

STYGIA
Episode 1
"Home Sweet Hell"

By

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INT. STORYBOOK- N/A

An old greek tome opens. ZEUS, HADES, and POSEIDON are dancing in harmony.

They are large, regal, epic.

HERA (OS)

Long ago, three brothers ruled the mortal lands: Zeus, Poseidon, and Hades.

The page turns. Zeus smiles warmly as storm clouds rain onto happy mortals who dance as their crops grow.

HERA (CONTD)

Zeus was the God of the Sky and the Heavens. He brought rain and prosperity to the mortal lands, helping their crops grow abundant. He was the nicest of the three, and his powers and strength stretched far and wide.

The page turns. Poseidon, with arms outstretched, pushes a boat forward with a large wave.

HERA (CONTD)

Poseidon was the God of the Sea. His tides brought swift travel and exploration to the mortals. He was the smartest brother-

HADES (OS)

Ok, that's rude.

HERA (CONTD)

Can you be quiet? I don't hear you telling the story.

HADES (CONTD)

Ugh, fine.

HERA (OS)

Ahem. As I was saying...

The page turns. Hades looks down at a cowering mortal surrounded by flames. He points his thumb downwards.

HERA (OS)

And then there was Hades. The God of

the Dead. He was the cruelest brother,
damning poor souls to the-

HADES (OS)

Ok, no. Stop.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM- NIGHT

HADES sits in a dark conference room. He is not happy.

Behind him is MEGEARA the Fury- a demoness with a single powerful wing. She looks like she just remembered a mean joke about someone else, but will never tell.

A shade closes the scroll he was reading. He looks down bashfully.

HADES

This is grossly incorrect. I'm not the mean one, c'mon.

Meg rolls her eyes.

HADES (CONTD)

Also, what's with the fire? All the time. It's always 'fire, fire, fire!' The only place that's even remotely on fire down here is Asphodel.

The shade blinks.

HADES (CONTD)

Also, 'God of the Dead'? I'm not the God of the Dead. That's Thanatos' job.

SCRIBE SHADE

Um...

MEG

So sorry, sir. He loved it. Please give us a minute?

Meg shoos the shade away. Meg glares at Hades.

MEG (CONTD)

What in Styx was that?

HADES

What? He got bad info. I was correcting him.

MEG

He was a fanboy. Just let him read it.

The door opens and an older-looking shade peeks his head in.

OLD SHADE

Pardons m'lord, but the guests have arrived.

HADES

What? Now? Meg, why didn't you tell me?

Hades storms out of the room. Meg chases after him.

INT. HOUSE OF HADES- CONTINUOUS

Hades rushes through the House. Shades running (floating?) to and fro, demons dusting the decorations- it's CHAOS.

Meg catches up to him. The two powerwalk through the busy hallways.

MEG

Ok, I didn't think that would go on that long. My mistake.

HADES

I thought this party was in 3 days, you're telling me it's today?

Meg rolls her eyes. Again.

MEG

It's not a party, it's a centennial dinner. And It's been on the calendar for a week.

HADES

Well I didn't plan that, blame Hyp-Hypos? Where are they?

MEG

They're getting the ballroom ready. You should get there too.

HADES

Gah, I don't have time for this. I'm too busy with everything. Could I just-

Hades is interrupted by an old looking shade. He is beaming, but also shaking. Hades isn't paying much attention.

OLD SHADE

Oh my. Lord Hades, I'm honored to be in your presence. I wanted to share a complaint I had surrounding the River Lethe-

HADES

(dismissively)

Your complaint has been acknowledged. Thank you very much.

OLD SHADE

Oh, uh. But I didn-

Too late. Hades and Meg have moved on.

HADES

Could I just not show?

MEG

No, you can't 'just not show'.

HADES

Ok, what about Alecto and Tis? Can they take over for me?

MEG

You know as well as I that they're not the most social people.

HADES

Yeah? Well, neither am I, so we're pretty much in the same boat.

MEG

No you're not.

Hades stops and rifles through a closet.

MEG (CONTD)

What are you looking for?

HADES

My bident.

MEG

(exasperated)

Why do you need your bident?

HADES

I need to command dominance in there!
Everybody carries a weapon to look
more, y'know..

Hades straightens his back and stands tall in a commanding pose, yet he looks more like a stiff board. Meg chuckles and shakes her head.

MEG

Hades-

Meg grabs his hand and smiles warmly.

MEG (CONTD)

You don't need your bident.

She closes the closet. Hades groans like a petulant toddler and keeps walking.

HADES

(semi-sarcastically)

Thanks, Meg. You're gonna get me
killed now.

MEG

(chuckling)

Oh, come on. Just exude confidence.

HADES

"Exude confidence"? Wow, so helpful.
What, you want me to chuck lightning
from my hands too? I swear, this
speech will be the death of me.

Another shade comes up to them holding a scroll and a quill. Hades glances at it briefly before he signs it.

MEG

You really shouldn't be signing random
things.

The shade runs off.

HADES

They're not "random things", ok?
They're important things.

Meg gives him a look.

HADES

...That just so happen to be random.

MEG

Gods above.

Finally HYPNOS scurries over. They're draped in a tunic that looks 2 sizes too big for them. They have a massive grin on their face and fluffy hair that's stuck in a perpetual bedhead. They hold a scroll with a bunch of names and hastily scribbled floor plans.

HYPNOS

Ah, Master! Perfect timing.

HADES

Hypnos, finally, there you are.
(whispering) Get me out of here.

Meg pushes Hades aside.

MEG

What's the news?

HYPNOS

Well, I just wanted you to know that the ballroom is furnished and is looking great, if I say so myself. And some of the guests are already coming in! We've got Melinoe, Thanatos, and-

A looming figure stops them dead in their tracks. Their faces drop.

HADES

Hecate.

