

It didn't take us long to get back to camp but it was all hands on deck when we touched down. I was glad to be back but Chiron and Mr. D looked grave. They started barking orders at campers and everyone grabbed weapons and armor. This is serious. I thought. Then I saw Annabeth storming toward us. I shrunk and Nika and me braced ourselves. She glared at us. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW STUPID THAT WAS?! She yelled at us. I put my head down and nodded, ashamed. I made them come with me. I hear Devin say. I couldn't believe it. He was taking the blame, even though it wasn't his fault. In that moment I wanted to give him a big hug. It was childish but nobody had taken the blame for me before. Nika shook her head. No.. it was me. It was unwise. Nika admits. Annabeth stares at us with eagle eyes trained on each of us. She gives a small smile. We don't have time for this right now, but I expect a full report after all this is over. She tells us and I breathe a sigh of relief that I didn't have to face her wrath right now. She turns to a boy with black hair and seagreen eyes. Percy, help me with setting up the camp defenses. She tells him and they run off toward the armory. Astraea and Cole talk for a moment and then he runs off toward the cabins. A guy with blood hair runs up and hands each of us a small bottle of Nectar. He looked flustered and scared. Not a good thing. Astraea turns to us with concern but also had a heroic air around her. You guys should get out of here. It's not safe. She tells us. For a moment, I almost listen to her. But then I look at the camp and Nika and Devin. I realize that this was my home, one of the last I had depending on if we lived to see the end of the day. I know I spoke for all of us when I tell her our answer. We're not leaving. I tell her, surprised at the determination in my voice. This is our home too. Nika says, putting her arms around me and Devin. And like it or not, we are fighting. Devin says, looking at me and Nika with a smile. Astraea looks at us with concern and pride. Cole and Tyler step out from behind her. You three... are special. Ain't nobody in their right minds would say what you said... and that's a good thing. Tyler says, pulling out his sword. Nika pulls out her dagger and Devin his sword. I smiled and pulled off my glasses which in a silver light shifted into my dagger. Its familiar weight comforted me. Thank you Mom, wherever you are. I say silently. I also quickly prayed for my friends safety. Tyler motioned for us to follow him and we run in the direction Percy and Annabeth went in. We reach the armory and a large man hands us bronze

Armor. I slipped it on as quickly as I could, but it was heavy and awkward and I had to have Devin's help. His skin brushed mine as he helped me. It sent tingles throughout me and I tried to hold still. He looks at me and opens his mouth. Lura, if we don't make it out alive there's something I've been meaning to tell you. He says. My heat feels like its going to pound out of my chest. He opens his mouth to tell me but a loud cry echoes throughout the camp. Everyone stops and stares. A giant eagle about the size of a dragon flew over us, its shadow covering us in momentary darkness. Its wings had electricity arching over them and it was circling us, searching. Astraea. I knew the beast and we were in trouble. Zeus's own animal. The Thunderbird. Ummmm, Mom this would a great time to help us. I plead into my head, hoping she'd hear my plea. I felt a slight humming and I looked at my arm. It had a small silver hue to it and I feel charged and powerful. Devin, Nika, and Tyler look at me with surprise. Nice glow, but we have a battle to win. Tyler says. Annabeth runs over to us and gapes at me. The blessing of Athena. She whispers. She smiles. I knew you were special. Come on, lets do this. I nod and run alongside my friends, no family. I knew I wouldn't like to charge into battle with anyone else.

