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The Clash between the God and the Heroes

Chapter 9: All Goes to Hell

My feet pounded against the wet earth and greenery. The slashes on my legs were bleeding, leaving blotches of red on the fallen leaves. I felt my cheeks sting from the twigs and branches that were poking out as we ran through the thickest parts of the jungle. I thought of using my hands to shield my face, but it would have only slowed my steady running momentum. I felt my body becoming unusually cold, realizing I was losing too much blood. There was no time to stop to bandage my wounds, though. No one else was going to die. I grit my teeth and managed to stop my threatening tears from hindering my vision. Yards later, my ears were still ringing, some of it a result of the birds bizarre, intense squawking, but it mostly consisted of Seriah's piercing screams. They forcefully echoed throughout the humid air making our surroundings feel more like hell than a jungle.

“Over there! I think I see a cave,” Lorenzo motioned toward a creek. I still couldn't make out where the cave was as we hurriedly followed him. Finally, I could see the faint outline of the cave opening once it was right in front of me. Lorenzo carefully lifted the vines and plantation to create an entrance for us, making sure they don't tear off to place them as they were to keep the cave invisible.

Our heavy and rapid breathing was all I could hear as we finally sat on the cool ground of the dark cave. I looked around and sighed in relief to see everyone without broken or fractured bones. That small moment of reassurance lasted only a second, though. Flashes of Seriah frantically pleading, “PLEASE, HELP ME, PLEASE. I DON’T WANT TO DIE,” with a face so full of desperation and dread with her arm outstretched toward us filled my head. The most vivid, though, was the three-headed jaguar hungrily mauling every inch of her body all at once. I could still hear its teeth piercing through her flesh making blood gush out and stain the fur around the creature’s mouth. I placed my head between my knees and squeezed my eyes shut, trying not to scream in frustration or get up and kick the wall which would only result with a broken toe.

Minutes passed before Lu finally noticed my battered legs which I had completely forgotten about. “Blanca, your legs - your legs! Put pressure on your wounds now!” I heard Lu urgently command me. The sound of his footsteps neared where I was sitting.

I heard what Lu told me, but... I couldn’t move. The only thing I could do was open my eyes. I still had my head positioned between my knees so the only thing I could see was the ground and a bit of my bleeding legs from my peripheral vision. It was as if my entire body wasn’t there. Only the muscles in my face reacted to the signals sent from my brain.

“Guys, something’s wrong... I can’t move -,” I stopped mid-sentence. From the corner of my eye, a black spider the size of a baseball with neon orange splattered on its back like paint appeared. I hadn’t noticed it before, because it was out of my peripheral vision, but I saw it now - extending its legs, making its way across my right leg. Horrified, I saw it position itself right on

top of one of the deep slashes made by the three-headed jaguar earlier. It extended its fangs and delicately separated pieces of my exposed pink flesh from my leg into its small mouth.

And that's when I blacked out.

I opened my eyes and found myself alone, laying in a field of... grass? Wasn't I in a cave in a jungle? Recollecting the past recent events, I braced myself to see what became of my legs. They would have definitely chopped my leg off, but then I'd only become a nuisance and put my friends in even greater danger. I shoot my eyes toward my legs half expecting a leg to be missing. But to my surprise, my legs were totally unscathed as if I hadn't just been attacked by a freakish jaguar with three ferocious heads and feasted on by a poisonous spider.

"Hello, young mortal," a voice behind me said.

I spin my head around to see a woman dressed in white with a bow at her side and her arrows stationed at her back. I tried looking at her face, but I could only catch faint outlines of her features. It was as if I were trying to look directly at the sun so I averted my eyes to her bow.

"Who are you?" I asked.

"I'm the daughter of Zeus, Goddess of the hunt, Artemis. And you are measly girl, a foolish mortal on the verge of death," Artemis answered. Her voice was authoritative and her words were condescending, but there was something about her voice I wouldn't mind listening to everyday.