HECATE'S disapproving scowl enters the room before she does. She towers over the three gods.

HADES

(shaking)

Ah, Hecate! It's so good to see you.
Your dress is quite dashing.

Hypnos and Meg push Hades forward, who fronts a smile.

HECATE

Hades. I was told this was a distinguished event. This looks like a dump.

HADES
We're working on it. Right?

HYPNOS
Yes.

MEG
No.

Meg and Hypnos turn to each other. Hades is livid.

HADES
I'll tell you what. We'll have
everything ready for tonight in just a
sec.

Hades tries to reach a hand onto Hecate's shoulder, which she
brushes off with disdain.

HADES (CONTD)
How about you head back to the
ballroom and wait? I'll have my ushers
guide you.

HECATE
Hmmp. No need. Oh, and tell Cerberus
to stop pissing on my dress every time
I come to this place.

Hecate walks away with a flick of her dress. Hypnos shakes
their leg in fear of having gotten giant-three-headed-dog-
piss on their trousers. Hades' kind demeanor drops.

HADES
By Styx, the nerve on her. Why do I
even have to deal with her?

HYPNOS
Well she is the arbiter of all magic
in the Underworld, so it would be best
you treat her well.

HADES
If only she could be more cheerful.

Another shade approaches, arms full of scrolls, trying and
failing to keep them from toppling over.

PLAN SHADE
M'lord, we really need you to approve
these trade agreements, we're 12 years
behind-

HADES

Yes, yes, I'll get to them. Can't you see I'm busy right now?

PLAN SHADE

Uh, yes m'lord!

The shade scrambles off, dropping scrolls everywhere and struggling to pick them up.

The three arrive at a large set of double doors- the BALLROOM.

HYPNOS

They're ready.

Hades sighs.

HADES

Ok, here we go I guess.

Meg cleans him up; brushing his armor, flattening his hair.

MEG

You'll do great, just breathe.

HADES

Does my hair look bad?

Meg looks at her work.

MEG

Not anymore.

HADES

Ok, I'm ready.

MEG

Good luck.

Meg steps back. Hades takes a deep breath.

HADES

(whispering)

Ok, Lord of the Dead.

He opens the door.

INT. BALLROOM- NIGHT

The ballroom is a massive open room packed with tables and assorted Underworld beings, all chatting amongst themselves. Blue TORCHLIGHT shines from braziers. Hades lifts his arms in a flourish and puts on a big grin.

HADES

Greetings, friends! A very warm welcome once more to the House of Hades.

The room goes quiet. Everyone looks to Hades, a speck in front of the massive double doors. Hades claps.

HADES (CONTD)

Well, um... another century, how 'bout that? You all look amazing. I bet you've all reunited with each other,

friends, enemies. Looking at you, Lampades, Empusa. You guys are looking extra bloodthirsty today.

Hades points to the LAMPADES, small white-skinned nymphs dressed in wrapping. Long blue torches crackle on their table.

They shake their heads and groan in annoyance, looking across the ballroom at the EMPUSA, a herd of angry figures with flaming hair, red eyes, and horse legs. Some of them have horns, some have wings, all of them pissed off. They growl and snarl and the Lampades, one even breaking her goblet into a shank and pointing it at them.

Hades tries to walk back that very poor joke with a chuckle as the crowd murmurs. Meg, who is standing by the entrance, puts her head in her hands.

HADES (CONTD)

Ok. Yeesh. Anyway, I just wanted to say a few words before we begin. First of all, thank you to Hecate for providing us with magic again this century. Her work at the Conclave has been wonderful.

Hades motions to Hecate, who gives a shit-eating grin and absolutely basks in the crowd's applause. Hades cringes.

HADES (CONTD)

Also, a big thanks to Hypnos for organizing this event and decorating the ballroom.

Hades points to Hypnos, who sits at a table eating hors'dourves. The crowd applauds. Hypnos' eyes widen and a huge smile crosses their face. They look around, shocked and delighted, practically bouncing off the walls.

HADES (CONTD)

(whispering)

For a God of Sleep, that kid is really energetic. (to the audience) Ok, and I wanted to announce that Underworld trade has had an increase by almost 35-

A shade hurries up and whispers something in Hades' ear.

HADES

Uh, 12%! Yeah, wow. Keep that up, and we might be able to reach our 100-year goal in...

He leans back to the shade.

HADES (CONTD)

200 years!

The applause is more spaced out. The guests look at each other uncomfortably. Hades sweats.

HADES (CONTD)

Well, um... anyway, with that good news, that's all I have! Oh, and please don't feed your leftovers to Cerberus, no matter how much he begs. Alright, does anyone have anything else they'd like to discuss?

Every hand shoots up.

Hades' face drops.

HADES (CONTD)

(whispering)

Oh, Styx.

TITLE CARD: STYGIA

CUT TO:

EXT. FLOWERY HILL- DAY

PERSEPHONE lies on a hill overlooking a large field of flowers. The sun is shining, not a cloud in the sky.

Persephone rests in complete relaxation, big smile across her face, her arms resting beneath her long blonde hair. Her flowery dress spills out onto the grass.

She opens her eyes and sits up. She takes an apple from her handwoven basket and bites into one of them. Looking around at the beautiful flowers, she notices a particularly pretty one nearby and hops up to get a closer look.

Persephone bounds down the hill and stops at the flower: an exotic PURPLE DAFFODIL. She bends down to smell before picking it. She examines it for a moment and slots it between the strands of her hair.

As she's fiddling, a necklace slips out from under her shirt: A GOLDEN CONCH SHELL. She holds it in her hand and looks at it in despair. A flash of determination shines in her eyes and she turns to the cliff on her right.

She walks over to the edge and stares at the waves crashing into the rocks. She takes off the necklace and grips the shell in her hands. She thrusts her arm high into the air and holds it.

