PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS
BOOK FOUR

THE BATTLE OF THE LABYRINTH

The Graphic Novel

by

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NINTH GRADE ORIENTATION DAY.

RUN!

LET ME GO!
WHAT THE HECK IS THE MATTER WITH YOU?

I SHOW UP FOR MY FIRST DAY AT A NEW SCHOOL, AND YOU GO NUTS!

ARE THEY FOLLOWING US?

IS WHO FOLLOWING US? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

WHO ARE YOU?

BE QUIET!

WAIT... I REMEMBER YOU. HOOVER DAM. RIGHT?

YOUR NAME IS RACHEL ELIZABETH DARE. WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN NEW YORK?

I REMEMBER YOU. ALMOST KILLED, YOU HAD A PEN, BUT IT WAS A SWORD, AND THERE WERE COPS CHASING YOU, BUT THEY WERE ZOMBIES.

JUST... NEVER MIND. YOU WON'T BELIEVE ME. I'M CRAZY, ALL RIGHT? THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE SAYS. I'M CRAZY.

THEN I SEE YOU AT MY NEW SCHOOL-- AND I SEE THEM-- AND I'M LIKE, "HERE WE GO AGAIN."

WHAT? WHAT DID YOU SEE?

RACHEL! YOU KNEW MY PEN WAS A SWORD. YOU KNEW THOSE COPS WEREN'T REALLY COPS. IF YOU CAN SEE THROUGH THE MIST, I NEED TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE RUNNING FROM. AND I NEED TO KNOW NOW.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT ‘MIST’?

IT’S...WELL, IT’S LIKE THIS VEIL THAT HIDES THE WAY THINGS REALLY ARE. SOME MORTALS ARE BORN WITH THE ABILITY TO SEE THROUGH IT. LIKE YOU.

LOOK, THIS IS GOING TO SOUND WEIRD. ALL THE GREEK MYTHS— GODS AND MONSTERS AND HEROES.

MORTAL? YOU SAY THAT LIKE YOU’RE... NOT.

YOU KNOW WHAT IT ALL MEANS, DON’T YOU. ALL THESE HORRIBLE THINGS I SEE.

TELL ME, PLEASE.

THEY'RE REAL.

I KNEW IT!
FOR YEARS I THOUGHT I WAS GOING NUTS!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW HARD IT'S BEEN.

OH, I THINK I HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA.

SO WHO ARE YOU?

WHO ARE YOU REALLY?

MY NAME IS PERCY JACKSON. I'M A HALF-BLOOD.

I'M HALF HUMAN AND HALF...

THERE YOU ARE, PERCY JACKSON.
IT'S TIME FOR YOUR ORIENTATION.

STAY BACK! I'M WARNING YOU! DON'T MAKE ME USE MY PEN!

THIS IS OUR SCHOOL... HALF-BLOOD!

WE FEED ON WHOM WE CHOOSE!
AAAH!!EEEEE!

NO!

YOU KILLED MY TRAINEE! SHE WAS GOING TO BE A GOOD EMPOUSA, LIKE ME. SERVANTS OF HEKATE FORMED US FROM ANIMAL, BRONZE, AND GHOST.

YOU'LL PAY, PERCY JACKSON. SOON, YOUR PRETTY LITTLE CAMP WILL BE IN FLAMES. YOUR FRIENDS WILL BE SLAVES TO THE LORD OF TIME.

I WILL BE MERCIFUL. I WILL END YOUR LIFE NOW, BEFORE YOU HAVE TO WITNESS ANY OF IT.

RACHEL?

YEAH?

WINDOW.

GO!
THOSE KILLER CHEERLEADERS didn’t want me.
THEY’re after you.
YOU’d better get going.

SO, LIKE, ARE YOU GOING to almost get me killed EVERY TIME I see you?
POSSIBLY.

WELCOME TO MY WORLD.

MY PHONE NUMBER, I WANT TO KNOW MORE about half-bloods, and gods and monsters.

YOU WILL CALL ME.
YOU OWE ME THAT MUCH.

WAIT! DO YOU EVEN HAVE A SAFE PLACE to go?

A SAFE PLACE?
"YOU COULD SAY THAT."

LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK.
CAMP HALF-BLOOD.

HIDDEN REFUGE OF THE CHILDREN OF GREEK GODS AND HUMANS.
Sounds like your summer started with a bang, seaweed brain.

Don't you usually wait for a school year to start before you destroy everything?

Orientation day has to be some kind of half-blood record.

You sound like my mom.

She's taking this one a little hard. Goode being where her boyfriend, Paul, teaches and all.

How about you, Annabeth?

How was eighth grade?

Monster-infested. Things are definitely getting worse out there.

It's good to be back at camp. I'll say that.

Any word on Luke?

Mount Tam is still overrun with monsters.

I haven't been back since we fought Luke there last summer.

But I don't think he's up there. I think I'd know if he was.

Anyway, you've got lots of catching up to do.

Come on.
“YOU NEED TO MEET THE NEW INSTRUCTOR.”

MRS. O’LEARY! DOWN!

DON’T WORRY ABOUT HER, PERCY.

SHE’S HARMLESS, AS FAR AS HELLHOUNDS GO.

HARLESS. RIGHT.

I’M QUINTUS. I’M HELPING OUT AT CAMP WHILE MR. D’S AWAY SHORING UP ALLIANCES.

AND YOU MUST BE PERCY JACKSON. ANNABETH HAS TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOU.

I HEAR YOU’RE HANDY WITH A SWORD. I BELIEVE I’D LIKE TO SEE THAT.

WHAT’S IN THE CRATES, QUINTUS?

THERE’S THE HORN FOR DINNER. YOU TWO BETTER GET MOVING.
The Dining Pavilion.

Brother! You’re here! Now we can eat peanut butter sandwiches and ride fish ponies and make monsters go boom!

Tyson!

Ow, watch the ribs. The ribs.

Grover? No smiles? You’re seeing your best friend for the first time since last summer.

I’m sorry, Percy. It’s just...

I told the council of cloven elders how I heard the voice of the nature god Pan speak to me during our quest last summer, but they don’t believe me.

The fat satyr bosses say Grover is a liar.

They said I only have one week left to find Pan, or they’re going to revoke my searcher’s license for good.

I’ll be a disgrace to the Underwood name.

My dad was a searcher. My grandfather was a searcher...
Hey. Don’t worry. I’m here to help. We’ll figure it out.

Annabeth and Clarisse thinks they might have a plan... but they said it’s dangerous.

Annabeth is hanging out with Clarisse? The same Clarisse who tried to kill me every time she sees me?

What can I say? Times are tough around here.

Everyone is stressed out, waiting for Luke to show up and attack again.

Father Poseidon says I should stay here and help make weapons. I wanted to stay with him.

Even Dionysus finally got off his lazy rear end.

Zeus called him back to Olympus to help make sure all the gods and minor gods are lining up on the right side.

The old sea monsters are going to make war on him.

Even the war against Kronos and the Titans is coming, Percy. I can feel it.

Percy?
I'VE FAILED. THERE'S NO WAY TO GET HER BACK.

TELL ME! TELL ME HOW TO BRING MY SISTER BACK FROM THE LAND OF THE DEAD!

AN OFFERING. A SOUL FOR A SOUL.

IT HAS NEVER BEEN DONE. NICE...

BUT THERE MAY BE A WAY.

I'VE OFFERED!

NOT THAT AGAIN. YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT MURDER. I WON'T DO IT.

I WILL HELP YOU. HAVE I NOT SAVED YOU MANY TIMES? DID I NOT LEAD YOU THROUGH THE MAZE AND TEACH YOU TO USE YOUR POWERS?

NOT YOUR SOUL. THE SOUL OF ANOTHER. SOMEONE WHO HAS CHEATED DEATH.

NOT MURDER. JUSTICE. VENGEANCE.

YOU WILL HAVE REVENGE FOR BIANCA. YOU WILL TRADE THE SOUL OF THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR HER DEATH.
“Percy Jackson.”

Percy?

Hm?

Are you all right? Did you listen to anything I said?

Yeah, sorry. I guess I’m just tired.

I’ve been a long day full of hellhounds and exploding cheerleaders.

Well, snap out of it. We have to meet with Annabeth and Clarisse to discuss plans.

Not tonight. I won’t be any good.

Tomorrow, okay?

Okay...
THE NEXT MORNING.

YAWN!

ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT!

CHIRON? WHAT'S GOING ON?

I'LL LEAVE YOU TO DISCUSS THAT WITH YOUR FRIENDS.

WHERE'S TYSON?

HE LEFT EARLY FOR WEAPONS-FORGING CLASS. WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

IT'S ABOUT THE LABYRINTH.
Look, Grover is in trouble. There’s only ONE WAY I can figure to help him. It’s the Labyrinth. That’s what Clarisse and I have been up to.

