

Dinner was great but I had my mom's words stuck on repeat throughout the night. I tried to enjoy myself and it was nice to catch up with Astraea and Cole. After dinner, I was tempted to tell Astraea about my Mom's words but she looked really tired. I decided it could wait. It was almost time to get to Camp Half-Blood again. My mind wandered to a happier place. I shook my head and told myself I still had a full two weeks till I was going back. I said goodnight and went back to my room. I pulled my iPod out and sent a quick text to Devin. I waited for him to respond and drew some more in my journal. The DING finally came and I opened the message. He said he was busy but could FaceTime me in half an hour. I sent ok and then set my iPod done and waited. It felt like one of the longest 30 minutes of my life. I scribbled furiously in my journal. Finally, the FaceTime ring popped up and I opened it. Devin was smiling at me. I couldn't help but smile at him. So, what is this important thing you need to talk about? He asks with a smile. I lose my smile. Well, so earlier today... I start to tell him and his smile fades as well. When I finish telling the story, he looks at me and sighs. Wow, and this all happened today? He asks me. Yeah. I tell him softly. Well, just hang in there till the next term ok? Then we can talk and prepare together. He says. I nod. I hear a shout in the background. COMING DAD! Devin yells back and looks at me tiredly. I've got to go, but if anything happens, don't hesitate to call. I'm just a dial away. He says and flashes me one of his signature smiles. I smile and give him a thumbs up. Love you. He says. Love you too. I tell him back and he hangs up. I stare at my black screen, trying to process what just happened. I put my iPod in my nightstand and turn out the light. Brent was already asleep and was curled up under his blankets. I grab his stuffed dinosaur, Rex, and set it next to him. I slide into bed and stare up at the ceiling. I toss and turn for a while but eventually fall asleep. I had that dream again, the one with the owl and the storm and the words booming in my head. A week goes by and I get ever more tense, knowing that the present day could be the one. I try to decipher the words. They felt important and personal. Like a prophecy. I stopped dead in my tracks at that thought. But I'm not a Apollo kid, how can I have a prophecy? I asked myself. I was convinced I needed Astraea's help. I sat on the end of the line and it went to voicemail. Hey Astraea. Its Lura. Look, I really need your advice on something. Call me back when you get the chance. Tell Cole I said hi. Love you! I ended the call. I looked at the diagram I

Had made in my journal. I had written down the words in my journal and made lines and bubbles on my thoughts. I reread over them. I added a few more thoughts before closing it. LURA! TIME FOR BREAKFAST! Mom yells. I gently wake Brent up and we both head into the kitchen. The sound of sizzling and something baking in the oven made my mouth water. I sat down at a chair next to the island and watched my Mom fry bacon on a pan. Yum. I say. She smiles and hands me a piece for me and Brent to share. It was hot but not too hot to eat. I broke it in half and handed it to Brent who was eyeing it hungrily. He immediately gobbled it up and signed for more and I laughed. Mom laughed too. I signed to him that he could have more when its ready. He pouted but didnt argue. I got him a glass and filled it with orange juice. I handed it to him and he went and sat down at the table with contempt. I chuckle and help Mom finish making breakfast. Micah and Bexter open the door with big smiles. We all smile when they bring in some groceries. Micah and me put the food away while Dad and Mom work together to set the table. We all sat down and enjoyed bacon, monkey bread that was drizzled in a glaze(yum!!!), and sausages. I was so full by the end, I thought I was going to burst. I helped clean up and then walked back to my room. I had a new message from Devin and I opened it, curious. It said, 'meet me at the train station, we need to talk". Odd. but it must be important if he can't wait till we get back to camp. I throw on some comfy clothes and grab my backpack. I put on my glasses and walk out of my room. Mom looks at me curiously. Where are you going? She asks. Devin wants to meet up, I'll be back in a little bit. I tell her and smiles one of those mom smiles. Have fun. She says. Dont forget to call me if something happens. I hold up my iPod and walk out the door. I was a senior in high school at 15. I passed my high school and popped in my AirPods. I walked through the crowds and waited at a crosswalk just a block from the station. I had this feeling that I was being followed. I start to feel uneasy. I finger my glasses, but I'm next to hundreds of mortals. not a great time to get attacked. I think. I walk to where Devin told me to meet. I lean up against a steel pole and survey the area for Devin. The longer I didnt see him, the longer I started to worry. Maybe he's just late. I tell myself but I don't believe it. I'm about to call Bexter to pick me up but I see familiar blonde hair walk toward me. I breath a sigh of relief. Hey Devin. What's wrong? I say. My heart stops. It wasn't Devin. Gleaming fangs and a snake body come out