WAITING.

SHE LOOKS OUT INTO THE OCEAN, WAITING FOR SOMETHING. ANYTHING. HER ARM SHAKES AND TEARS WELL UP IN HER EYES.

NOTHING.

PERSEPHONE SIGHS. SHE LOWERS HER ARM IN DEJECTION AND WIPES THE TEARS FROM HER FACE. HER FACE TWISTS IN ANGER. SHE RAISES THE SHELL AGAIN, THIS TIME TO TOSS IT INTO THE OCEAN IN DEFIANCE BUT...

SHE CAN'T. HER ARM IS FROZEN, SHAKING. HER ARM DROPS DEJECTEDLY. SHE STARES LONGINGLY INTO THE SEA. SHE SIGHS AGAIN AND RETURNS THE SHELL AROUND HER NECK. SUDDENLY A VOICE CALLS OUT:

DEMETER

Persephone? Persephone!

Persephone looks at the sky, noticing the sun beginning to set behind the mountains. She winces.

PERSEPHONE

Oh, gods. I'm coming mother!

She speeds back up the hill.

EXT. DEMETER'S COTTAGE- DAY

DEMETER stands in front of a small but modest wood cottage. Persephone runs to her mother. Demeter's slightly worried face changes to relief as she hugs her daughter.

DEMETER

Ah, there you are. Where were you?

PERSEPHONE

(panting)

Sorry. I lost track of time.

Demeter notices the purple flower in Persephone's hair and goes to touch it. Persephone backs out of the way.

DEMETER

This is pretty. Where'd you find this?

PERSEPHONE

The flower field beyond the hill.

Persephone smells something and smiles. She makes her way to the door.

PERSEPHONE (CONTD)

It smells delicious in there. Is dinner ready?

Demeter smiles.

DEMETER

Almost.

The two walk inside.

INT. DEMETER'S COTTAGE- DAY

The cottage is humble but spacious. A wooden table stands in the middle of the room, a fireplace with a pot hanging over it at the back.

Demeter takes out some vegetables from the pot, makes two

plates of cooked veggies and sets them on the table, where Persephone is seated. Persephone chows down.

PERSEPHONE

Oh! I wanted to let you know, Minthe invited Cyane and I to pick flowers with her on Wednesday.

Demeter shakes her head.

DEMETER

And you're going? You know that nymph can be quite troublesome.

PERSEPHONE

(giggling)
She's not troublesome, mom. And we're just going a few acres from her house, I'll be fine.

DEMETER

(sighing)
Fine. You can go...

Persephone beams.

DEMETER (CONTD)

... After our meeting on Olympus.

Persephone groans and deflates.

PERSEPHONE

Are you serious?

DEMETER

Yes, I'm serious.

PERSEPHONE

Why? I'm not even an Olympian.

DEMETER

Because you're a budding young goddess, and my daughter, and it's good for you to be at these things.

PERSEPHONE

Mother, I am an adult, I'm not a "budding young goddess" anymore.

On "budding young goddess", Persephone gestures in air quotes. Demeter sighs. She leans in and pats her daughter on

the head.

DEMETER

Well, you still are to me.

PERSEPHONE

Ok, that's weird.

DEMETER

(teasing)

Also, Ares will be there.

Persephone lifts her head up.

PERSEPHONE

Ok, and?

DEMETER

Oh c'mon, I know you like him.

Persephone wrinkles her face in disgust.

PERSEPHONE

First off, ew. Second off, not since I was a kid, and third off, he's almost 200 years older than me.

DEMETER

Well, you could always meet someone new-

PERSEPHONE

Ok, this conversation is officially getting weird now, and I'm leaving.

Persephone stands up and begins to walk out of the house. Demeter tuns and reaches for her.

DEMETER

Wait!

Persephone turns to her expectantly. Demeter freezes and her arm drops.

Pause.

DEMETER

Um... I'll make sure to get a nice dress for you.

Persephone nods and walks out of the house, leaving her empty

plate behind. Demeter looks at the plate, and a wave of sadness washes over her.

DEMETER

(sighing)

Whatever happened to that little girl...

INT. BALLROOM- NIGHT

The party is loud and bustling, yet Meg wants nothing to do with it. She leans against a wall in the corner, casually sipping a drink, scanning the some familiar (but mostly unfamiliar) faces.

A young, lithe woman walks over to her. She is donned in a purplish dress with a strange symbol on the arm. One of her eyes is pure black: MELINOE.

MELINOE

Some party, huh?

MEG

Not a party. But it has it's moments. Menoites always gets some pretty good drinks.

MELINOE

I'll have to try some. Say, you're one of the Furies, correct? I can never remember your names.

MEG

The very ones.

MELINOE

Fascinating. How long have you three been working for the Lord of the Dead?

MEG

Well I came on soon after he took over. My sisters joined a bit later.

MELINOE

You've all done a great job protecting the Underworld. I'm a big fan.

MEG

What, you want an autograph or something?

MELINOE

(chuckling)

I'm good. Well, I should be going.
I'll be sure to get those drinks. Nice
to meet you, Megaera.

Melinoe walks away. Meg smiles, but her face turns quizzical.
Melinoe suddenly turns around and Meg puts on her smile
again.

MELINOE (CONTD)

Oh, and one more thing. I've heard
about some... stirrings coming from
Asphodel. Folks seem to be quite
unhappy with the House's leadership.

MEG

Really? And who exactly are saying
these things?

Meg narrows her eyes.

MELINOE

Oh, not anyone in particular. Just
people talking. I hope that Lord Hades
knows of these grievances and is
addressing them.

MEG

I'll let him know you're worried.

MELINOE

Sorry, I'm just looking out for him.
It would be very bad for all of us if
the residents of the Underworld were
to be opposed to him... or worse.