YOU MEAN THE MAZE FROM ANCIENT GREEK MYTHOLOGY? THE PLACE WHERE THEY KEPT THE MINOTAUR?

Supposedly, you can get anywhere through the Labyrinth. If you don’t get lost, or die a horrible death.

There has to be a way. Clarisse survived. So did Chris.

He only got driven insane. That’s much better.

Hold up, who’s insane?

Remember Chris Rodriguez from the Hermes cabin? He switched sides and joined up with Luke.

Clarisse found him wandering the desert in Arizona last summer. Babbling about “string.” And he said Luke’s forces have been exploring the Labyrinth.

AND... YOU’RE HOPELESS, SEAWEED BRAIN. THANK THE GODS ONE OF US IS A CHILD OF THE GODDESS OF WISDOM AND BATTLE STRATEGY.

Why are we going to the woods?

Come on. Grab your stuff. We’ll talk more in the woods.

Quintus announced War Games. You and I have been partnered up.
“You could definitely use the training.”

“Of course. You all know your two-person teams.

Your goal is simple. Collect the gold laurels without dying.

There are six monsters. Each has a silk package tied to its back, but only one holds the prize.

You must find the wreath before the other teams.

And, of course, you’ll have to slay the monsters to get it.

Let the games begin!

You think Grover and Tyson will be all right?

They’ll be fine. Come on.

Let’s worry about how we’re going to stay alive.”
THE WOODS.

SO...STRING. WHAT DO YOU THINK CHRIS RODRIGUEZ WAS TALKING ABOUT?

IT HAS TO BE ARIADENE'S STRING. IT'S A MAGIC ITEM THAT HELPED THESEUS ESCAPE THE LABYRINTH IN THE OLD DAYS.

IF LUKE FINDS IT, HE'LL BE ABLE TO NAVIGATE THE LABYRINTH, MOVE HIS ARMY AROUND IN SECRET, AND AMBUSH ANYWHERE, ANYTIME.

MAYBE EVEN WITHIN THE BORDERS OF CAMP.

THE CLOSEST ENTRANCE CLARISSE FOUND WAS IN MANHATTAN, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THERE AREN'T OTHERS.

ANNABETH... I HAD A VISION. I SAW NICO DI ANGELO. I THINK HE WAS IN THE UNDERWORLD. HE WAS WITH A GHOST. THEY'RE PLOTTING REVENGE AGAINST ME.

THE GHOST SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A MAZE.

THAT SETTLES IT. WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT THE LABYRINTH.

WHATEVER COMES OUT OF THOSE BUSHES, I'LL DRAW ITS ATTENTION FORWARD. USE YOUR MAGIC HAT TO TURN INVISIBLE AND SNEAK AROUND BEHIND IT.

SHH! SOMETHING'S COMING!

UM, PERCY?
ANY OTHER IDEAS?
USE YOUR HAT! GET OUT OF HERE!

I'M NOT LEAVING YOU!

WE NEED TO FIND COVER!

IN HERE!

AAAAAAAA!
WHAT... WHERE ARE WE?

IT'S A CORRIDOR.

WMMMP

PERCY, DON'T MOVE. WE NEED TO FIND THE EXIT. NOW.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? IT'S RIGHT ABOVE--

HOW?

WHERE'S THE OPENING WE FELL THROUGH?

THE WALLS. PERCY, HELP ME LOOK.

THANK THE GODS.

WHAT'S THAT?

THE MARK OF DAEDALUS.
THIS IS CRAZY. WHAT WERE WE GONE FIVE MINUTES? HOW IS IT NIGHT? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SCORPIONS?

WE FOUND IT. I CAN'T BELIEVE WE FOUND IT.

WHAT, ANNABELLE? WHAT DID WE FIND?

AN INVASION ROUTE STRAIGHT INTO THE HEART OF CAMP.

WE FOUND AN ENTRANCE TO THE LABYRINTH.
LUKE KNEW EVERYTHING ABOUT CAMP WHEN HE WAS A COUNSELOR HERE. HE MUST HAVE KNOWN ABOUT THE ENTRANCE.

IF HE LEARNS TO NAVIGATE THE MAZE, HE CAN LEAD AN ARMY INTO THE HEART OF CAMP. THE MAGICAL BOUNDARIES WON'T BE ABLE TO PROTECT US.

HE'LL WIPE US OUT! I BET HE'S BEEN PLANNING THIS FOR MONTHS!

QUIET. NOW QUIET DOWN.

WE CONVENED THIS WAR COUNCIL TO DISCUSS THIS GRAVE DISCOVERY. BUT WE MUST HAVE ORDER.

ANNABETH, YOU WILL SPEAK FIRST.

LUKE IS ALREADY SENDING SCOUTS INTO THE MAZE.

WE KNOW BECAUSE WE FOUND ONE.

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ. WHAT THE MAZE DID TO HIM...

THE POINT IS, LUKE IS TRYING TO NAVIGATE THE MAZE. HE'S SEARCHING FOR DAEDALUS'S WORKSHOP.
Exactly, Clarisse. Daedalus is the greatest architect and inventor of all time. He built the Labyrinth. If Luke convinces Daedalus to help him, he won't have to worry about traps or getting lost.

He could take his army anywhere. First to Camp to destroy us and then... Olympus.

Daedalus lived, what, three thousand years ago? Isn't he dead?

No one knows. Quintus, there are many disturbing rumors about Daedalus.

If he disappeared back into the Labyrinth, he may yet be alive. Time is said to work differently down there.

We have to find Daedalus first. If he's alive, we convince him to help us. Not Luke.

And if Ariadne's string still exists, we make sure it never falls into Luke's hands.

We need a quest, and we all know who should lead it.

Annabeth.

No way! The place is a death trap!

I'm our best chance. Percy, I've studied the Labyrinth.

In books! It's not the same thing!

Enough.

I do not relish the thought, but Annabeth is best qualified for this quest.

If there are no objections?

Very well. Annabeth. It's your time to visit the Oracle. Then we shall discuss what to do next.
"ASSUMING YOU RETURN TO US IN ONE PIECE."

YOU SHALL DELVE IN THE DARKNESS OF THE ENDLESS MAZE.

THE DEAD, THE TRAITOR, AND THE LOSTIST ONE RAISE.

YOU SHALL RISE OR FALL BY THE GHOSST KING'S HAND, THE CHILD OF ATHENA'S FINAL SUSTAIN.

DESTROY WITH A HERO'S FINAL BREATH.

AND LOSE A LOVE TO WORSE THAN...

...Yes? And?
Was there nothing more, my dear? Every word the Oracle speaks is important.

"The lost one"? That must mean Pan! That's great!

Annabeth is a child of Athena. "Final stand" sounds not so great.

I'm in.

I'll pack extra recyclables for snacks!

And Tyson. I'll need you, too.

Blow-things-up time!

Wait. That goes against the ancient laws. A hero is permitted only two companions on a quest.

Quintus is correct. Three is a sacred number. There are three fates, three furies, three Olympian sons of Kronos.

It is a good, strong number that stands against many dangers. Four... this is risky.

I know, Chiron, but we have to.

Please.

Very well. Let us adjourn. The members of the quest must prepare themselves.
"TOMORROW AT DAWN, WE SEND YOU INTO THE LABYRINTH."

ANNABETH? YOU OKAY?

I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU SO SCARED.

I'VE WANTED TO LEAD A QUEST SINCE I WAS SEVEN.

I'M WORRIED, PERCY.

MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED YOU TO DO THIS, OR TYSON AND GROVER.

HEY, IT'S... IT'S OKAY. WE'VE HAD PLENTY OF PROBLEMS BEFORE, AND WE SOLVED THEM.

THIS IS DIFFERENT. I'M BREAKING THE RULES, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO. I NEED YOU THREE, IT JUST FEELS RIGHT.

IS THIS ABOUT THE PROPHECY? THE LAST LINE... ABOUT A HERO'S LAST BREATH...

IS THERE ANOTHER LINE YOU'RE NOT TELLING US? THEY USUALLY RHYME. DOES IT END IN THE WORD... DEATH?

GO GET READY FOR THE QUEST, PERCY.

I'LL SEE YOU IN THE MORNING.
MOUNT TAMALPAIS.

STRONGHOLD OF THE TITANS.

OUR SPIES REPORT SUCCESS, MY LORD KRONOS.

CAMP HALF-BLOOD IS SENDING A QUEST, AS YOU PREDICTED.

OUR SIDE OF THE BARGAIN IS ALMOST COMPLETE.

EXCELLENT. ONCE WE HAVE THE MEANS TO NAVIGATE, I WILL LED THE VANGUARD THROUGH MYSELF.

ONE MORE HEART SHALL JOIN OUR CRUSADE, AND THAT WILL BE SUFFICIENT. AT LAST, I SHALL FULLY RISE FROM TARTARUS.

BUT YOUR NEW FORM, MY LORD...

