOD-BYE. I HAVE A PIZZA WAITING.

WHAT DID HE MEAN? WHERE ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GO?

I MUST GO HOME.

THE GARDEN OF MY SISTERS.
I hope Grover makes it back to camp with the Ophiotaurus. He isn't exactly the best swimmer.

I prayed to my dad for safe passage, and even offered up the Nemean lion's pelt as trade.

Not much else we can do...

Dusk is at hand. Time grows short.

Hello, sisters. It has been a very long time.

We do not see any sister. We see two half-bloods and a hunter. All of whom shall soon die.

Go back.

We know our friend, Annabeth, is a prisoner up there. We aren't leaving without her.

Or Lady Artemis. We must approach the mountain.
THOU KNOWS HE WILL KILL THEE. THOU ARE NO MATCH FOR HIM.

LADON! WAKE!

ARE THOU MAD?

THOU NEVER HAD ANY COURAGE, SISTER. THAT IS THY PROBLEM.

SKIRT AROUND THE EDGES OF THE GARDEN. THE DRAGON IS TRAINED TO PROTECT THE APPLES OF IMMORTALITY. HE SHOULD IGNORE THEE, SO LONG AS HE THINKS I AM THE BIGGER THREAT.

IT IS I, MY LITTLE DRAGON. ZOE HAS RETURNED.
I used to feed thee by hand. I know thou remembers thine old caretaker....

Aah!

Zoë!

I am fine. Push onward to the mountaintop... Lodon will not follow. He will stay with the tree.

No. Do not charge.

Even the three of us cannot defeat him.

Are you all right?

Did he bite you?
The ruins of Mount Othrys...

Yes, they were not here before. This is bad.

In the first war, Olympus and Othrys were the two rival capitals of the world. Othrys was blasted to pieces.

This is Atlas's mountain... where he holds up the sky.

It moves throughout history the way Olympus moves, but the fact that it is here, on this mountain, is not good.
--WHERE I USED TO HOLD UP THE SKY.

HOW ARE YOU, MY LITTLE TRAITOR? I AM GOING TO ENJOY KILLING YOU.

YOU AREN'T GOING TO KILL ANYONE. I WON'T LET YOU.

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO INTERFERE, GODLING. THIS IS A FAMILY MATTER. OR HAS MY DAUGHTER NOT TOLD YOU?

ZOÉ...?

IT'S TRUE...

...ATLAS IS MY FATHER.
LET ARTEMIS GO, FATHER.

I DON'T GET IT. WHY CAN'T ARTEMIS JUST LET GO?

Perhaps you'd like to take the burden from her. Be my guest.

No, Zoë! I forbid you!

You have much to learn, Godling. This is where the sky and Earth first met and brought forth their mighty children, the Titans.

The sky still yearns to embrace the Earth. If someone doesn't hold it at bay, it will crush the mountain and everything within a hundred leagues.

There is no escape from the burden unless another offers to take it, as Artemis did to protect Annabeth. It was easy to predict—Artemis has such a soft spot for young maidens.

Thalia, you can still join us. The Ophiotaurus will come to you, if you summon it.

Don't you remember all of those times we talked? All those times we cursed the gods? It's time you did more than just talk.

So I'm afraid Artemis won't be able to make this evening's Olympian counsel. She has... previous engagements.
MY SHIP IS ROCKED AT THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN. WITH YOUR HELP, KRONOS'S ARMY WILL BE READY TO STORM CAMP HALF-BLOOD.

AND AFTER THAT, OLYMPUS ITSELF.

DON'T, THALIA... PLEASE.

I'LL NEVER JOIN YOU, LUKE. I DON'T KNOW YOU ANYMORE.

THEN YOU LEAVE US NO CHOICE.

FOR ZEUS!
YOU'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT!

SKRRCH

FOOLISH BOY.

ANCIENT LAWS FORBID AN IMMORTAL FROM DIRECTLY CHALLENGING A HERO.

BUT NOW THAT YOU HAVE CHALLENGED ME--

--I AM FREE TO CHALLENGE IN KIND.
RUN! A HALF-BLOOD IS NO MATCH FOR A TITAN!