MEG

Yeah. It would be very bad for them.

Meg's hand hovers over the shining KOPIS hanging from her
belt.

Beat. Melinoe laughs.

MELINOE

Sorry. It's probably just petty
gossip. I didn't mean to impose.

Meg's hand relaxes.

MELINOE (CONTD)

I really should get going, there are people looking for me. It was good to meet you.

Melinoe walks away, leaving a slightly shaken Meg.

MEG

Yeah, you too.

Meg watches her leave with caution and intrigue.

After a moment, Hecate approaches her and Meg takes a more standoffish stance.

HECATE

I apologize for my daughters words. She has been... disturbed recently.

MEG

Yeah, you don't say?

HECATE

Do not take her words in any ill will. She is just annoyed I didn't give her any job in the Conclave. She'll come around. In fact, Megaera, it's been a while since you've visited. You should come again.

MEG

(scoffing)

Yeah, no shot.

HECATE

I know your boss is quite demanding of your services. Seeing how much he relies on you to pick up his slack is quite heartbreaking. So disappointing seeing his control of you and Hypnos.

Meg fumes and steps forward.

MEG

Control? I'll have you know, my boss is way more accepting of us than your Conclave ever was. And if I had the chance to leave again, I would in a heartbeat.

Hecate scoffs and shakes her head. Meg doesn't back down.

MEG (CONTD)

You didn't even care about us. And what, nowadays you just come by to insult us and leave? No wonder people are 'disturbed' around you.

HECATE

I see you still have no idea how to hold your tongue, Megaera. It wouldn't surprise me if it gets ripped out.

MEG

Try me.

The two glower at each other for a moment. Hecate harrumphs and storms off. Meg picks up her drink and slouches against the wall again.

CUT TO

INT. BALLROOM- NIGHT

Hades and Hypnos are surrounded by demons engaged in an impassioned conversation. Hades looks exhausted, but Hypnos, holding a drink in their hand, is enraptured.

DEMON 1

... So I said, "if you really wanna fix him, girl, your best bet is to drown him in the River Lethe"!

The demons and Hypnos laugh. Hypnos ribs Hades, who forces a chuckle.

DEMON 1 (CONTD)

And she actually did it! They've been married for 5 years!

The demons and Hypnos laugh even harder. Hades cringes.

DEMON 2

Ah, speaking of, I've been hearing reports that the Lethe has been flooding. Is that true, Lord Hades?

The demons all turn to Hades, who goes stiff. An awkward silence overtakes the group. Hypnos obviously enjoys their drink, but soon realizes what's happening and turns to Hades too.

HADES

W-well, that's not exactly true. We've been monitoring the Lethe for a while now, and we have notices some changes, but-

The demons talk to each other, as if Hades doesn't exist.

DEMON 1

I heard that the House won't even acknowledge it.

HADES

Um, well, until it becomes a major issue-

DEMON 2

Seriously? Do these guys even care about us?

HADES

(growing agitated)

I haven't really had the chance to focus on it, I've been really busy-

DEMON 3

Yeah, like, hello, it's not even that big of a deal?

Hades begins to respond, but stops himself. The demon's voices grow louder.

DEMON 1

He can't do anything.

DEMON 2

I wish we had the others back.

With each insult, Hades grows more and more despondent.

DEMON 3

I feel bad for him.

Hades stomps away. Hypnos watches him leave. The demons just scoff in annoyance.

DEMON 1

What's his problem?

CUT TO

INT. BALLROOM

Hades stumbles through the ballroom, pushing past guests as they clamor to speak with him. Hades ignores them, the rest of the world blurring into the background, hearing nothing but his own breathing.

A crowd of people surround him at one point, all yelling and asking questions, but Hades just turns away and leaves.

Eventually he finds a lone chair in the corner, far away from any others and collapses into it. He is dejected. The world is blurred and sound is muffled. Suddenly a finger starts poking him in the head.

HYPNOS
(muffled)
-ster? Master? Master?

Hypnos pokes Hades hard, which causes Hades to snap out of it. He jumps, but loosens when he sees Hypnos standing there.

HADES
(sighing)
Hypnos? What is it?

HYPNOS
I noticed you were a bit verklempt.

HADES
I'm not verklempt.

HYPNOS
Perturbed?

HADES
No.

HYPNOS
Woebegone?

HADES
Is that even a word?

HYPNOS
Yes.

HADES
No, I'm just annoyed.

HYPNOS

Ah, that was my next guess. Can I ask why?

Pause. Hades sighs.

HADES

Do you ever feel like the world has just been against you your whole life?

HYPNOS

Hmmm. Most of my life was in a dream, so not really.

HADES

I've got all this... stuff going on. I can't deal with it all, but people need me. I can't just drop everything.

Hypnos thinks for a moment. They begin to sit.

HADES

There's a chair over there-

Hypnos ignores him and sits cross-legged right on the floor.

HADES (CONTD)

Ok.

HYPNOS

One time, I had a dream about a magician who wasn't happy with her life. One day she met a snake who told her to hurt someone. The magician wasn't happy about this, so she went back to her mom, who was a goat.

Hades' face turns to confusion as Hypnos rambles on.

HYPNOS (CONTD)

So the goat mom told her "you spoke to the evil snake? You're banished"! So the magician was sad, and she ended up finding the snake again, but the snake was actually an evil octopus. And he said, "hahaha! You are my servant now!" So the magician became the servant of the octopus man for all eternity.

Hades looks at Hypnos with concern and confusion.

HADES

That... is a very dark dream.

HYPNOS

Really? I thought it was quite pleasant.

HADES

Ok, I... nevermind. What was the point of that?

HYPNOS

Well, I'm no Lord of the Dead. But, I have been here for a while, and I've seen lots of people who are sad. All they needed was to reach out for help.

HADES

Ok, and?

