

~~(Then, a horrible roar. The sound of something big and angry. It sounds almost like it's saying...)~~

VOICE OF KRONOS. PEEEEERRRRCCCCYYYY.

(But then it's gone.)

**START**

PERCY. What *was* that?

ANNABETH. Guys... I think this pit is Tartarus.

PERCY. Like...the fish sauce?

ANNABETH. Tatarus. It's like the maximum-security wing of the Underworld.

PERCY. What's so bad the regular-security wing isn't enough?

ANNABETH. Chiron told you our parents went to war against their father? First they overthrew him. Then they threw him - into a pit.

PERCY. You mean that thing down there is... Kronos? But it doesn't make sense! What would Kronos want with my shoes?

GROVER. They were really cool shoes.

ANNABETH. Unless it wasn't the shoes he was after...

(ANNABETH pulls off PERCY's backpack.)

PERCY. You think he wanted...my deodorant?!

(ANNABETH opens the backpack to reveal a glowing lightning bolt. GROVER gasps.)

GROVER. That's Zeus's bolt...

PERCY. But why would it be in my... No. You can't think - I didn't steal it, I swear!

ANNABETH. Then how did it get there?

PERCY. I don't know! How did *you* know where to find it?

ANNABETH. I didn't! It was a hypothesis! A guess! Stop looking at me like that!

PERCY. "Betrayed by a friend," how bad did you need a quest anyway?

ANNABETH. Not that bad! Look, there's something weird going on.

PERCY. Yeah. Someone's trying to pit the Big Three against each other. But it's not Hades. We need to get out of here before he finds us.

(HADES enters, with flair.)

HADES. It's too late for that.

[MUSIC 19A: HELLO HADES]

You're as rash as your father, Son of Poseidon. And from the looks of it, as stupid.

PERCY. You know who we are?

HADES. And I know why you're here. You thought I was the bad guy. Everyone always thinks Hades is the bad guy! Maybe it's the décor.

PERCY. Look, you were framed. So was I. If you just let us go -

HADES. And why would I want to do that?

GROVER. Because...you're super chill that way?

HADES. One does not simply walk out of the Underworld! That's the whole point of the Underworld! (Beat.) Unless...

PERCY. Unless what?

HADES. You give me that bolt.

(He lets this land.)

HADES. I may not have stolen it. But since it's here...  
What do the Trojans say? "Don't look a gift god-level-explosive in the mouth."

PERCY. Why would you want to start a war?

HADES. When the gods go to war, it's the mortals who suffer...and end up here. And I do get lonely.

ANNABETH. No chance. We came here to stop a war, not start one.

PERCY. Yeah, there's no way in hell - sorry - that we're handing this over.

HADES. Not even in exchange for her?

**END**

[MUSIC 19B: SALLY APPEARS]

*(He waves a hand and SALLY appears.)*

SALLY. Percy?

PERCY. Mom? Mom!

*(But she vanishes.)*

HADES. She is merely a shade, but I could restore her.  
What has your father ever done for you? He doesn't care about his family, or his brother, who he never visits. He's too busy playing with mermaids, and dolphins, and thinking he's so cool in his Hawaiian shirt.

PERCY. Did you say Hawaiian shirt?

HADES. I can give you your freedom, your friends, and your mother. All it will cost is a little war. The choice is yours, Son of Poseidon. I'll give you a moment to consider.

[MUSIC 20: SON OF POSEIDON]

PERCY.

SEEMS MY GOOD INTENTIONS ALWAYS CRASH AND BURN.  
EV'RYTHING I TRY TO DO WILL FAIL.

NEVER ONCE WILL I PREVAIL,  
GOING WRONG AT EV'RY TURN.

*(SALLY appears.)*

SALLY.

WHAT BELONGS TO THE SEA CAN ALWAYS RETURN.

PERCY & SALLY.

WHAT BELONGS TO THE SEA CAN ALWAYS RETURN.

PERCY. *(Remembering.)* It's a seashell. No... It's a gift from a god.

MAYBE MY DAD WAS A SCREWUP TOO,  
HIS BEST Laid PLANS ALWAYS FALLING THROUGH.  
MAYBE HE DID THE BEST THAT HE COULD DO.  
MAYBE MY DAD WASN'T ALWAYS THERE.  
MAYBE HE NEVER KNEW HOW TO CARE.  
BUT HEY, THAT'S LIFE,  
AND LIFE AIN'T FAIR,  
AND I KNOW RIGHT NOW THINGS ARE LESS THAN FINE.  
BUT I THINK MY DAD MAY HAVE THROWN ME A LINE.  
AND BETTER LATE THAN NEVER  
TO FINALLY GET A SIGN!

*(He pulls out the seashell.)*

I'M THE SON OF POSEIDON,  
AND I AM GONNA WIN!  
THE SON OF POSEIDON  
AND I'M DONE RUNNIN'.

Guys, I know how to get us out of here! I'll come back for you, Mom. I promise.

*(PERCY blows the seashell and a portal appears.)*

It's a portal!

HADES. Oh, come on!