

PERCY. You know, maybe we *should* keep moving...

ANNABETH. It's just one picture, Percy.

(The hissing grows louder.)

GROVER. It's like you can see every individual strand of fur!

AUNTY EM. (Re: PERCY.) Why doesn't your friend get in too?

PERCY. Yeahhh... I don't think so...

AUNTY EM. Came shy? A handsome young man like you?

PERCY. Well... I guess one picture can't hurt. Should I smile?

GROVER. (Re: the statue.) Interesting choice to have him screaming.

AUNTY EM. I think a natural position is best.

(The hiss grows louder.)

PERCY. Does anyone else hear a hissing sound?

GROVER. Yep, she really captured Uncle Ferdinand!

AUNTY EM. Who's ready for their close-up?

GROVER. Really... captured...

ANNABETH. Don't you need a camera?

AUNTY EM. Why use a camera...

GROVER. Percy! That IS Uncle Ferdinand!

AUNTY EM. When you have a face like mine?

ANNABETH. Close your eyes! Aunty M! For—

(ANNABETH and PERCY close their eyes, just as AUNTY EM throws off her headscarf and sunglasses, revealing her hair is made of writhing snakes.)

AUNTY EM. Medussssa! And you mother and I are old nemesissss... nemesessss... nemesississss... We don't like each other.

PERCY. Annabeth, run!

(Eyes closed, PERCY swings his sword wildly. Of course, he misses. MEDUSA laughs.)

MEDUSA. Such a brave hero. Jusst like your father. But jusst me, your quesssst ends here—

CHOP.

(The sword connects and MEDUSA's head falls off.)

PERCY. What just happened?

(ANNABETH cautiously opens her eyes.)

ANNABETH. You can open your eyes. But don't look directly at her. She can still turn you to stone, even *after* you've chopped off her head.

PERCY. (As he opens his eyes in horror.) I chopped off her head??

ANNABETH. I should've known who she was sooner. My mom's gonna be so disappointed.

PERCY. It's not your fault.

ANNABETH. You're right. It's yours.

PERCY. What?

ANNABETH. You led us right to her!

PERCY. You told me to be decisive! Besides, you're the one she was after! She had some grudge against your mom. What was that about?

ANNABETH. (Reluctant.) Medusa used to be beautiful, until Athena... (Small.) turned her into a monster.

★ START

PERCY. She did what?

Annabeth:

She turned her into a monster.

PERCY. Why would she DO that?

ANNABETH. Medusa disrespected her! She was sneaking into Athena's temple to meet up with her boyfriend... (Pointed.) Poseidon. Yeah, Medusa dated your dad.

PERCY. Isn't that overreacting?

ANNABETH. People always de-value wisdom, she has to be tough! It's the only way to get people to respect you! I mean her. I mean... Forget it.

PERCY. Is that why you don't like me? Because our parents don't like each other?

(ANNABETH's taken aback.)

ANNABETH. I never said I don't like you.

PERCY. You criticize me. All the time.

ANNABETH. Look. I've studied, I've trained, I've done everything to prove to the gods that I'm the best. And you show up and— You don't even know how to hold a sword.

PERCY. I do. (He hits himself with his sword.) Ow.

ANNABETH. (Corrects his grip.) Hands here.

(She continues to help adjust his grip.)

PERCY. I didn't ask for any of this. Gods, monsters, quests—

(ANNABETH makes him to swing the sword. Oh, that is easier.)

(ANNABETH steps back.)

END

ANNABETH. Now come at me.

PERCY. With my sword?

ANNABETH pulls out a knife. They fight and...

Look, you're smart, you're brave— (As she comes at him.) you're scary good with that knife. How could your mom not be proud of you?

ANNABETH. That's what I want to know.

[MUSIC 14: MY GRAND PLAN]

You know the only gift my mom ever gave me? A hat that makes you invisible. You put it on and no one can see you. It seemed appropriate.

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A SMART GIRL.

ALWAYS MADE THE GRADE.

ALWAYS GOT THE GOLD STAR.

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A SMART GIRL.

BUT "SMART GIRL" ONLY GETS A HAT SO FAR.

YOU WIN AT EVERY SINGLE GAME.

YOU WANT A QUEST? THEY TELL YOU "TOUGH."

IF YOU DON'T GO.

YOU'LL NEVER KNOW.

IF YOU'LL EVER BE GOOD ENOUGH!

MY GRAND PLAN

IS THAT I WILL BE REMEMBERED.

MY GRAND PLAN,

JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE!

THEY MIGHT WISE UP, 'CAUSE I'LL RISE UP.

BRING ON ANY CHALLENGE,

AND SOMEDAY SOON SOMEONE

WILL NOTICE ME.

PERCY. I know what it's like to not feel good enough. You know how many times I've been kicked out of school?