NO, BUT A GOD IS.

NOW, DAUGHTER, I SHALL REPAY YOU FOR TURNING AGAINST ME.
CLACK

I think not, Atlas. It is you who have a debt that needs repaying.

HOW...?
GIVE IT UP, THALIA!

NEVER!

CLACK

SMACK

THALIA! STOP!

AAH!
Finally. The first blood of a new war.

NO!
NO! CURSE YOU!
NO, TITAN. CURSE YOU. AGAIN.

EVERYONE, COME QUICK.

THE WOUND IS POISONED.

LADON BIT HER. SHE SAID IT WASN'T BAD."

PERHAPS NOT ALONE, BUT THE INJURIES SHE SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF ATLAS ARE TOO SEVERE.

HAVE I SERVED THEE WELL, MY LADY?

INDEED. FINER THAN ANY OTHER.

REST. AT LAST.

"AND ONE SHALL PERISH BY A PARENT'S HAND." I ALMOST WISH THE ORACLE'S PROPHECY WAS MEANT FOR ME INSTEAD....

LET THE WORLD HONOR YOU, MY HUNTRESS--
--LIVE FOREVER AMONG THE STARS.

I MUST DEPART FOR OLYMPUS AT ONCE. I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE YOU, BUT HELP WILL ARRIVE SHORTLY.

YOU DID WELL, PERSEUS JACKSON, FOR A MAN.

NOW WHAT?

UH...GUYS? INCOMING.

YO, BOSS!

WE HEARD YOU GUYS NEEDED A RIDE.
Apollo and I shall hunt the most powerful monsters. Athena will check on the other Titans to make sure they remain in their prisons. Poseidon will unleash his full fury on the Princess Andromeda.

As for you, young heroes, none here would deny that you have done Olympus a great service.

I gotta say, you kids did okay. *ahem* Heroes win laurels—

Now wait just a minute. Have we forgotten the Oracle’s prophecy?

Two of these runts are dangerous.

They are worthy heroes. We will not kill my daughter.

Nor my son.

I am proud of my daughter as well, but Ares has a point. It is unfortunate that my father Zeus and my uncle Poseidon chose to break their oath to not sire more children.

But what is done is done. There is a risk, however, in allowing children of the elder gods to live.
THALIA AND PERCY WILL NOT BE HARMED. I INSIST UPON IT.

THE BEAST, HOWEVER, IS ANOTHER MATTER ENTIRELY. I BELIEVE WE ARE IN AGREEMENT THAT IT MUST BE DESTROYED?

YOU WANT TO KILL BESSIE? WHAT FOR? HE'S JUST A SEA CREATURE, AND A REALLY NICE ONE, TOO!

YOU CAN'T!

PERCY, THE MONSTER'S POWER IS CONSIDERABLE. IF THE TITANS WERE TO STEAL IT...

OR PERHAPS ONE OF YOU MIGHT TRY TO SACRIFICE THE BEAST'S ENTRAILS.

THE ORACLE FORETells THAT, ON THEIR SIXTEENTH BIRTHDAY, A HALF-BLOOD CHILD OF THE ELDER GODS WILL DECIDE THE FATE OF OLYMPUS.

FOR YOU, MY DAUGHTER, THAT DAY IS FAST APPROACHING.

PERHAPS NOT. MY FAITHFUL COMPANION, ZOE NIGHTSHADE, HAS PASSED INTO THE STARS. I MUST HAVE A NEW LIEUTENANT TO REPLACE HER.

THALIA, DAUGHTER OF ZEUS, WILL YOU JOIN THE HUNT?

FATHER, I WILL NOT TURN SIXTEEN TOMORROW. I WILL NEVER TURN SIXTEEN. I WON'T LET THIS PROPHECY BE MINE.
Lady Artemis, I accept.

The boy is still dangerous, and the beast is a temptation to great power.

No, please, keep the Ophiotaurus safe. I'm only fourteen. If the prophecy is about me, that's still two years from now.

Two years for Kronos to deceive you.

It is bad strategy to keep the beast alive. Or you.

