

I was led with the others to a arena where many spirits and skeletons watched. Hades spoke to Astraea but I was too focused on figuring out strategies. I watched as a massive dragon entered the arena. Its scales rippled in the darkness and light. Did you know with every kill it grows stronger and bigger. I say softly, mostly to myself. Astraea looked at me. oh that's lovely! good to know I signed my boyfriend up for that. She says. Wait! You... and Cole?! Devin said with a shocked look on his face. I almost rolled my eyes. Tyler made a joke on a bet he made about them and me and Nika laughed. Cole stepped out in his armor and Astraea smiled. He gave the dragon a look. Whoa. I say He's jacked. Nika whistles. Devin made comment as well but I was too focused on the arena. The dragon was easily 20 times bigger than Cole. I saw Astraea come to the same conclusion and close her eyes in silent prayers. I put my hand on her back to comfort her. I suddenly have conviction that he will live. He's fine. I tell her. Don't lie. We hope he will be fine. Nika says, engrossed in the two champions circle. Astraea looked torn and I glared at Nika. Nika, we have to have faith. I tell her as the bell rings. I didn't know if she heard it or not but we all turned to the arena floor. The dragon breathed blue flames and I heard Cole swear loudly. Cole ducked and used his shield to block the flames but the force pushed him back. Cole stood there trying to think but with incredible speed, the dragon knocked him back several feet. He hit the wall with a thud and the undead crowd cheered. All determination disappeared. That's your champion? I ask Astraea. She didn't answer but stared hard at Cole. I looked back and saw a change in Cole. His eyes were starting to glow red. The dragon charged again but Cole was somehow ready and punched the beast with so much force it sent the beast to the other side of the arena. Impossible. I think and try to explain it. That's not possible. Nika says. Astraea and Hades share a look. It's not what your thinking. Hades tells her. Cole was reckless walking toward the dragon without his shield. The dragon prepares his fire weapon but Cole shuts his mouth closed. This tiny demigod was holding a massive dragons mouth closed! Astraea says, i hope he can keep this up. Nika makes a good point. We're all demigods. He can only keep this up for a few more minutes. Nika says. That... is no demigod. Hades says, his voice making my blood run cold. Then how did he get to Camp Half blood? Devin asks. good question. I think. I don't know boy. Hades snarls at him. The dragon claws Cole and I wince as blood starts flowing. Devin looks pale at

The blood. Regardless, Cole gruesomely stabs the dragon in the eye but was bucked by the dragon. Cole stabs the dragon again and rolls out of the dragons stomping feet. I could tell Cole was running on empty but he uses the last bit to break the dragons open jaw. I loud CRACK fills the arena. Devin vomited on Tyler but I just sat there puzzling. Cole jumps up and delivers the death blow. Memories of me performing the same kill blow rushed at me and I forced myself to keep my stomach and breathing calm. I hoped no one noticed my moment and was thankful they were all to focused on Cole. Spirits lead him away and one called for Astraea. We followed her to a room where Cole sat, panting and his chest covered in blood. Devin handed Astraea a glass bottle filled with the same golden liquid he used to heal me. Nectar was what it was called. She handed it to Cole which he drank gratefully. I notice his wounds start to close up. Hades was behind me and stepped further in the room. I was happy to let him walk farther away from me, the guy gave me the creeps. Im impressed but you didnt kill the dragon. Everyone but me stood shocked but I had read about Thanatos and knew what he was talking about. Cole deflated and we all laughed. All of us were led out of the underworld by Hades.