YOU PLEDGED YOURSELF TO ME, LUKE CASTELLAN.

YOU WANTED POWER. I GAVE YOU THAT, YOU ARE NOW BEYOND HARM. SOON, YOU WILL RULE THE WORLD OF GODS AND MORTALS. YOU WILL BE AVENGED.

MAKE READY THE STRIKE FORCE. AS SOON AS THE BARGAIN IS DONE, WE SHALL MOVE FORWARD. FIRST, CAMP HALF-BLOOD WILL BE REDUCED TO ASHES. THEN WE MARCH ON OLYMPUS.
"We burn one final heart."

A grave yard.

There is no need to summon the dead. Nico, you already have me for advice.

Who are you young warrior? Speak.

I am Theseus.

I want a second opinion.

My stepfather died. He threw himself into the sea because he thought I was dead in the labyrinth.

How can I retrieve my sister?

Do not try. It is madness.

I wanted to bring him back, but I could not.

The soul exchange. Ask him about that.

That voice. I know that voice.

Focus, a soul for a soul. Is it true?

But beware, he is coming.

I must say... yes.

He has sensed your summons.
“He comes to find the source of your power.”

“Percy? Are you all right?”

“I’m fine, still shaking off last night’s bad dreams. The labyrinth was designed to get inside your head. I don’t like the idea of any of you going down there.”

A dog whistle?

“It’s... it’s freezing. It’s made from Stygian ice from the river Styx. Very delicate. It won’t melt, but it’ll shatter when you blow it. So only use it when you really need help.”

Use it for what?

“Use it for what? There is no more time to delay. We will erect defenses here as best we can. But I need not remind you that it is much more preferable that Luke’s attack never comes.”

I offer one last word of caution. It may not be only navigation that our enemies seek. They have the pieces of the Titan Lord Kronos, taken from Tartarus itself. To resurrect him fully, he will need a new form.”
DAEDALUS IS HISTORY'S GREATEST INVENTOR. HE CREATED THE LABYRINTH, BUT ALSO SO MUCH MORE. AUTOMATONS, THINKING MACHINES...

KRONOS MAY WISH FOR DAEDALUS TO CRAFT HIM A BODY.

WE'LL GET TO HIM FIRST, CHIRON, OR DIE TRYING.

PRECISELY WHAT CONCERNS ME. MAY THE GODS BE WITH YOU.

YOU READY?

AS I'LL EVER BE.

GOOD-BYE SUNSHINE.

HELLO, ROCKS.
DIDN'T WE FALL INTO THE LABYRINTH LAST TIME, ANNABETH? WHY IS THERE A RAMP NOW?

JUST BE QUIET AND KEEP MOVING.

I'M JUST SAYING, THIS--

...THIS IS DIFFERENT.

I WAS AFRAID OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

THE LABYRINTH IS A PATCHWORK. IT'S BEEN EXPANDING AND ADDING SECTIONS EVER SINCE DAEDALUS BUILT IT.

IT'S THE ONLY WORK OF ARCHITECTURE THAT GROWS BY ITSELF.

CAN WE GO HOME NOW?

NO. WE'RE GOING DEEPER.
YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE THE MAZE IS ALIVE.

NOT EXACTLY ALIVE, BUT IT DEFINITELY HAS A MIND OF ITS OWN.

LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT IT BEING ALIVE. PLEASE.

SEE HOW IT'S CHANGING? IT'S TRYING TO CONFUSE US.

IT'S DOING A GOOD JOB.

WHAT WOULD MAKE PAN COME DOWN HERE?

SATYRS ARE AFRAID OF BEING UNDERGROUND.

I MEAN... MOST SATYRS.

THE LABYRINTH WANTS US TO GET LOST.

DOES ANYONE ELSE SMELL MONSTERS?

THE CENTER WILL BE THE OLDEST PART. THAT'S WHERE WE'LL FIND DAEDALUS'S WORKSHOP.

MILKMAN GOT LOST.

YULP!

THERE'S AN OPENING UP AHEAD.

PERFECTLY SAFE, I'M SURE.

WAIT FOR ME!
WHOA.

WHOA...

I AM HERA, QUEEN OF HEAVEN. YOU MUST BE HUNGRY. SIT WITH ME AND TALK.

QUEEN HERA, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE LABYRINTH?

I CAME TO SEE YOU, NATURALLY.

GROVER, DEAR, USE YOUR NAPKIN. DON'T EAT IT.

MMMFMF... YES, MA'AM.
Why are you helping us?

I didn't think you liked heroes, you tried to kill Hercules like... lots of times.

Water under the bridge, my dear. Besides, he was one of my loving husband's children by another woman. My patience wore thin.

But I'm the goddess of marriage. I'm used to perseverance. You have to rise above the squabbling and chaos, and keep believing.

And Zeus knows I only want to keep my family. The Olympians, together, he doesn't allow me to interfere in quests much. I'm afraid, but on occasion he allows me to grant a single wish.

Before you ask it, I'll give you some advice. I know you seek Daedalus. If you want to know his fate, I would seek my son Hephaestus at his forge.

Daedalus was a great inventor. There has never been a mortal Hephaestus admired more. If anyone would have kept up with Daedalus, it is Hephaestus.

That's my wish!

I want you to navigate the Labyrinth!

So be it. You wish for something. However, that you have already been given.

The means are within your grasp.

Percy knows the answer.

...I do?

That's not fair! You're not telling us what it is!

Getting something and having the wits to use it. Those are two different things. I'm sure your mother Athena would agree.

Now, I must go. One last thing, Annabeth. Soon, you will have to make a choice. One bad choice can ruin your life. It can kill you and all your friends.
Choose wisely. Don't go! What choice?

What sort of help was that?

*Have a sandwich!* Make a wish! Oops, I can't help you!

Whatever.

Poof.

Which way?

Left, something is coming from the right.

I smell it.

Big, in a hurry.

Left it is! Come on!

Run! I think it's gaining on us!

What is it?!

I don't know!

KRUNNG
OW.

WHO PUTS METAL BARS IN THE MIDDLE OF A HALLWAY?

I... I KNOW THIS PLACE. IT'S NOT FAR FROM WHERE I LIVE IN SAN FRANCISCO. WE TOOK A FIELD TRIP HERE.

THIS IS ALCATRAZ.

ALCATRAZ? HOW'D WE GET ALL THE WAY ACROSS THE CONTINENT?

I KEEP TELLING YOU, PERCY. THE LABYRINTH IS HUGE. AND IT DOESN'T OBEY ANY RULES.

YEAH? WELL WE'RE STUCK.

THE TUNNEL WE TOOK TO GET HERE IS GONE. AND WE AREN'T ALONE.
WHO'S THERE? TALK!

THE TITANS WILL RISE AND THROW US ALL BACK INTO TARTARUS.

KAMPE IS BACK.

WE'RE GOING CAMPING NOW?

NOT "CAMPING," KAMPE. SHE WAS A JAILER FOR KRONOS.

WHEN THE TITANS RULED, SHE IMPRISONED THE CYCLOPS AND HEKATONKHEIRES--THE HUNDRED-HANDED ONES.

LIKE HIM.

HEKATONKHEIRES AND CYCLOPS... FRIENDS...

BRIAERES!

YOU'RE SO STRONG, YOU BREAK MOUNTAINS!

I AM TYSON! I WANT YOUR AUTOGRAPH!
KAMPÈ! SHE'S COMING!

IT WILL BE OKAY, BRIAレス! WE WILL FIGHT TOGETHER!

KAMPÈ IS HERE? RIGHT NOW?

KAMPÈ HAS ALREADY JAILED ME!

LEAVE ME! IT IS TOO LATE!

...BRIAレス? YOU ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE AFRAID. YOU ARE BRAVEST OF ALL.

I SEE THE MARK OF DAEDALUS! LET'S TAKE THE EXIT!

I CAN'T BUDGE HIM!

LET ME.

BRIAレス, LET'S MAKE A DEAL. ONE GAME OF ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS.

I WIN, YOU COME WITH US.

I LOSE, WE'LL LEAVE YOU IN JAIL.

I ALWAYS WIN ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS.
THEN LET'S DO IT!

BMMP BMMP BMMP

WHAT IS THAT YOU MADE?

GUN. A GUN BEATS ANYTHING.

DEMIGODS ARE CHEATERS....

MOVE!

YOU WILL WORK FOR THE MASTER, BRIARES, OR SUFFER!

IF YOU THINK YOUR FIRST IMPRISONMENT WAS UNBEARABLE, YOU HAVE YET TO FEEL TRUE TORMENT!
I SHOULD JUMP INTO THE PIT OF TARTARUS AND SAVE YOU ALL THE TROUBLE....

DON'T TALK THAT WAY. YOU CAN COME BACK TO CAMP WITH US. HELP US PREPARE. YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT FIGHTING TITANS THAN ANYBODY.