"Like THE Goddess Artemis? The Greek mythology Goddess?" I questioned. This had to be a dream, but my instincts were telling me otherwise. "So if you're appearing before me, then.. Oh god. So I really am... going to die..." I said aloud. A sudden pang hit my heart as memories

of my little brother, dad, and my friends, Lorenzo, Lu, Ami, Kali... Seriah came flooding into my head. Sure I just learned all the classical greek mythology I heard of before wasn't all complete bullshit, but what does it matter now? I needed to savor my remaining time with remembering my loved-ones. I kneeled down, feeling too overwhelmed to stand.

“Do you perhaps want to live, young one? Don't let your feelings blind you from seeing what's right before your eyes,” Artemis suggested.

My eyes widened. Of course... of course! There's literally a Goddess right in front of me. They could do anything they wanted. I could live to see another day. Before I could reply, though, I started realizing something. Artemis, Goddess of the hunt, has the power to control or influence the will of all animals. She is also a protector to girls. If this is all accurate, why would she have made us encounter these otherworldly creatures that all wanted to kill us? It's like her character to offer to help in this moment, but she could have helped me and my friends back when we had to encounter the dangerous animals...

Fearing the worst, I replied, “N-no, I'm fine. I'd really just like to go back to my friends now to spend my remaining time with them.”

‘Artemis’ hand tightened around her bow. “Do you dare reject my kindly offer, girl?”

I winced at the level of intensity now portrayed in her voice. “Please, I mean you no disrespect.”

Her knuckles were now white from grasping the bow too hard. “What insolent mortal would ever treat A God like this? Blasphemy, BLASPHEMY,” the roaring voice became deep. ‘Artemis’ physique was now forming into... .

Holy shit. My speculations were right. This isn't Artemis. This can't be happening. Wake up, wake up, WAKE UP.

"Do you know who I am?" asked a male's cunning voice that now replaced Artemis'.

I gulped and mustered up all the courage I had to reply-

"You're Hades, God of the Underworld."

The Clash between the God and the Heroes

Beginning

- Introduces the story with Blanca, the main character (1st person)
- Tells about her close relationships with her family and friends
- Spring break coming up, long awaited trip Blanca and her friends have been saving up for.
- Headed across the ocean aboard a ferry but disrupted by the vicious ocean's waves.
(Poseidon)

Middle

- Wash up on an island.
- Everyone dies (what they believe) except them the main gang.
- Venture into the thick jungle and encounter dangerous and bizarre creatures.
- Serial death.
- Blanca meets Hades disguised as Artemis
- Hades follows the gang, but Apollo steps in and aids the Blanca and her friends

End

- Artemis has been in danger the entire time.
- Apollo temporarily gives the group of friends powers (and all work together to overthrow Hades and his beasts)
- Artemis is saved
- Through many obstacles, they send Hades back to the Underworld. (temporarily)

- Artemis and Apollo grant Blanca and friends and bestow them great fortune (wish? undecided)
- Happy ending until Book 2...

Characters:

Major character - the Narrator

Name: Blanca Sex: female Age: 23 Birthdate: August 11 Birthplace: California
Nationality: American Religion: Agnostic Languages Spoken: English, Spanish
Class in Society: Middle to Lower (mom sends her money every year from an unknown address)
Morals: Believes in equality and has a sense of responsibility
Education: College Marital Status: Single Personality: Brave, hardworking, and would rather take action to try to fix a problem than sit around and fret over a problem

Family Background:

Father: Alejandro Profession: Construction worker Living/dead: living

Mother: Unknown Profession: N/A Living/dead: living

Parents Married/Divorced: Separated

Brothers (number): 1 Sisters: 0

Happy Home Life? Financial instability but a household filled with love

Interesting Information Regarding Family: Blanca resents her mother for abandoning them

Physical Appearance:

Height: average Weight: Toned with muscle from playing volleyball in highschool and as a hobby Eyes: Brown Hair: Dark brown medium length Ears: multiple piercings on each side
Any birthmarks or Scars: scar below her left eyebrow