HYPNOS

Maybe you just need some help?

Hypnos looks up at Hades. Hades turns away and thinks.

EXT. HOUSE GATES

The guests all leave in a large procession. CERBERUS tries to steal people's leftovers while shades and guests try to pull his monstrous heads off them.

INT. BEDROOM

Hades sits contemplatively on his bed. Meg and Hypnos stand by the door.

HADES

You know what the problem is? It's too much.

HYPNOS

Um... what?

HADES

Yeah! It's too much going on for just one person!

MEG

Please don't tell me you're going to quit.

HADES

What? Gods, no! I'm just saying I need help.

HYPNOS

We're not enough?

HADES

No! I mean, yes! I mean, look... I need someone else to help me with...

Hades flails his arms to indicate size.

HADES (CONTD)

This! Leading the Underworld! Like another me!

MEG

(rolling her eyes)
Another King?

HYPNOS

(bouncing excitedly)
A Queen!?

HADES

A... something. I don't know who or what yet. I just think they could really ease my load a bit, y'know? Bring some excitement to the job.

MEG

Well, there's the meeting on Olympus in a few days. You can search for potential partners there.

Hypnos leans in and puts their hand up like they're gonna whisper, but they speak completely normally.

HYPNOS

Or potential suitors.

Meg elbows Hypnos. They glare at her in confusion.

HADES

Oh right, that.

Hades groans and collapses onto the bed.

MEG

C'mon, it'll be good to see everyone.

And you haven't gone in so long.

HADES

Do you know how many people hate me up there?

MEG

Poseidon doesn't hate you.

Hypnos chimes in, still rubbing their arm from Meg's elbow.

HYPNOS

Or Hephaestus.

HADES

(scoffing)

Heh, yeah. Maybe they can protect me from Zeus's crap.

Meg yanks Hades upright.

MEG

Hades. You should do this. It's a great opportunity, plus you need to get out of the House every once in a while.

Beat. Before Hades can respond, he hears a faint melodic tune coming from outside.

HADES

Hey, do you guys hear that?

The three stop to listen to the beautiful music.

MEG

Huh.

HYPNOS

It's beautiful.

A shade bursts through the door.

SHADE

M'lord, someone is outside the gates playing very beautiful music and he wishes to speak with you.

HADES

Can you tell him to leave?

SHADE

We tried, but all of the guards are so enraptured by his music they won't kick him out. A crowd is beginning to form, M'lord.

Hades sighs.

EXT. HOUSE GATES

Hades, Meg, and Hypnos push their way through a large crowd of souls, many of them smiling or crying.

HADES

Ok, what is happening?

They see a young man playing a lute. His eyes are closed and he is engrossed in his music, playing a beautiful yet sad melody.

A massive crowd of souls are surrounding him, all moved, some to tears, by the music. Hades looks to Meg, who shrugs, then to Hypnos, who is crying tears of joy and sniffing. Hades rolls his eyes.

HADES

Um, excuse me?

The musician finishes his song with a flourish. The tearful souls clap and cheer as the man bows. Hypnos jumps up for joy.

HYPNOS

Bravo! Oh, what incredible music! How wonderful!

Hades looks at Hypnos with confusion and turns to Meg.

HADES

Could you just..?

MEG

Gotcha.

Meg grabs a euphoric Hypnos, still crying and cheering, and pulls them through the gate.

HYPNOS

All other music is ruined!!

Hades shakes his head and approaches the musician.

HADES

Excuse me? Can I help you?

ORPHEUS

(ostentatiously)

Ah, the Lord Hades. Such a pleasure to meet you. My name is Orpheus.

Orpheus shakes Hades' hand.

HADES

What do you want? And why have you charmed all of my servants?

ORPHEUS

I didn't charm them. It's simply the enrapturing power of music!

HADES

Ok. Apollo, is that you? Are you

playing a trick on me or something?

Hades starts poking and prodding Orpheus: tousling his hair, poking his face, stretching his cheeks, etc. Orpheus brushes his hand away.

ORPHEUS

I'm not but a mere mortal, my lord, and I have a very urgent request.

CUT TO

INT. THRONE ROOM

Hades sits on an elaborate throne. Orpheus stands in front of him, Meg and Hypnos on either side. Orpheus speaks with dramatic bravado.

ORPHEUS

My Lord Hades, Ruler of the House, God of the Dead-

HADES

No.

ORPHEUS

(dropping his bravado)

What?

HADES

I'm not the God of the Dead. That's Thanatos.

ORPHEUS

Oh, uh... (clearing his throat, his bravado returning) Lord of the Dead, Keeper of Cerberus, Conqueror of the Infernal Planes of-

HADES

Ok, that's enough, I get it.

ORPHEUS

(dropping the act again)

I'm sorry?

HADES

You don't need to say all of those, I've got lots of titles.

ORPHEUS

Uh, ok. (clearing his throat, back to drama) I have come before you with a humble request. I am but a mortal, seeking the love of my life, the beautiful Eurydice. She was stolen from me naught but a week ago, and I wish to return her to the land of the living.

Pause.

HADES

Hmm. Ok. No.

Orpheus is taken aback.

ORPHEUS

No?

HADES

Yeah, no.

ORPHEUS

But why?

HADES

Well, she's dead. So she's my subject.
And my subjects can't leave my domain,
meaning no soul can return to the land
of the living. Sorry.

ORPHEUS

But this isn't right! She was taken
before her time, there must be
something!

HADES

Look buddy, people are taken "before
their time" all the time. It happens
in like, every war. I can't help you.
She's dead, she's stuck here.

Orpheus begins to tear up. He angrily pulls out his lute with
a flourish.

HADES (CONTD)

Oh, please don't.

Orpheus strums a note.

ORPHEUS

You've left me with no choice.

Hades puts his head in his hands.