AND YOUR TWO BROTHERS? THEY STAND TALL AS MOUNTAINS! WE CAN HELP YOU FIND THEM.

THEY ARE NO MORE. THEY FADED. I HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER. I HAVE LOST EVERYTHING.

KRONOS'S ARMY WILL INVADE CAMP. WE NEED HELP....

...YOU ARE STRONG.

NOT ANYMORE, CYCLOPS.

IT'S OKAY, TYSON.

IT IS NOT OKAY. HE WAS MY HERO.

LET'S KEEP MOVING.
"We need a place to camp for the night."

ZZZZZ

You should sleep, too, Percy.

Can't. You doing all right?

Sure. First day leading the quest. Just great.

I was kidding myself. All that planning and reading about the labyrinth. I don't have a clue. We never have a clue. It always works out.

What did Hera mean when she said you knew the way to get through the maze?

I don't know. Honestly.

You want to talk about the last line of the prophecy? Or what Hera meant when she said you'd have to make a choice?

Nico is down here somewhere.

He found the labyrinth, then found a path that led down even farther—all the way to the underworld.

Yeah.

Now he's back in the maze, and he's coming for me.

Percy, I hope you're wrong. Because if you're right...
THE NEXT MORNING.

THERE'S LIGHT AHEAD. SUNLIGHT.

I'M SURE THERE'S NOTHING AT ALL TO WORRY ABOUT.

TYSON, CAN YOU GET US OUT OF HERE?

KRENNNGH

WHERE ARE WE?

MOO?
WHAT’VE WE GOT HERE, BOSS? CATTLE RUSTLERS?

COULD BE THEY’RE GUESTS, EURYTIUS.

OR MURDERERS.

NICO?!
[Panel 1] They let my sister Bianca die! She went on a quest with them, and she never came back!

[Panel 2] They're here to kill me!

[Panel 3] Put that away, Nico. I ain't gonna have my guests killin' each other.

[Panel 4] But, Geryon, that's... I'm warning you, Percy. If you come near me, I'll summon help.

[Panel 5] Now put that ugly sword away before I have Eurytion take it from you.

[Panel 6] I hate stygian iron.

[Panel 7] You don't want to meet my helpers, I promise.

[Panel 8] I believe you.

[Panel 9] There, we've all made nice. Now come along, folks.
"I GOT LUNCH ON."

TRIPLE G
RANCH.

QUINTUS...
SHORT
GRAY HAIR?
MUSCULAR,
SWORDSMAN?
NEVER HEARD
OF HIM.

YOUR
MARK WAS ON
THE CRATES AT CAMP.
QUINTUS GOT HIS
SCORPIONS FROM
YOU.

WE GOT A LOT MORE THAN
GIANT SCORPIONS, THOUGH.
FIRE-BREATHING HORSES,
HIPPALECTRYONS. THE HERDS
OF SUN COWS MAKE
GREAT EATING.

YOU
KNOW THE
SAYING—AN ARMY
MARCHES ON ITS
STOMACH.

ACK!
WHAT’S THAT
STENCH?

POOP.

MY STABLES, WELL, ACTUALLY
THEY BELONG TO AESSEAS, BUT I
WATCH OVER THEM FOR A FEE.
THAT’S WHERE WE KEEP THE
PRIZE FLESH-EATING
HORSES.

THEY’RE A
LITTLE...MESSEY.
BUT WHAT
DOES AN ARMY
CARE?

PLUS,
YOU’RE TOO
CHEAP TO HIRE
SOMEONE TO CLEAN UP
AFTER THEM.
AN ARMY? YOU WORK FOR
KRONOS, DON'T YOU. YOU'RE
SUPPLYING HIS ARMY WITH
HORSES, FOOD, WHATEVER
THEY NEED.

I WORK FOR ANYONE
WITH GOLD.
LITTLE LADY, I'M A
BUSINESSMAN.
SOMEONE
HAS A DEMAND.
I FILL IT.

YOU'RE A
MONSTER.

WHAT
GAVE IT
AWAY?

WAS IT
THE THREE
BODIES?

I DON'T CARE ABOUT
ANY OF THIS, GERYON.
WE HAVE BUSINESS
to DISCUSS.

I NOTICE
YOUR GHOST
FRIEND ISN'T AROUND. TYPICAL.
MINOS ALWAYS DISAPPEARS
WHEN THINGS GET
DIFFICULT.

MINOS?
The evil king
who imprisoned
Daedalus?

THAT'S
THE GHOST WHO'S
BEEN GIVING YOU
ADVICE?

IT'S NONE
OF YOUR
BUSINESS, PERCY!

GERYON:
WHAT DO YOU
MEAN ABOUT THINGS
GETTING DIFFICULT?
I'M WARNING
YOU--
YOU SEE, NICO. LUKE IS OFFERING VERY GOOD MONEY FOR HALF-BLOODS, ESPECIALLY POWERFUL ONES.

I'M SURE WHEN HE LEARNS YOU'RE THE SON OF HADES, HE'LL PAY VERY, VERY WELL INDEED.

YOU FIEND!

AS FOR THE REST OF YOU, DON'T WORRY. I'VE BEEN PAID WELL TO GIVE YOUR QUEST SAFE PASSAGE.

WE AREN'T LEAVING WITHOUT NICO.

IF YOU'RE SMART, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU'LL DO.

YOU SAID YOU'RE A BUSINESSMAN, GENTLEMAN. SO LET'S MAKE A DEAL.

IF I CAN CLEAN YOUR STABLES, YOU LET ALL OF US GO, INCLUDING NICO.

IF I FAIL YOU CAN SELL US ALL TO LUKE.

NO! I DON'T WANT YOUR HELP, PERCY!

DEAL. YOU HAVE UNTIL SUNSET. NO LATER.

NOW RUN ALONG. I'LL KEEP YOUR FRIENDS HERE WITH ME.

PERCY. I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

ME, TOO.
THE AEGEAN STABLES, BURIED IN FOUR BILLION SHOVELFULS OF FLESH-EATING-HORSE POOP.

Ugh.

FIVE MINUTES AND FIFTY GEYSERS LATER.

PERCY IS THE SON OF THE SEA GOD, AFTER ALL.

NEIGH?
I cleaned your stables, Geryon. We had a deal.

Let my friends go.

I’ve been thinking about that.
The problem is, if I let them go, I don’t get paid.

And in any event, you didn’t make me swear on the River Styx.

When you’re conducting business, sonny, you should always get a legally binding oath.

Eurytion, this one annoys me. Kill him.

No, don’t think I will. Excuse me?

You keep sending me to do your dirty work. You pick fights for no good reason. These half-bloody didn’t do anything to you.

You want to fight the kid? Do it yourself.

Fine!
AGHHH!

EH HEH HEH.

NICE TRY, SONNY. THING IS, THREE BODIES EQUALS THREE HEARTS.

STAB EACH OF THEM ALL YOU WANT.
I’LL HEAL BEFORE YOU GET TO THE OTHER TWO.

GAAH!

IT’S THE PERFECT BACKUP SYSTEM!

PESKY GNAT! MY HORSES WILL EAT YOU TONIGHT!

DON’T BET ON IT!
THANKS FOR STAYING OUT OF IT, EURYTION.

SHOOT, I’VE WORKED FOR THAT CREEP FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS.

STARTED OUT A REGULAR HALF-BLOOD, BUT I CHOSE IMMORTALITY WHEN MY DAD, ARES, OFFERED IT.

TIME FOR A CHANGE, DON’T YOU THINK? ONCE GERYON RE-FORMS, MAYBE HE’LL BE WORKING FOR YOU.

NOW, THAT I COULD LIVE WITH.

WORST MISTAKE I EVER MADE. NOW I’M STUCK HERE AT THIS RANCH.

I CAN’T LEAVE. I CAN’T QUIT. I JUST TEND THE COWS AND FIGHT GERYON’S FIGHTS. I’M FED UP WITH IT.

STAY HERE UNTIL WE’RE DONE WITH OUR GUEST. NICO, YOU’LL BE SAFE.

BIANCA WOULDN’T WANT TO BE BROUGHT BACK. NOT LIKE THAT.

YOU DIDN’T KNOW HER! HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT SHE'D WANT?

WHAT DO YOU CARE IF I'M SAFE? YOU GOT MY SISTER KILLED.

IF YOU REALLY CARED, YOU'D HELP BRING MY SISTER BACK!

PERCY, I DON'T THINK THAT'S A GOOD--

YOU CAN SUMMON THE DEAD, NICO. I'VE SEEN IT IN MY DREAMS, SO LET'S ASK BIANCA WHAT SHE WANTS.

REMEMBER, YOU ASKED FOR THIS.
NIGHTFALL.

Apple, dear love...

This isn’t natural.

Make him stop, brother.

Bianca, appear!
Hello, Nico. You’ve gotten so tall.

Bianca?

Bianca… I’m so sorry.

