

BRUNNER. That's not what I...

PERCY. You think I'm trouble. Just like everyone else.

MR. BRUNNER. No, but... That is to say... I can only accept the best from you, Percy. Someday you'll understand why. I'm truly sorry.

(MR. BRUNNER exits, PERCY slumps.)

PERCY. Yeah, well, I'm sorry I let you down...

GROVER. Maybe he's right. You never fit in at this school anyway. You're not exactly...

PERCY. Normal?

GROVER. Exactly! (O PERCY glares.) I mean, uh... I'll see ya on the bus.

(GROVER exits.)

PERCY.

SO IF YOU THINK YOU ARE A HALF-BLOOD,  
BETTER GET HERE IN TO THE GITS NOW.  
'CAUSE FOLKS 'THINK YOU'RE A MON'  
BETTER RUN AND DON'T START CRYIN'  
'CAUSE YOU'RE MONSTER CHOW.  
OR STICK AROUND  
AND MAYBE YOU'LL LEARN FROM ME.  
THIS ISN'T ODYSSEUS'S ODYSSEY.

PERCY.

SO HEAR ME OUT,  
YOU'RE SO COMPELLED,  
BUT - NOBODY LISTENS TO ME,  
THEY NEVER LISTEN.  
NOBODY LISTENS TO ME!  
THEY NEVER LISTEN, OH.

CHORUS.

OOH, OOH,  
OOH, OOH, AH  
OOH  
OOH

CHORUS.

DUDE! YOU GOT EXPELLED!

PERCY.

I DIDN'T WANT TO BE A HALF-BLOOD.

PERCY.

I DIDN'T ASK TO BE A

HALF-BLOOD

EXPELLED!

CHORUS.

EXPELLED!

EXPELLED!

★ START

(We are now at PERCY's home. PERCY's mom, SALLY JACKSON, appears.)

PERCY. Hey Mom. How was your day? Mine was okay. We went on this field trip, I got expelled, I saw some super X-rated art, museums are crazy -

SALLY. The headmaster called me.

PERCY. About the art?

SALLY. About the field trip.

PERCY. Are you mad?

SALLY. Well, I'm not happy. What happened, Percy?

PERCY. So first the math teacher turned into a demon, and then I had this sword -

SALLY. (Quickly.) You know what, it doesn't matter. We'll find another school. Again.

PERCY. I'm not a bad kid on purpose.

SALLY. Oh, baby, I know. (Beat, then.) How would you like to take a trip? Just the two of us.

PERCY. Is that okay with "Smelly Gabe"?

SALLY. I'll deal with your stepfather.

(PERCY's stepdad, GABE UGLIANO, enters.)

GABE. Sally! Where's my bean dip? Ya tryin' to starve me here?

SALLY. Gabe, there you are... (This is hard to say.) ...dear. How would you like a weekend without me and Percy in your way?

GABE. Who's gonna cook for me? Who's gonna clean?

PERCY. My mom's not your servant.

GABE. Naw, she likes doin' things for me.

SALLY. I'll give you a back rub. (GABE's still not sold.) A... (This is gonna be gross.) foot rub?

GABE. (Giving in.) Both feet. And I ain't payin' any of that fancy tuition he wasted. It can come out that money you've been hiding from me. Yeah, I know about that. What're ya saving up for?

(SALLY is embarrassed to admit it.)

SALLY. Creative writing night classes.

GABE. Then I'm doin' you a favor. That's a waste a'money anyway. If he was my kid -

SALLY. He's not.

GABE. Lucky for him. (Then, as he exits.) Bean. Dip.

(He's gone. SALLY exhales.)

SALLY. Mom... You don't have to put up with him... that.

SALLY. It's complicated Percy.

PERCY. You always say that. Why?

SALLY. Because the truth is I'm saying goodbye to you. For good.

[MUSIC 02: STRONG]

SALLY. But maybe it's time.

I CAN'T TELL YOU ALL MY SECRETS...

PERCY.

MAYBE YOU SHOULD START WITH ONE.

SALLY.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE I MET YOUR DAD.

HE'D BE PROUD OF HIS SON.

PERCY.

WHO CARES?

WE'RE BETTER OFF WITHOUT HIM.

SALLY.

NO!

IT'S TIME YOU FOUND OUT MORE ABOUT HIM.

(They move to the beach. Ocean sounds.)

PERCY. Look at the size of those waves!

SALLY. Fire's going. Someone needs a marshmallow. (Playful.) They're blue. Don't tell me you're too old for blue food.

PERCY. You met Dad on this beach?

SALLY.

I FIRST SAW HIM IN THE WATER,

COMING OUT OF THE MORNING MIST.

HE WAS HANDSOME, STRONG, AND BEFORE TOO LONG

YOU CAME TO EXIST.

PERCY.

AND HE DITCHED US.

NOT COMING HOME FOR DINNER,

YEAH, HE SOUNDS LIKE A REAL WINNER...