ORPHEUS (CONTD)

Oh Lord Hades, I have come for your
aid, to see my darling Eurydice once
again...

HADES

Oh by Styx, he's singing.

ORPHEUS

But he has denied me so, cursed me to
be alone...

MEG

He's actually not that bad.

ORPHEUS

You are a monster of the dark, you
have no heart...

HADES

Well that's just insulting!

ORPHEUS

You have cast my love into a pit,
Hades, you truly are a sad sack of-

Hades stands up.

HADES

Ok, ok, fine! I'll let you guys go!

Orpheus beams. He rushes over to Hades and starts alternating
between violently shaking and kissing his hand. Hades looks
away in embarrassment. Hypnos bounces up and down and cheers.

ORPHEUS

Thank you so much! You will truly be
pleased!

MEG

(teasing)
Aww, what a softie.

HADES

You're never gonna let me live this
down, are you?

MEG

Nope!

Hades glares at her, but Meg just gives him a smirk.

INT. PERSEPHONE'S ROOM- DAY

Persephone sleeps in her bed. Her face contorts in fear and
she squirms. Sweat beads down her face.

PERSEPHONE

(quietly)

Triton. No.

Suddenly she screams and bolts up in her bed, her hand white-knuckle clutching the conch. Her hair is a mess and her eyes are wild. Her face is dripping with sweat. Her breathing, which was once frenetic and fast, slowly returns to normal as she looks around her barren dark room.

Nothing. She sighs.

DEMETER (O.S.)

Persephone! Get up, it's time to go!

Persephone's focus shifts to the conch in her hand.

EXT. OLYMPUS- DAY

OLYMPUS is a shining white beacon atop the clouds, hanging over a massive mountain. Marble pillars hold up a triangular roof adorned with intricate sculptures and engravings.

EXT. GRAND HALL- DAY

The GRAND HALL is an open air, large room filled with tables, chairs, and benches. The marble flooring is shining as many gods trample over it, loudly fraternizing with each other. They are all garbed in unique outfits, their skin all different colors.

All of the gods are happily talking, except for Hades, who is sulking in the corner. People are trying to avoid him, not subtly.

POSEIDON approaches Hades. He is a tall and regal god with adorned in flowing blues. He sits next to his brother, resting his trident on the bench.

POSEIDON

Hey, bro! Good to see you again!

HADES

Yeah, good to see you too, Poseidon.
How're things going up here?

POSEIDON

Not bad. We're working on a new expansion to the palace, Amphitrite has been real busy.

HADES

Really?

POSEIDON

Yeah! And a whole wing of the palace
is gonna be dedicated to Triton.

Poseidon's face drops. He looks down with melancholy.

POSEIDON (CONTD)

It's... It's gonna be nice to have
something to remember him.

HADES

Yeah, I bet.

POSEIDON

Anyway, what are you doing, little
bro? You never come to these things,
much less the surface.

HADES

Ugh. I'm looking for help at the
House, and Meg suggested I look here.
No other reason.

POSEIDON

Yikes. Good luck, everybody hates you.

HADES

Thank you, you're so encouraging.

Demeter approaches the two, who wave at her. Demeter glares
at Hades, who drops his hand quickly.

POSEIDON

Hey, Dems!

DEMETER

(embarrassed)

I told you not to call me that again.

POSEIDON

(blushing)

Oh, hah, right.

DEMETER

I need to talk to you about my temple.
Do you mind?

Demeter gestures Poseidon to follow. Poseidon gets up and

Demeter walks off.

POSEIDON

Hey, sorry bro, I gotta talk to Dems
for a sec. Catch you later.

HADES

Yeah, see you.

As Poseidon walks away, Hades turns and freezes when he sees Persephone, draped in a white dress, shuffling around and smiling. Hades blushes. He grabs Poseidon's cape and jerks him back. He points to Persephone.

HADES (CONTD)

Whoa, whoa, who's that?

POSEIDON

Hmm? Oh, that's Persephone.

Poseidon shakes Hades off and runs back to Demeter.

POSEIDON (CONTD)

Hey Dems, wait up!

Hades continues looking at Persephone in wonder.

CUT TO

EXT. GRAND HALL- DAY

Persephone is awkwardly maneuvering between the guests, occasionally smiling and waving to the gods as they pass her by, a cup of ambrosia in her hand. Hades then shuffles up beside her and puts out a hand.

HADES

Uh, hi! Nice to meet you.

Persephone turns and shakes his hand.

PERSEPHONE

Uh, you too.

HADES

My name's Hades.

PERSEPHONE

Hades? Like the Underworld Hades?

HADES

(stammering)

Well, yeah! Or, no... Or yeah, exactly.

Persephone giggles at Hades' awkwardness.

PERSEPHONE

So what are you doing here? Just taking a vacation?

HADES

Well no, I came to... (glances at Persephone and blushes) meet people.

PERSEPHONE

Well, you've met me. And probably my mom, too.

Hades narrows his eyes in thought.

PERSEPHONE (CONTD)

Demeter?

Hades' eyes go wide and gawks. Persephone chuckles.

HADES

That's your mom?

PERSEPHONE

Yeah. I know, right? What a buzzkill.

Hades looks back to Demeter, who is stoically standing and talking with a very drained Poseidon. Hades turns back to Persephone, who is standing more relaxed, with a slight lean and a warm smile. A few strands of hair peak out from her perfectly brushed hair.

HADES

I don't believe it.

PERSEPHONE

(laughing)

You should! I promise, she's my mom.

HADES

She's so...

Hades stands stiff as a board and drops his smile. Persephone laughs again.

HADES (CONTD)

And you're so-

PERSEPHONE

Not. Yeah I know.

The two laugh and there is an awkward pause. Persephone sips on her drink.

HADES

Well, you're a lot more interesting than her anyway.