You have nothing to apologize for, Percy. I made my own choice. I don’t regret it.

Bianca! Are you all right? I’ve been trying to save you for months!

You can’t, Nico. Percy is right.

Never! Percy said he would keep you safe! He said you’d come home!

It’s not Percy you’re mad at. It’s me.

You’re mad because I let you to become a Hunter of Artemis. You’re mad because I died and left you alone.
I'M SORRY FOR THAT, NICOLE. I TRULY AM, BUT YOU MUST OVERCOME THE ANGER AND STOP BLAMING PERCY FOR MY CHOICES. IT WILL BE YOUR DOOM.

KRONOS IS RISING.

TARTARUS STIRS. YOUR POWER DRAWS THE ATTENTION OF THE TITAN LORD.

I MUST RETURN TO THE UNDERWORLD. IT IS NOT SAFE FOR ME TO REMAIN.

DON'T GO!

I DON'T CARE ABOUT KRONOS. I JUST WANT MY SISTER BACK.

IF YOU LOVE ME, YOU WILL TRY NO MORE.

GOOD-BYE, NICOLE. I LOVE YOU. REMEMBER WHAT I SAID.
Mount Tamalpais.

The strike force is ready. Kampe will lead the vanguard and avenge her unfortunate embarrassment at Alcatraz.

All I need now is to negotiate safe passage through the arena.

Mmm, that should be interesting. I would hate to see your handsome head on a spike if you fail, Luke. Kronos will want your head in its rightful place to fulfill your own, special duty.

Don't you have other matters to attend to, Kelli?

Oh, yes, I am bringing despair to our eavesdropping enemies right now. Aren't I?

"...Percy Jackson?"
We have to continue our quest. Nico, you could come with us. The boy can stay here and gather his thoughts as long as he wants. He'll be safe. I promise.

...I need time to think.

I reckon you'll be looking for Daedalus's workshop now? Hephaestus could steer you in the right direction.

That's what Hera said, but how do we find him?

I did Hephaestus a favor once. A little trick. He wanted to play on my dad and Aphrodite.

He gave me this disk as gratitude.

Said if I ever needed to find him, the disk would lead me to him. But only once.

Tikka Tikka Tikka

Well? It ain't gonna wait for you.
READY TO MEET HEPHAESTUS?

YES!
COOL STUFF.

WELL, WELL. WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
GOOD, SHODDY WORKMANSHIP. AT LEAST THERE'S A CYCLOPS. YOU GOOD WITH YOUR HANDS?

WHAT'RE YOU DOING TRAVELING WITH THIS LOT?

UM. NO, SIR. MR. HELPHAESTUS.

THUMP. THERE'D BETTER BE A GOOD REASON FOR DISTURBING ME.

IF YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, I HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO.

DAEDALUS? YOU WANT THAT OLD SCOUNDREL?

SIR, WE'RE LOOKING FOR DAEDALUS. WE THOUGHT—

WASTE OF TIME. HE WON'T HELP YOU WITH YOUR LITTLE QUEST.

HERA SAID YOU WOULD HELP US?

HEPHEAESTUS!

DID SHE NOW? GIVE YOU A BUNCH OF TALK ABOUT FAMILIES, DID SHE?

THE TRUTH IS, MY MOTHER LIKES FAMILIES, BUT ONLY A CERTAIN KIND OF FAMILY. PERFECT FAMILIES.

I DON'T EXACTLY FIT THAT IMAGE, EH?
ASK ME FOR GOLD, OR A FLAMING SWORD, OR A MAGICAL CHARIOT. THESE I CAN GRANT YOU EASILY.

NAME YOUR PRICE.

BAH! YOU HEROES! ALWAYS MAKING RASH PROMISES?

BUT A WAY TO DAEDALUS? THAT'S AN EXPENSIVE FAVOR.

VERY WELL, I HAVE A FAVORITE FORGE INSIDE MOUNT ST. HELENS LATELY, I CAN TELL SOMEONE IS USING IT WITHOUT MY PERMISSION. SOMEONE ANCIENT AND EVIL.

FIND OUT WHO IS TRESPASSING ON MY TERRITORY AND REPORT BACK TO ME.

MY CREATION WILL SHOW YOU THE WAY. IT'S NOT FAR THROUGH THE LABYRINTH.

NOW, BEGONE! IT'S NOT FOR ME TO WORK.
DON'T STOP! WE HAVE TO KEEP GOING!

GROVER?

THIS... THIS IS IT...

...THIS IS THE WAY TO PAN.

WE'LL STOP ON OUR WAY BACK TO HEPHAESTUS.

WHAT IF THE TUNNEL IS GONE BY THEN? I HAVE TO FOLLOW IT NOW.

BUT THE FORGE, HEPHAESTUS WON'T HELP US FIND DAEDALUS'S WORKSHOP IF WE DON'T—

 Percy.
I HAVE TO.

I WILL GO WITH GOAT BOY.
TYSON? ARE YOU SURE?
I WILL HELP HIM.

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.
I KNOW I AM.
TYSON! LET'S GO!

PERCY, GROVER HAS HIS OWN QUEST TO FULFILL, AND WE HAVE OURS.

I CAN FEEL THE HEAT COMING DOWN THE PASSAGEWAY.

THE FORGE IS CLOSE. WE CAN'T LET THE SPIDER GET AWAY.

IT'S JUST AHEAD....
...HEPHAESTUS'S FORGE.

WORK, TELKHINES!

ZEUS IS EVII! AFTER WE MADE THE FINEST WEAPONS OF THE GODS, HE CAST US OUT!

WE SERVE KRONOS NOW!

KRONOS!

KRONOS!

KRONOS!

TELKHNES. SO THAT'S WHO TOOK OVER THE FORGE.

THEY BETRAYED THE GODS. THEY WERE PRACTICING DARK MAGIC. SO ZEUS BANISHED THEM TO TARTARUS.

WHERE THEY GOT TO BE PALS WITH KRONOS, IT SOUNDS.
SNRRK  SNRRK
DO YOU SMELL THAT, TELKHINES?
DEMIGODS.
ANNABETH.
RUN.
I’M NOT LEAVING YOU.
I’LL HOLD THEM OFF.
YOU HAVE TO GET BACK TO HEPHAESTUS AND TELL HIM WHAT WE FOUND.
DEMIGOD!
FOOLISH DEMIGOD!
YOU’LL MAKE A TASTY SNACK FOR LUNCH BREAK!
THAT’S THE ONLY WAY WE’LL FIND DAEDALUS.
BUT--
BRING IT ON, FIDOS!
AGH!
YOUR FATHER'S NATURE PROTECTS YOU. MAKES YOU HARD TO BURN.

BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE. YOUNGLING. NOT IMPOSSIBLE.

WANT TO SEE MY FATHER'S NATURE, CREEPS?

I'LL SHOW YOU MY FATHER'S NATURE!

KRACKKAKOOSH!
GGHHH

AH.

THE YOUNG HERO LIVES.
HEPHAESTUS?
WHAT HAPPENED?

IS ANNABETH...

SHE'S FINE, RESOURCESFUL.
GIRL, THAT ONE. FOUND HER WAY BACK, TOLD ME THE WHOLE STORY.

SHE'S WORRIED SICK. YOU KNOW. EVERYONE SUSPECTS YOU'RE DEAD.

I KNOW BETTER, OF COURSE, BUT I WANTED TO BE SURE YOU WERE COMING BACK BEFORE I TOLD THEM.

COME BACK FROM WHERE?

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

TAKE A LOOK. HER NAME IS CALYPSO. I KNOW BEAUTY—
I'M MARRIED TO APHRODITE, AFTER ALL—BUT I DARE SAY CALYPSO IS MORE BEAUTIFUL.

AND KIND. AFTER YOUR LITTLE WATER STUNT AT MY FORGE. YOU ARRIVED HERE. YOU'D BE DEAD IF CALYPSO HADN'T LOOKED AFTER YOU.

WHY WOULD SHE DO THAT?

BECAUSE SHE MUST REMAIN IN THIS PARADISE FOREVER. ALONE.

UNLESS SOMEONE Chooses TO REMAIN WITH HER.

YOU COULD BE THAT SOMEONE. YOU'D BE SAFE HERE. FREE FROM PAIN AND WANT, A TRUE HERO'S REWARD. THERE ARE MANY WORSE WAYS TO SPEND ETERNITY.

LEAVE THE MORTAL WORLD TO THE MORTALS.
But if you decide to leave—
and I don’t say what’s
right or wrong—then
I promised you the way
to Daedalus.

Theseus had the Princess’s help,
and the Princess was a regular
Mortal, but she was clever.
She could see, lad.

She could see very clearly.
So what I’m saying is,
you already know
how to navigate
the maze.

I don’t...

Here’s the thing.
It has nothing to do with
Ariadne’s String. Sure,
The string works, that’s why
the Titans’ army is after it.
But it isn’t the best way
through the maze.