I will build an aquarium for the creature here. Hephaestus will help. We will protect it with all of our powers, and it will be safe.

As for the boy... he will not betray us. I vouch for this on my honor.

We have a majority.

All in favor?

And so, since we will not be destroying anyone or anything, I imagine we should honor the heroes.
"LET THE TRIUMPH CELEBRATION BEGIN."

YOU, UH, OKAY THERE, G-MAN?
S-SURE.
I'M JUST GOING TO KEEP D-DRINKING THESE TRIPLE ESPRESSO LATTES UNTIL I GET ANOTHER SIGN F-FROM PAN...

YOU WON'T LET ME DOWN, I HOPE.
I'LL J-JUST BE G-G-GOING.
THANKS FOR STICKING UP FOR ME, DAD. I WON'T LET YOU DOWN. I PROMISE.

LUKE ONCE PROMISED HIS FATHER THAT. HE WAS HERMES'S PRIDE AND JOY. JUST BEAR THAT IN MIND, PERCY. EVEN THE BRAVEST CAN FALL.

LUKE FELL PRETTY HARD, ALL RIGHT. RIGHT OFF THE TOP OF MOUNT OTHRYS. HE'S DEAD.

NO, HE IS NOT.
LUKE SAILS WITH HIS SHIP FROM SAN FRANCISCO EVEN NOW. HE WILL RETREAT AND REGROUP BEFORE ASSAULTING YOU AGAIN.

I DON'T KNOW HOW HE SURVIVED, BUT HE IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER. AND THE GOLDEN COFFIN IS STILL WITH HIM, KRONOS STILL GAINING STRENGTH.
YOU DID WELL, MY SON, BUT YOUR ROLE IN THIS IS NOT YET RESOLVED. PREPARE YOURSELF, CONTINUE YOUR TRAINING, AND I KNOW YOU WILL MAKE ME PROUD.

YOUR FATHER TAKES A GREAT RISK, YOU KNOW. WISE COUNSEL IS NOT ALWAYS POPULAR, BUT I SPOKE THE TRUTH.

YOU ARE DANGEROUS.

FIRST, YOUR MOTHER WAS TAKEN FROM YOU, THEN, YOUR BEST FRIEND, GROVER.

NOW MY DAUGHTER. IN EACH CASE, YOUR LOVED ONES HAVE BEEN USED TO LURE YOU INTO KRONOS’S TRAPS.

THE CROOKED ONE KNOWS HOW TO STUDY HIS ENEMIES. HE KNOWS YOUR FATAL FLAW, EVEN IF YOU DO NOT, AND HE WILL CONTINUE TO USE IT AGAINST YOU.

IF HELPING THE PEOPLE YOU CARE ABOUT IS A FLAW, THEN YOU'RE GUILTY OF IT, TOO.

AFTER ALL, YOU WERE THE PARK RANGER AT THE HOOVER DAM, RIGHT?

YOUR FATAL FLAW IS PERSONAL LOYALTY.

TO SAVE A FRIEND, YOU WOULD SACRIFICE THE WORLD. IN A HERO OF THE PROPHECY, THAT IS A VERY DANGEROUS THING.
MARK ME, PERSEUS JACKSON. THE MOST DANGEROUS FLAWS ARE THOSE THAT ARE GOOD IN MODERATION.

EVIL IS EASY TO FIGHT. LACK OF WISDOM... THAT IS VERY HARD INDEED.

SHE WASN'T GIVING YOU A HARD TIME, WAS SHE?

NAH, IT'S OKAY. IF ANYBODY'S TWO CENTS ARE WORTH ANYTHING, IT'S THE GODDESS OF WISDOM'S....

COOL PARTY, HUH?

WILL YOU... UM... LIKE TO DANCE OR SOMETHING?

WITH YOU? IN YOUR DREAMS, SEAWEED BRAIN.

OH, COME ON.
Later, at Camp Half-Blood.

Sally Jackson, Manhattan's upper East side.

Please hold.

Ha-ha! Sally, you're a riot! I'll go get some more wine from the kitchen.

I'll be right here.

Perch? You startled me. I still haven't gotten used to this Iris phone Chiron gave me.