Of the crowd and a jagged sword is in its head. It was a Dracaenae, half snake half woman monster. Of course, just when I was having a good morning. I think to myself. I pull off my glasses and my gleaming sword appears in a flash of light. The crowd was ignoring us for the most part. I was thankful for the Mist and circled the monster. It hisses. Daughter of Athena.... Come to die. She says in a slithery voice. Shivers gone down my spine as I hold up my sword. The thing laughs and charges me. It was fast and I narrowly dodged. I went in for a blow like Annabeth had taught me and scored a tiny hit. Over the past few months, I had been taking gymnastics to be more flexible and because Annabeth had been trying to teach me how to flip and slash at the same time. I was glad for it this time. I went through the motion in my head and used it when the monster attacked next. I ran and bounced off the pole and flipped over the monster's head. It looked at me in disbelief and I slashed its head off, sending golden dust everywhere. I smiled and panted. I looked around and saw more mysterious things moving toward me. I saw an opening in the crowd and ran for the train. I hopped aboard the train as the doors were sliding shut. Everyone looked at me and I tried to act casual. I sat down and grabbed my iPod. I called Bexter and he picked up. Hey Dad, can you come pick me up? I just met the nicest person ever. I tell him our code words. Im on my way, where are you? He asks seriously. I look around for a indication to where I was. I'm on a train heading north, I think we stop at the Bronx station. Can you meet me there? I ask him. Yep, be right there kiddo. He says and hangs up. I try to relax but my body was still coursing with adrenaline. Why would Devin set me up? I ask myself. I was about to call him and make him explain when I remember something Nika told me. Monster's can track phones. Mine wasn't a phone but was close enough. They must have sabotaged it and set me up. I think and it makes sense. I shut off my phone and don't turn it back on till I get close to the station. The train comes to a stop and I merge with crowd. I shoot Bexter a text and he says he's parking the by my exit. I see his car pull up. I hop in and lay back in the seat, suddenly tired from everything. What happened? He asks me as we pull out. I tell him about how I had come to the station and Devin not being there then being attacked then coming to my conclusion about my iPod. H listens and agrees that I should just use his for the time being. It's probably time we get you to camp. It'll be fine that your a little early. He says as we pull up back to the

Apartment. He puts a hand on my shoulder. Good job today, I've had plenty of times I've encountered one of those and gotten a new scratch everytime. He says and shows me a thin white line on his wrist. I shrug. I got lucky. I tell him and smile. He smiles and ruffles my hair and we go inside. Mom was in the living room, watching TV. She jumps up when she sees us. Are you alright? Did you get hurt? What happened? She asks me, looking me over. I'm fine Mom. I juts ran into some trouble at the station. I tell her. She handled it great. Bexter tells Mom with a smile. Mom calms down but still looks skeptical. Where was Devin? She asks. I explain my theory and her brows knit together. That was smart of you to turn off your phone but I fear its only temporary. She says. I'm gonna take her to Camp early. Bexter says. Mom looks said but nods. Its for the best. She says. I give her a big hug and enjoy the feel of her arms around mine. I'll be back Mom, I promise. This will give you a chance to play with Brent more. I tell her, knowing I kind of hog him. She smiles. That sounds good. I'll still miss you though. She says. Dont worry, I'll be back before you know it. I tell her with a wink and another hug. I'm gonna grab my bag and tell Brent goodbye. Be right back. I tell them and run to my room. I throw all my shirts and stuff into my bag and carefully put Hooty, my journal, and my books into my bag. I zip it shut and look at Brent. He looks at me confused and signs 'where are you going'? I look at him sadly, knowing I wont see him for a bit. I'll be back, I just have to go to this camp for a bit.' I sign to him. He looks sad and wraps me in a hug. I lift him into my arms and hug him. it was a long hug, but when your a demigod you take every hug you get. I set him down and kiss his forehead. I'll be back, can you be a big boy and help Mom around the house for me'? I ask him. He salutes me and smiles. I laugh and ruffle his hair. I grab my bag and walk out. I hear Mom and Dad talking urgently. Their coming soon, you'll have to hurry. I know, but she needs the protection of the camp now. I'll be back soon. Bexter says and grabs his keys. Are the twins coming early? I ask them. They share a look. Yes, but that's normal. We are heading there after Bexter drops you off. Mom says. I curse my luck. Ok. I say. I wanted to be there for Astraea but I also knew that I needed the camp. Let's go. I say and we get in the car. Bexter is rigid the whole ride. I understand. I send a silent prayer up to the gods that everything goes well. We pull up to camp and I get out and look at Bexter. Call me when they come. No matter what time I will pick up. I tell him.

He nods and drives off. I walk into camp and admire it. I wave to familiar faces and head to cabin 6. I walk in and instantly relax. I head up to my room where Annabeth and Nika are chatting. They both look at me. Lura?! Your early! How's it going? Nika asks and gives me a big hug. Good, I got attacked at the train station today so Bexter thought it was better if I came early. Also, the twins are coming. I tell them and they tense. Now?! That's early but not surprising. Nika says. yeah, that's what Bexter was saying. I'm going to the stables to clear my head. Is Devin here yet? I ask them. No, he said he'll get here tomorrow. Nika tells me and smiles. I know that smile. What are you plotting? I ask her. She looks at Annabeth who seemed to know. Its a surprise, go have fun. She says and I don't argue. I quickly change into my camp shirt and head to the stables. I had a foreboding feeling as I started flying but dismissed it. Big mistake.