I can’t believe
I didn’t figure it out!
Send me back!

Don’t you
at least want to
talk to Calypso
first? No harm in
weighing your
options.

Something
tells me if I see her...

...I won’t
want to leave.

Will you
tell her I said
thank you?
And I’m sorry
I can’t stay?

I suppose
it won’t be
too much
trouble.

Run along.
Now, time works
differently here.
Lad, you’ve already
been gone too
long. I left a boat
for you by the
shore.
“It will take you wherever you want to go.”

Camp Half-Blood.

Sail me home.
HELLO? WHERE IS EVERYBODY?
WE CAN ONLY ASSUME HE IS DEAD AFTER SO LONG A SILENCE. IT IS UNLIKELY OUR PRAYERS WILL BE ANSWERED.

I HAVE ASKED HIS BEST SURVIVING FRIEND TO DO THE FINAL HONORS AND BURN PERCY JACKSON’S SHRUD.

HE WAS PROBABLY THE BRAVEST FRIEND I’VE EVER HAD.

HE...

HE’S RIGHT THERE!

HEY.

WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD, SEAWEED BRAIN!

I’M SORRY, I GOT LOST.

I DON’T BELIEVE I’VE EVER BEEN HAPPIER TO SEE A CAMPER RETURN.
“But perhaps we should discuss your trials somewhere more private.”

“Two weeks?!”

“I know, but I talked to Hephaestus. I figured out how to get through the Labyrinth.”

“He told you the answer?”

“Well, he sort of told me what I already knew. I understand now. We need a mortal’s help.”

“There is precedent. Theseus had the help of Ariadne, Harriet Tubman, daughter of Hermes, used many mortals in her underground railroad.”

“Percy, that’s crazy!”

“But this is my quest. I need to lead it. Asking a mortal for help is wrong. It’s cowardly. It’s...”
IT'S HARD TO ADMIT, YOU NEED A MORTAL'S HELP, BUT IT'S TRUE.

YOU ARE THE SINGLE MOST ANNOYING PERSON I HAVE EVER MET!

I'M AFRAID NOT.

THE COUNCIL OF CLOVEN ELDERS HAS REVOKED GROVER'S SEARCHER'S LICENSE IN ABSENTIA.

AND THERE IS MORE BAD NEWS: QUINTUS HAS DISAPPEARED.

THREE NIGHTS AGO, HE WAS SEEN SLIPPING INTO THE LABYRINTH.

HE'S A SPY FOR LUKE. HE BOUGHT HIS SORCERERS FROM THE TRIPLE G RANCH, THE SAME PLACE THAT'S SLIPPING LUKE'S ARMY WITH MONSTERS.

THAT CAN'T BE A COINCIDENCE.

SHE WILL CALM DOWN IN THE MORNING. I WILL HAVE ARGUS TAKE YOU BOTH INTO MANHATTAN. SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU ALREADY HAVE A MORTAL IN MIND.

CHIRON, WHAT ABOUT GROVER AND TYSON? HAS THERE BEEN ANY WORD FROM THEM?

SO MANY BETRAYALS. I HAD HOPED QUINTUS WOULD PROVE HIMSELF A FRIEND. IT SEEMS MY JUDGMENT WAS BAD.

BUT WE CANNOT BE DETERRED. PREPARE FOR TOMORROW MORNING. YOU AND ANNABETH STILL HAVE MUCH TO DO.
INSIDE THE LABYRINTH.

IT SHOULD’VE BEEN THE LAST TURN.

MAPS ARE USELESS HERE.

SIR, IT IS TRUE THAT THE LARGER THE GROUP—

THE MORE LIKELY YOU’LL GET LOST. WHY DO YOU THINK WE SENT OUT SMALL PARTIES OF EXPLORERS?

BUT AS SOON AS WE HAVE THE STRING, WE’LL LEAD THE VANGUARD THROUGH.

HOW WILL WE GET THE STRING?

QUINTUS WILL COME THROUGH. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS REACH THE ARENA.

IT’S AT A JUNCTURE, SO IT’S IMPOSSIBLE TO GET ANYWHERE WITHOUT PASSING IT.

THAT’S WHY WE MUST HAVE A TRUCE WITH THE ARENA’S MASTER. WE JUST HAVE TO STAY ALIVE UNTIL—

SIR!

THE DRACANAE FOUND A HALF-BLOOD.

ALONE? WANDERING THE MAZE?

YES, SIR. THEY’RE IN THE NEXT CHAMBER. THEY’VE GOT HIM CORNERED. YOU’D BETTER COME QUICK BEFORE THE LABYRINTH SHIFTS AGAIN.

A BLESSING FROM KRONOS. WE MAY BE ABLE TO USE THIS HALF-BLOOD. COME ON!
YOU LOOK BEAT. BAD DREAMS?

A MESSAGE FROM EURYTYION. NICOLE LEFT THE RANCH LAST NIGHT. HE HEADS BACK INTO THE MAZE.

WHAT? EURYTITION DIDN'T TRY TO STOP HIM?

NICOLE WAS GONE BEFORE HE WOKE UP. HE SAID HE'D HEARD NICOLE TALKING TO HIMSELF THE LAST COUPLE OF NIGHTS.

NICO IS IN DANGER. I HAD THIS DREAM LAST NIGHT... I SAW LUKE IN THE LABYRINTH. THEY FOUND A HALF-BLOOD WANDERING ALONE.

ONLY NOW HE THINKS NICOLE WAS TALKING TO THE GHOST AGAIN, MINOS.

THIS IS VERY, VERY BAD.

THEN IT'S A GOOD THING YOU HAVE A PLAN TO GUIDE US, SEAWEED BRAIN.
TIMES SQUARE.

THIS IS WHO YOU'RE TRUSTING THE FATE OF THE WORLD TO?

SHE'S AN ARTIST. THIS MUST BE SOME KIND OF PERFORMANCE ART.

RIGHT?

GOOD TIMING, PERCY. YOU CAUGHT ME GOING INTO BREAK.

MY CLASS IS DOING AN ART PROJECT TO RAISE MONEY FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ART PROGRAMS.

YOU WERE PRETTY VAGUE ON THE PHONE. WHAT'S UP?

MY FRIEND ANNABELLE AND I HAVE A PROBLEM.

PERCY THINKS WE NEED YOUR HELP. I'M NOT CONVINCED.

HELP? SURE. NO PROBLEM. EVERY TIME I'M AROUND YOU, MONSTERS ATTACK US. NOT TO MENTION, SCHOOL STILL WANTS ME TO EXPLAIN HOW THE BAND ROOM MYSTERIOUSLY BLEW UP.

I'M WITH ANNABELLE. I CAN'T SEE HOW I'D BE MUCH HELP.

ANNABELLE.

YOU CAN SEE THROUGH THE MIST. YOU KNEW THOSE COPS WEREN'T REALLY COPS AT THE HOOVER DAM, AND YOU KNEW THOSE GIRLS WEREN'T REALLY CHEERLEADERS.

I THINK YOU CAN GUIDE US.
We're trying to navigate the labyrinth from ancient Greek myth. If you can see through mist, there's a chance it won't confuse you as much as it does us.

But first, we need to get you inside. Have you seen any entrances? They'd have the mark of Daedalus. It's like a glowing blue triangle.

Have you seen any? No? Great.

Let's go, Percy. She's useless.

Did you say a blue triangle?
Is this what you're looking for?

We store our costumes for the art projects in this room. No one else has noticed the symbol. So I figured it was me going crazy again. I've touched it, but nothing happens.

That's because you're mortal. It needs the touch of a half-blood.

Right, a labyrinth, you said?

After you.

You're supposed to be the guide, lead on.
DO YOU SEE ANYTHING WEIRD?

YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?

THE ARCHITECTURE TO THE RIGHT... THESE OLD STONES, THAT'S MORE LIKELY TO LEAD TO AN ANCIENT PART OF THE MAZE TO DAEDALUS'S WORKSHOP.

I... YOU MEAN YOU DON'T SEE IT?

SEE WHAT?

BUT THERE'S A BRIGHTNESS THIS WAY, LIKE A TRAIL.

YOU BELIEVE HER?

YOU DON'T?

YOUR PET IS RIGHT.

YOUR PET IS RIGHT.

THERE ARE TRAPS THAT WAY. HOLES IN THE WALLS FOR SOMETHING TO SHOOT OUT. I DON'T LIKE IT.

TOO BAD SHE WON'T BE ALLOWED TO GLOAT ABOUT IT.

NOW MARCH, HALF-BLOODS. OR YOU ALL DIE HERE, STARTING WITH THE MORTAL GIRL.
THE ARENA.

KILL!

KILL!

KILL!

THERE'S NO MERCY IN THIS WAR.

MORE!

MORE BLOOD!

MERCY!

RAHHHH!