Persephone is taken aback. She glances away and blushes slightly. Hades beams.

PERSEPHONE

Oh. Thanks. (beat) Y'know, you're very different than what I was expecting.

HADES

Really? What makes you say that?

PERSEPHONE

I expected the God of the Dead to be a bit more... intimidating?

HADES

Yeah, um... Lord of the Dead. But

thanks, I think.

PERSEPHONE

No, no, it's a good thing! It's kinda endearing.

HADES

(face flushed)

R-really?

PERSEPHONE

Yeah! Everybody thinks of the

Underworld, and they think "ooh, scary, better stay away," right? But you're...

HADES

Not scary?

PERSEPHONE

(laughing)

Yeah.

HADES

Thanks.

PERSEPHONE

So, are you enjoying the party?

HADES

By Styx, no. Everybody here hates me. It kinda sours the mood.

PERSEPHONE

(giggling)

Yeah, I always hate coming up here too.

HADES

So who hates you?

PERSEPHONE

Oh, no, nobody hates me.

Persephone looks out at the gods: Demeter and Poseidon discussing business, APOLLO swooning nymphs with music, ATHENA and ARES arm wrestling, ZEUS performing tricks with his lightning bolt.

PERSEPHONE (CONTD)

Olympians are just so far up their own
butts. Always stuck-up, just talking
about nothing.

DEMETER (O.S.)

Persephone!

PERSEPHONE

Oh, Gods. Coming mother! (to Hades)
Sorry, I've gotta go. It was nice
talking with you, see you soon!

Persephone runs off. Hades is left alone, blushing and
smiling, waving to her.

HADES

Yeah, see you soon...

EXT. PORTAL

Meg and Hypnos stand in front of a massive stone GATE with a
swirling purple vortex in the middle. A CHARIOT is behind
them.

MEG

Wanna wake her?

Hypnos walks over to the chariot where EURYDICE is sleeping,
A small freckled nymph in a yellow shawl and green hair.
Hypnos touches her temple and she jolts awake.

EURYDICE

Ugh.. what? Are we here?

HYPNOS

Yep! Enjoy your nap?

Eurydice sits up, stretches, and yawns.

EURYDICE

I thought you said it was a one-day
trip?

MEG

It's a one-day trip... from the House.
From Asphodel it's three.

Eurydice grumbles and gets out of the cart. She walks over to
the portal and looks around.

EURYDICE
So, where's Orpheus?

MEG
He's already inside. We can't let you
see each other.

EURYDICE
Why not?

HYPNOS
Because technically mortals aren't
supposed to look upon a soul. It's the
rules.

MEG
So Orpheus isn't allowed to look at
you until you both reach the surface.

EURYDICE
O..kay.

HYPNOS
But you two are almost together again!
Go and get your love!

Eurydice beams and approaches the portal.

EURYDICE
Ok, well, thank you both!

HYPNOS
Good luck!

Eurydice hops through the portal and disappears.

HYPNOS
(sighing)
Oh, young love...

MEG
Whelp, let's just hope Orpheus isn't
an idiot.

HYPNOS
He'll be fine. It's not that hard to
look forward for a few minutes.

A scream. Suddenly Eurydice comes flying back out of the
portal and lands hard on the stone. She is crying.

MEG

Aaaand he's an idiot.

The swirling purple vortex fades, leaving only a bare stone slab. Eurydice gets up and bangs on the stone.

EURYDICE

(crying)

No, no! Let me back!!

She collapses onto the floor. Meg and Hypnos run over to her.

HYPNOS

Are you ok?

EURYDICE

We were... walking, and... (sniff) he-
he turned around, and... I started
falling-

MEG

Oh Styx. Hey, it's ok.

EURYDICE

No it's not! I can't ever see him
again!

MEG

Yeah, that's... true.

EURYDICE

Why did he do that??

HYPNOS

Maybe his neck hurt?

Meg kicks Hypnos. Hypnos grabs their leg and starts hopping.

MEG

Look on the bright side! Maybe you
dodged an arrow!

Eurydice glares at Meg. Meg clears her throat.

MEG (CONTD)

Um... what I meant to say is that he
was kind of full of himself, maybe
it's better to be down here. And it's
very nice down here! You wanna pet
Cerberus?

Eurydice stares at Meg for a moment before crying even harder. Hypnos walks up and shoos Meg away. Meg backs up and Hypnos kneels down beside Eurydice and puts their hand on her back.

EURYDICE

Are you also going to tell me that my husband is a jerk?

HYPNOS

No. I'm gonna tell you about this dream I had that might make you feel better. Once I dreamt that I was floating down a river and there was a giant monster there. It didn't see me,

it was sleeping, y'know. But this snake started chasing me, so I woke up the monster and it was like "how dare you wake me from my nap!"

Eurydice's face turns to confusion and concern. She looks to Meg, who just rolls her eyes and shakes her head.

HYPNOS (CONTD)

So the monster was really angry and ate the snake, but then he attacked me! And I was like, "hey, what the heck? You should be nicer!" And he apologized because he was just tired and cranky. Then I turned him into a snail and I woke up. The end.

Eurydice and Meg stare at Hypnos in confusion and slight worry.

MEG

You want me to take over again?

Hypnos makes the 'stop' gesture.

HYPNOS

I'm gonna tell you that I'm sorry, he probably didn't mean it. But we'll continue to help you two get back to each other any way we can. In the meantime, you can stay in the House if you want, instead of being stuck in Asphodel.

Eurydice looks up at Hypnos through sniffles and tears.

Hypnos smiles back.

EXT. GRAND HALL- DAY

Hades is awkwardly moving around the grand hall.

ZEUS (O.S.)
Hades, brother!

ZEUS' voice booms unnaturally. Hades whips around to see Zeus, donned in a glistening gold toga, a massive white beard and hair, skin glowing a blinding gold. He puts a muscly arm around Hades, knocking the wind out of him.

