

Nika was shaking me awake. LURA!! Wake up! We have a problem! She says frantically. What? What's wrong? I ask her sitting up. Nika points to a golden arrow on the floor. Uh oh. I grab the arrow and find the note attached. I frantically unroll it and Read it. Hey! There's a horde of Monsters headed your way. You need to get out of there. Astraea. We need to get out of here. You get the boys, I'll go talk to George and Jewel. I tell her seriously and run out the door. I skip the elevator and go straight for the stairs. I race down them and burst through the lobby door. Jewel was reading at the desk and looked up at me. Oh Lura! What's wrong? Is the elevator broken? She asks me. I bite my lip, not knowing how to explain a army of monsters coming to get us. No, I just needed to get down here fast. Jewel, I don't know how to explain this but there's an army of monsters coming to get me and my friends and we have to leave. I tell her, the truth sounding absurd. She laughs and I hesitate. She finally stops and looks at me. Oh sweetie, who do you think told them you were here? She says and my blood runs cold. She smiled a sinister grin and stood up. I take a step back and take off my glasses. My sword morphs in my hands and Jewel laughs. Cute stick but you can't win. She says and I watch in horror as she turns before my eyes. Once a sweet older lady was now a bald winged creature with blood red eyes. It screeched and lunged. All the training I had just learned came into mind and I dodged and slashed. It was a good move but the creature was fast and narrowly missed it. This thing is fast. I think and change tactics. I charge it and manage to clip one of its wings. I hear another screech And find another thing flying toward me. I duck as it skims my head and I thrust up. It screeches in pain and turns to golden dust. It falls all over me. Gross. Wait. That was George. The thought sickened me but I had no time to thing about it. Jewel, or whatever she was, roared in fury. Her voice was like a snake that had been chocked. You will pay for thissss daughter of Athena. She says and flies at me. I duck but it clips my shoulder. I grit my teeth in pain as pain flares from the cut. It lunges for me again but before I can react, red light blinds me. Fear me beast. For your not going to a feast! I familiar voice says. The creature screams and vanishes in golden dust. Cole?! I ask him. He waves. He didnt say anything. What's wrong? I ask him. She cursed me you see. The one with eyes like the deep blue see. He says and crosses his arms over his chest. I can't help but laugh. Astraea curse you with a rhyming curse?! Nika is going tease you about this for the rest

Of your life. I say. He glares at me. While that may be true, this is a poem for you. Im here to fight, to do what's right. He says. Great then lets get to it. Nika, Devin, and Jacob will need help. I tell him and we both race upstairs. Im out of breath when we reach the top but Cole looks fine. We run to my room and find both doors open. All three of them were running back and forth with different stuff. Lura! Devin says runnig up to me. Cole?! He asks. Cole nods. Silence. What's up with him? Devin asks me. I smile. Astraea cursed him so he can only speak in rhymes. I tell him and Devin smiles. Well, a god on our side is always a plus. Nika was just finishing up with everything. Jacob went to the roof and spotted the army. And boy will we have our hands full. How bad is it? I ask him. He puts his hand on his neck like he does when he's nervous. A lot. At least a dozen or more. All different. He says. He looks at me again. Lura, your shoulder! He says. I had forgotten about it in the heat of everything. I looked at the bloody tear in my skin That had already stained my clothes. As soon as I remembered it, the pain came back. I gritted my teeth. Its fine, we need to get ready. I tell him. No, you will not fight like this. I wont allow it. He says. Dev, there's no way I'm not fighting. I tell him but my shoulder was killing me. Devin shakes his head. I know but promise me you wont fight until I look at it. He says. I promise. I tell him. Great, then its time we get ready. Go to your room and pack your stuff up and change your shirt so germs don't infect the wound. He says, going all doctor on me. Ok Doc. I tell him and sit down on my Bed. I didnt want to tell him that it felt like my shoulder was on fire and I had to take deep breathes to help the pain. He came back with some ambrosia and handed it to me. Eat this. He says and I gladly take it. The sweet food instantly dulled the pain. Ok, now I have to stitch it up. Devin says. I see the tiny needle and cringe. I hated needles. Devin saw me hesitatE. I'll be quick just don't move. He says. Easier said then done. When the tiny metal touched my skin I almost moved my arm away. The tiny pricks and pulls on my skin hurt. Not too bad but still. It made my skin crawl. When he finally was ready to stitch it fully closed, he took a deep breath. This is gonna hurt, just warning you. Try not to scream. He says. Ok just make it quick. I tell him and grit my teeth. On three, one, two three! He says and pulls the strings. Pain ripped through me and I almost screamed. Tears sprung to eyes. There, that should hold. He says and looks at me. He sees the tears in my eyes. He wraps me in a hug and I feel infinitely Better. Thanks.

I tell him. No problem. Everyone needs a hug every once in a while. He says. Yeah. I tell him. We sit in each other's arms for a while, enjoying each other's company. I knew even with Cole on Our side it would still be a fight. The thought that I may not see my friends again made a lump in my throat. When we finally pull away, we both turn serious. Ready? I ask him with a smile. As ready as I'll ever be. He says matching my smile. We grab our backpacks and head out the door where Nika was waiting for us. She rolled her eyes. Took you long enough. She says. I roll my eyes at her and we all run to the roof. When we open the hatch, wind and rain try to push us back. I carefully climb up and look around. Jacob and Cole were watching the monsters approach and talking to one another. I heard snippets of rhymes and smiled. Alright, how many are There? I ask Jacob. He looks up at me. At least a dozen, maybe more. Its hard to tell with the rain And wind. He yells. Ok! Let's head down and meet them in the parking lot! I yell back and we all walk to the hatch. We are all soaked but it didnt matter. We raced down the stairs and pried open the doors. We ran out into the rain again and walked to the back of the hotel. I hear massive footfalls and roars of the upcoming army. I stood next to all my friends. Pride swelled in me as we took up our fighting positions. Devin stood next to me. I took his hand and he squeezed it. We go when they hit the asphalt! I yell to my friends. Cole's red glow lit up in the rain. Thunder crashed overhead. I see figures not 30 feet away. I hope the lessons come in handy. I think as I pull off my glasses and they shift into my sword. No or never. That's when I heard it. Ghostly howls filled the air and it made my hair stand on end. I knew that howl anywhere. The same creature that killed my father had come to kill me. I started to panic. Devin squeezed my hand again. Its ok, we got this. He tells me. I hoped he was right. That's when the first monster hit the road and I yelled CHARGE!!