Is everything okay?

Mom?

Everything is fine.

Who was that...

Oh, honey, that's just Paul--I mean Mr. Blosis. He's in my writing seminar.

Mom, are you happy?

We're kind of... Oh, dear, how do I say this? We're kind of...

Yes, Percy, I really am. He's a very nice man.
THEN DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, MOM. I LIKE HIM BETTER THAN GABE ALREADY.

I'LL SEE YOU FOR CHRISTMAS?

ABSOLUTELY! THERE WILL BE EXTRA CANDY IN YOUR STOCKING THIS YEAR, TOO.

I'LL MAKE SURE OF IT.

AND PERCY? THANK YOU.

OKAY, MOM. SEE YOU SOON.

KNOCK KNOCK

HEY! HAHA! I HEARD YOU WERE BACK. WHERE'S BIANCA? I WANT TO HEAR ALL ABOUT HER ADVENTURE!

NICO, WE NEED TO TALK...
She wanted you to have it. Her last thought was of you.

You promised you would protect her.

I tried. She gave herself up to save the rest of us. Without her, none of us would’ve survived the quest.

You promised! I never should’ve trusted you. My nightmares were right!

Nightmares? What nightmares?

She’s in the Fields of Asphodel, standing before the judges right now, being evaluated. I can feel it.

You can feel it? Oh, no. Nico... I think I know who your dad is.
NICO, GET BACK!
YOU DID IT. YOU BROUGHT THESE THINGS TO KILL ME!

WHAT? NO! I MEAN, YEAH, THEY FOLLOWED ME HERE, BUT I'M THE ONE THEY'RE AFTER.
YOU HAVE TO RUN!

NO! I DON'T TRUST YOU.

GO AWAY, MONSTERS!
HOW DID YOU DO THAT...?

I WISH YOU'D FALLEN IN, TOO. I HATE YOU!

NICO! WAIT!

PERCY! I WAS IN MY CABIN, AND I THOUGHT I FELT AN EARTHQUAKE. WHAT HAPPENED?

WHY DIDN'T I SEE IT EARLIER?

SEE WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

NICO, I WAS TELLING HIM BIANCA WAS GONE, AND HE SAID HE ALREADY KNEW. THAT HE COULD FEEL THAT SHE WAS IN THE FIELDS OF ASPHODEL.

AND THEN THE SKELETON WARRIORS WERE HERE, AND HE JUST...COMMANDED THE GROUND TO OPEN UP AND SWALLOW THEM.

ANNABETH, I THINK HIS DAD IS--

--HADES.
This is serious. It means Hades broke the oath, too. We have to tell Chiron right away.

No!

I don't think Hades broke the oath.

What?

He's their dad, but Bianca and Nico have been out of commission for a long time, since even before World War II. They spent a lot of time in Las Vegas, if you know what I mean.

The Lotus, Percy... This is horrible. Even if Hades didn't break the oath, Nico is still a child of the Big Three.

No. I can't let Nico be in any more danger. I owe that much to Bianca.

The prophecy will be about me.

That means the prophecy might not be about you. The future of the gods might lie in Nico's hands.

Don't say that! You want to be responsible for--?

Annabeth, I choose it. I choose the prophecy.

~*~*~ All right. I hope you know what you're doing, seaweed brain.

We have to tell Chiron something, though.

Let's go. Tell him Nico got upset about Bianca and ran off, and now we can't find him.
HE SPOKE!
HE SPOKE!

GROVER?!
NOW WHAT'S
WRONG?

I WAS DRINKING
COFFEE, LOTS OF COFFEE,
AND PAN SPOKE IN MY MIND.
THE LORD OF THE WILD
HIMSELF.

HE SAID--

---"I AWAIT YOU."---

END OF BOOK 3.
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GREG GUILHAUMOND studied drawing and animation at the European School of Visual Arts. After graduating, he worked in Web and graphic design while also doing illustrations for various role-playing games and magazines and producing underground comics. Greg provided the colors for Severed. The Titan’s Curse: The Graphic Novel is his first book for children. He lives in Tours, France. Visit Doublegarga.canalblog.com.

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