FOOOOMP!
BAH! THIS ENTERTAINMENT IS NOTHING I HAVEN'T SEEN BEFORE!

WHAT ELSE DO YOU HAVE, LUKE, SON OF HERMES?

WAIT, ANTAEUS. MY MINION HAS SOMETHING TO TELL ME.

LORD ANTAEUS, YOU HAVE BEEN AN EXCELLENT HOST. WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO AMUSE YOU, TO EARN YOUR FAVOR AND SAFE PASSAGE THROUGH YOUR TERRITORY.

I HAVE SOMETHING FAR BETTER THAN CENTAURS TO FIGHT IN YOUR ARENA. I PRESENT A BROTHER OF YOURS, A FELLOW SON OF POSEIDON--

--PERCY JACKSON!

DEATH!

A SON OF POSEIDON? THEN HE SHOULD FIGHT WELL! OR DIE WELL!

YOU WILL ALL SEE WHY I AM POSEIDON'S FAVORITE SON! HERE, IN THE TEMPLE OF THE EARTHSHAKER, ADORNED WITH THE SKULLS OF ALL THOSE I'VE KILLED IN HIS NAME!
Guys, the path we need to follow...

...we have to go through the arena to get to it.

Playing host to Luke, Antaeus? I don't think Dad would like that very much.

Want to find out who the favorite son is? Winner take all.

If I beat you, you let us pass. You win, you get to kill us.

Percy! Don't!

This shouldn't take long. I'm the world's greatest wrestler, boy. And when I started, there was none of this one-two-three-count stuff.

We wrestled until someone died.
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING.

THIS WON'T TAKE LONG!

ARGGH!

SLASH!

YOU'RE QUICK, DEMIGOD...

...BUT YOU CAN'T OUTMANEUVER THE EARTH.
NOW YOU SEE WHY I NEVER LOSE, DEMIGOD.

Percy! His mother is Gaia! The Earth Goddess!

Things you could've told me earlier!

Come here and fight, coward!

Come and get me! Or are you too old and fat?

You'll die young and thin—after I pound you flat!

Yeah? Take a look down, Antaeus.
YOUR MOM CAN'T HELP YOU IF YOU AREN'T TOUCHING THE GROUND!

OOP.

FOOOMP!
Jackson, I should have killed you long ago.

You tried. Let us go, Luke. We had an agreement with Antaeus. I'm the winner.

Antaeus is dead, his oath died with him. But since I'm feeling merciful today—

--I'll let you die quickly.
Percy? Any ideas? I...

If you guys are waiting for me to see a way out of this, don't.

What's there to lose?

FWEEEEEEEEEET

What, exactly, did you think that was going to accomplish?
Mrs. O'Leary?! I was not expecting that. Now! While they're distracted! Hellhound!

This way!

Jackson!
KEEP RUNNING!

I THINK WE LOST THEM. BUT WE SHOULD KEEP MOVING.

EVEN LATER.

ANNABETH, WE NEED TO REST.

I CAN'T...

LATER STILL.

Zzzzz

THE NEXT DAY.

NOT THAT NIGHT CAN BE DISTINGUISHED FROM DAY IN AN UNDERGROUND MAZE...
I know you can't see it, but I do. The path is lit up.

Are you sure this is the right way, Rachel?

Last time you said that, you led us right into being captured.

You think I like almost dying? It doesn't change the fact that the arena was the way we had to go.

Are we at least getting close?

Nope.

We're here. Daedalus's workshop.

This guy better be worth it.
DI IMMORTALES. HE'S A GENIUS.
AND AN ARTIST. THOSE WINGS ARE AMAZING.

THANK YOU. WELCOME TO MY WORKSHOP.

MRS. O'LEARY BEAT YOU HERE, OF COURSE. BUT HELLHOUNDS DO HAVE THE ABILITY TO MATERIALIZE WHEN NEEDED.

ARROOOOF!
Look, Mr. Traitor. We didn’t come all this way to see you. Where’s Daedalus?

You think I’m an agent of Kronos? That I work for Luke.

You’re an intelligent girl, but you’re wrong. I only work for myself.

Annabeth, don’t you see? He is Daedalus.

Somehow he made himself a new body. He’s an automaton.

Yes, you’ve finally guessed the truth.

I have been alive for two millennia, hiding from death.

This is my fifth body. So I chose the name “Quintus,” Latin for “fifth.”

But necessary. As I have my reasons. Just as I had my reasons to spy on your camp and see if it was worth saving.

I even gave Percy that whistle. In case he needed Mrs. O’Leary’s help while I made my final decision. Or perhaps… I felt guilty as well.

Deep down, I knew your quest would be in vain.

It doesn’t have to be. You can give us Ariadne’s string.

We can still make sure Luke never finds a secret entrance into camp.

You have the gift of clear vision, don’t you, girl?

I told Luke it was the best way to navigate the labyrinth, but he insisted on using the string instead. And he made me an offer for it that I couldn’t refuse.
SO I GAVE IT TO HIM. AND IN RETURN, KRONOS PROMISED ME THAT ONCE HADES IS OVERTHROWN, HE WILL SET ME OVER THE UNDERWORLD.

YOU SEE, I HAVE MY OWN PAST TO MAKE GOOD FOR. A MAN CAN MAKE A LOT OF MISTAKES IN TWO THOUSAND YEARS. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN BE SURE I DON'T SUFFER FOR THEM.

THAT'S YOUR BRILLIANT IDEA? TO LET LUKE DESTROY CAMP, KILL ALL THE DEMIGODS, AND THEN ATTACK OLYMPUS?

IF YOU HAD A CHANCE, I MIGHT HELP YOU. BUT YOUR CAUSE IS DOOMED, MY DEAR. THERE IS NO WAY YOU CAN HOLD BACK THE MIGHT OF THE TITAN LORD.

TO LET KRONOS BRING DOWN THE ENTIRE WORLD TO GET WHAT YOU WANT?

WELL SAID, OLD MAN.

LUKE'S MINIONS?

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS? THIS WAS NOT OUR ARRANGEMENT.

THERE'S A NEW ARRANGEMENT. YOUR OLD EMPLOYER, MINOS, WANTED TO SEE YOU, AND HE TRADED A MOST INTERESTING DEMIGOD FOR THE PRIVILEGE.

A CHILD OF HADES, KRONOS WILL HAVE MANY USES FOR THIS ONE.

AND I WILL RULE OVER THE AFTERLIFE, DAEDALUS. I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE.
NO!

I WON'T LISTEN TO YOU ANYMORE!

I AM THE SON OF HADES!
AND YOU WILL BE GONE!

NOOOOOOOO!
Too bad Luke isn’t here to witness your death. But he’s preparing for something far more important.

WINGS.

**FOOMP!**

**AAAIGH!**

Daedalus! Come on! You can still help us beat Kronos!

I won’t leave Mrs. O’Leary! She’s been my only loyal companion these many years!

Go now! Spread the wings, and they will fly!
WHERE ARE WE?

SOMEBWHERE NEAR COLORADO SPRINGS, I THINK. THOSE ARE THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

I'M SORRY, GUYS. I SHOULDN'T HAVE LISTENED TO MINOS. HE CONVINCED ME TO HELP HIM AGAINST DAEDALUS. SADLY, I COULD TRADE HIS SOUL TO GET MY SISTER BACK.

BUT IT WAS ALL A LIE.

YOU MADE MINOS PAY IN THE END, NICOLE. YOU SHOWED HIM WHO THE REAL GHOST KING IS.

SO NOW WHAT?
Camp, we have to get back there and warn them that Luke has Ariadne's string. It won't be long before the Titan Army invades. If they haven't invaded already.

Rachel: the fastest way back to camp is through the labyrinth. Can you find us another entrance?

There.

That abandoned mineshaft. It's lit up like a freeway.

That way.

Hide the wings, so no one finds them.

There's something on the ground. Is that... Grover's hat? Percy...
TYSON! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

WE Fought SO MANY THINGS, LARGE SNAKE, LARGE DOGS, MEN WITH SWORDS, BUT THEN...WE GOT HERE.

GROVER GOT EXCITED, HE RAN, THEN HE FELL LIKE THIS.

THE WILD...

YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH A KID THAT ONLY HAS ONE EYE AND ANOTHER ONE WITH HORNS, THAT'S NOT WEIRD AT ALL.

ACTUALLY, THE CYCLOPS IS MY BROTHER. LONG STORY.

GROVER? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I FELT IT. PERCY. PAN.

WE'RE CLOSE!

WAIT!

COME ON! WE CAN'T LET HIM GET LOST!

WHAT ABOUT CAMP?
LOOKS LIKE CAMP WILL HAVE TO WAIT...

LORD PAN!

GROVER UNDERWOOD, MY DEAR BRAVE SATYR.
I HAVE WAITED A VERY LONG TIME FOR YOU.

YOU ARE SO YOUNG, SO GOOD, AND TRUE. I THINK I CHOSE WELL.
I'm glad you like it. Annabeth Chase. It is one of the last wild places. My realm above is gone. I'm afraid.

Only pockets remain. Tiny pieces of life.

This one shall stay undisturbed... for a little longer.

My lord. Please. You must come back with me. The elders will be overjoyed. You can save the wild!

I have slept many eons. My dreams have been dark. I wake fitfully and each time my waking is shorter. Now we are near the end.

Gods cannot die... but they can fade when everything they stood for is gone. When they cease to have power and their sacred places disappear.

The wild is so small now... so small. No god can save it. That is why I need you to carry a message.

You must go back. Tell them all that the great god Pan is dead. Because they must stop waiting for me to save the wild. The only salvation, you must make yourself.

Be strong. You have found me. Grover. Now you must carry on my spirit. It can no longer be carried by a god. It must be taken up by all of you. Satyrs. Half-bloods. Humans. Everyone.

As my final words, I leave you this:

Percy Jackson. I know you have doubts. But when the time comes you will not be ruled by fear.

Annabeth, daughter of Athena. You will play a great role, though it may not be the role you imagined.

Tyson. Do not despair. Your name shall live as a hero among the cyclopes for generations.

And Miss Rachel Dare. I know you believe you cannot make amends. But you are just as important as your father.
YOU ARE THE STRONGEST AND BRAVEST, GROVER. YOU HAVE BELIEVED IN ME MORE THAN ANYONE EVER HAS. THAT IS WHY YOU MUST BRING MY MESSAGE.

AND WHY YOU MUST RELEASE ME.

I DON'T WANT TO.

IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT. THE SPIRIT OF THE WILD MUST PASS TO ALL OF YOU NOW. YOU MUST TELL EACH ONE YOU MEET, IF YOU WOULD FIND PAN, TAKE UP PAN’S SPIRIT.

REMAKE THE WILD. A LITTLE AT A TIME. EACH IN YOUR OWN CORNER OF THE WORLD. YOU CANNOT WAIT FOR ANYONE, EVEN A GOD, TO DO THAT FOR YOU.

I'VE SPENT MY WHOLE LIFE LOOKING FOR YOU. NOW...

I RELEASE YOU.

COME ON, GROVER.
“LET’S GO HOME.”

MANHATTAN.

THANKS, RACHEL. WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE ANY OF THIS WITHOUT YOU. SORRY YOU CAN'T COME WITH US, BUT MORTALS AT CAMP ARE A BIG NO-NO.

IT'S DEFINITELY BEEN A... UNIQUE EXPERIENCE.

IF YOU EVER FEEL LIKE HANGING OUT WITH A MORTAL AGAIN, YOU COULD CALL ME OR SOMETHING.

UH, YEAH. SURE. I MEAN... I'D LIKE THAT.

AHEM.

TIME TO GO.

YOU GUYS NEED ME TO CALL YOU A RIDE? MY DAD HAS A CAR SERVICE.

THANKS, BUT NO NEED.

I ALREADY ARRANGED TRANSPORTATION.
You can't start the battle without the Poseidon cabin.

Hey, you bad guys!

And not a moment too soon, Percy. We're on the verge of being overrun.
GRRRROARRRRRR

The nymph of Tartarus, jailer for the Titan Lord.

Kampê.
Foolish children! Wagh!

It was you who infiltrated my jail!

Aggl!

Krakk!

Slash!

Go back down your hole!

Over here, slime bag!
YOU DARED TO RELEASE MY PRISONER, BRIARES!

YOU WILL BE PUNISHED!

THIS COULD BE IT.

NICE FIGHTING WITH YOU, SEAWEED BRAIN.

KRONOS MIGHT PREFER TO PLAY YOU HIMSELF—

BUT I’VE EARNED THE PRIVILEGE!
WHAMMM

I'M HERE, TYSON!

LET 'ER RIP, BRIARES.

GRRRR

HSSSSSS

WHAMMM

YOU DO NOT SCARE ME ANYMORE, KAMPE!

HRRRLLL!
BRIARES! I KNEW YOU WOULD COME!

I FOUND HIM WANDERING THE LABYRINTH. FIGURED I'D BRING HIM HERE TO JOIN THE FIGHT.

WHAT GAME ARE YOU PLAYING NOW, DAEDALUS?

ANNABETH, A GIFT IT IS ALL. I COULD SALVAGE FROM THE FIRE IN MY WORKSHOP. IT HAS ALL OF MY NOTES. SOME OF MY FAVORITE DESIGNS THAT I COULD NOT BUILD OVER THE YEARS.

NOW IT IS TIME FOR MY MOST NOTORIOUS CREATION TO END. THE LABYRINTH IS TIED TO MY LIFE FORCE. WHEN I DIE, SO WILL IT.

NO GAME. I MADE A VERY BAD MISTAKE. MANY OF THEM. ACTUALLY, I CAME TO CORRECT THEM.

I MEAN GENIUS DOES NOT EXCUSE WRONGDOING. AND IT IS WRONG TO HIDE FROM DEATH FOR SO MANY YEARS.

I OFFER YOU MY SOUL AS RANSOM, SON OF HADES. YOU CAN RECLAIM YOUR SISTER.

YOU MEAN... NO, I WILL HELP YOU RELEASE YOUR SPIRIT.

BUT BIANCA HAS PASSED. SHE MUST STAY WHERE SHE IS.
LOOK AFTER MRS. O'LEARY, PERCY JACKSON. I BELIEVE SHE'S TAKING A LIKING TO YOU.

I WILL.

DAEDALUS, SON OF ATHENA,

YOUR TIME HAS LONG SINCE COME.

BE RELEASED AND REST.

COME ON, EVERYBODY.

"WE HAVE WORK TO DO."
DID YOU HEAR ABOUT GROVER? THE COUNCIL OF CLOVEN ELDERS DIDN'T BELIEVE HIS STORY ABOUT PAN, SO MR. D DISSOLVED IT. GROVER IS LEADING THE SATYRS NOW.

IF THERE'S ANYONE READY TO PROTECT THE LAST WILD PLACES, IT'S HIM.

THAT'S EVERYTHING THEN. THE QUEST DIDN'T GO THE WAY I PLANNED, BUT AT LEAST WE WON THE BATTLE OF THE LabyrinTH.

IT'S NOT QUITE EVERYTHING.

"DESTROY WITH A HERO'S FINAL BREATH." THE SECOND-TO-LAST LINE OF THE PROPHECY MAKES SENSE NOW. DAEDALUS HAD TO DIE TO DESTROY THE MAZE.

BRIAレス WENT TO HELP POSEIDON MAKE WEAPONS IN THE UNDERSEA FORGES.

TYSON IS STAYING TO HELP AT CAMP.

BUT YOU NEVER SAID WHAT THE LAST LINE WAS.

"AND LOSE A LOVE TO WORSE THAN DEATH."

THAT WAS THE LAST LINE. PERCY, ARE YOU HAPPY NOW?
I've been thinking about it all summer, and I still don't know who the last line was talking about. I don't know if...

Luke and I... for years, he was the only one who really cared about me. I figured we'd face him at the battle, but now I don't know what's happened to him...


We have other problems right now.

Nico?

I've done some exploring in the Underworld. I've found out some things.

I'm here to make you an offer.

What offer?

A way to beat Kronos. If I'm right, it's the only way.

And it starts in the realm of the dead.
MOUNT TAMALPAIS.

MASTER, WE’VE FORGED YOUR BLADE.

YOUR SYMBOL OF POWER IS REMADE.

BE CAREFUL, YOU FOOL! ONE TOUCH, AND THE BLADE WILL SEVER YOUR SOUL FROM YOUR BODY!

LOOK...

...THE MASTER HAS CLAIMED HIS NEW FORM.

MY BLADE, GIVE IT TO ME.

Y-YES, LORD KRONOS.
AH, MUCH BETTER.
THIS BODY HAS BEEN WELL PREPARED.

LUKE’S JEALOUSY AND HATRED WERE POWERFUL TOOLS. THEY KEPT HIM OBEDIENT.

HE SERVES ME WITH HIS WHOLE BEING. I, KRONOS, HAVE Risen.

THE TIME OF GODS AND HALF-BLOODS IS ENDED.
**RICK RIORDAN**, dubbed “storyteller of the gods” by *Publishers Weekly*, is the author of five *New York Times* #1 best-selling series—Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard, the Trials of Apollo, the Kane Chronicles, the Heroes of Olympus, and Percy Jackson and the Olympians. Millions of fans across the globe have enjoyed his fast-paced and funny quest adventures as well as his two #1 best-selling myth collections, *Percy Jackson's Greek Gods* and *Percy Jackson's Greek Heroes*. Rick lives in Boston, Massachusetts, with his wife and two sons. Learn more at RickRiordan.com, or follow him on Twitter @camphalfblood.

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