ZEUS (CONTD)
By me! It's so good to see you!

Zeus gives Hades a very strong noogie. Hades is very uncomfortable.

HADES
Yeah. Hi, Zeus.

ZEUS
(laughing way too hard)
You never come up from that drab
Underworld!

HADES
It's actually pretty nice-

ZEUS
What are you here for? Looking for
some hot babes? I could give you some
advice.

HADES
I-

ZEUS
Oh! You gotta come with us on the
hunt!

HADES
Hunt?

ZEUS
Yeah! There's a huuuuge Hydra down by
the sea. It's gonna rock!

HADES

Oh, no, I need to-

Zeus grabs Hades' arm and thrusts it up into the air, along with Hades who just dangles.

ZEUS

Hey everyone! Hades is joining us for the Hydra hunt! It's gonna be shocking!!!

The party cheers. Hades rolls his eyes and grumbles.

EXT. BUSH - DAY

Hades is hiding in a bush with ARTEMIS, APOLLO, ATHENA, HERMES, HESTIA, ARES, POSEIDON, and most notably ZEUS. They are all squished together tightly. They look out onto a shimmering beach, where a massive six-headed HYDRA is prowling.

ZEUS

(whispering)

Ok, there it is. You all ready?

ARES

(whispering)

Ooh, I'm so excited!

ARTEMIS

(whispering)

I don't see why we need this many of us, I could do this easily.

APOLLO

C'mon, it's team-building, Arty!

ATHENA

(whispering)

Hey, shush! You want to scare it off?

HERMES

(whispering)

I heard that this species of hydra has bioluminescent blood-

HESTIA

(whispering)

I wonder how well the flesh cooks.

HADES

(whispering)

Do we even have a plan for this thing?

ARES

Nah, let's just kill it!

Ares stands up and pulls out a big red sword and charges towards the hydra, screaming.

ATHENA

Ares-!

Apollo groans. Artemis facepalms.

HESTIA

By Zeus.

ZEUS

Well, I guess that's our cue!

Zeus smiles widely and charges the hydra. Slowly the other gods get out of the bush and join the fight. Screaming and the clanging of metal rings through the beach. Hades sighs.

EXT. BEACH- DAY

The gods are all running around, swinging their weapons, yelling. The hydra is hissing, its six reptilian heads all lashing out in different directions. Ares flails a torch around.

Artemis is the most dynamic, jumping around and climbing up one of the hydra's heads. The Hydra snaps at her.

FWIP. FWIP. Three arrows lodge themselves in the hydra's eyes.

SHWING.

ARES CUTS OFF THE HEAD WITH A MIGHTY SWING OF HIS SWORD. HE BURNS THE STUMP SHUT.

ANOTHER HEAD SWINGS AT ATHENA, WHO SUMMONS A GOLDEN SHIELD OUT OF THIN AIR.

BANG. THE HYDRA'S TEETH BREAK ON THE SHIELD.

SLICE. ATHENA SUMMONS A GOLDEN SPEAR AND JABS IT INTO THE HYDRA'S NECK.

THE HYDRA SCREAMS, AND HESTIA RUNS UP WITH A FLAMING KOPIS AND SLICES THE HEAD OFF. THE TWO GODDESSES FIST-BUMP.

HERMES FLIES AROUND ON HIS WINGED BOOTS ABOVE THE HYDRA, THE HEADS SNAPPING AT HIM.

HERMES

Hey! Has anyone seen Poseidon?

RUMBLE. The gods turn towards the sea.

ARTEMIS

Oh, Gods.

Poseidon rides in on a giant wave and cheers.

CRASH. Poseidon hops off as the wave slams into the hydra. The other gods get soaked, and Hestia's kopis and the torch are extinguished.

HESTIA

Are you kidding me?

As the hydra struggles to stand up, Poseidon lands on a head

STAB. He buries his trident deep into its skull. The head thrashes around, and Poseidon hangs on for dear life and cheers like he's on a roller coaster.

Hestia reignites her kopis and throws it at the head.

SHWING. The head comes clean off and falls to the floor.

POSEIDON

Woo, that was fun! Thanks, Hesty!

HESTIA

Please don't call me that.

POSEIDON

Hey, bro! You gonna get in on this?

Poseidon motions to Hades, who is still standing in the bush. Hades grumbles and runs over.

He pulls out his bident, a long two-pronged spear, and points it at the hydra.

ZHOOM. A beam of dark energy shoots from it and strikes a head.

Hades then slams his bident into the ground and large BOULDERS begin to rise from the earth.

CRASH. They launch into the hydra at full force. While the hydra is stunned, Hades jumps up and cleanly slices off the head and lands neatly on the beach.

HADES

Torch?

Ares throws him the torch and Hades burns the stump. He then turns to the rest of the gods, who are all looking at him dumbfounded.

HADES (CONTD)

What?

HERMES

Rocks?

HADES

Yeah. I'm from the Underworld, it's like 90% rocks. Why is that a surprise?

HERMES

I don't know, I guess I was expecting fire or something.

HADES

Again with the fire?

The hydra's tail SLAMS onto the ground next to Hades and startles him.

The battle resumes. With only TWO heads left, the hydra is more angry. Hades backs away from the battle and sighs.

CUT TO

DAYDREAM

PERSEPHONE IS SMILING WITH HER HAIR BLOWING ANGEL-LIKE. BEHIND HER IS NOTHING BUT PINK HUES AND SPARKLES. HER GIGGLES ECHO.

CUT TO

EXT. BEACH- DAY

Hades smiles and blushes, but he shakes it off. He looks to

see Zeus throwing lightning at the hydra. Hades bobs and weaves over to him.

HADES

Hey, Zeus?

ZEUS

Ah, brother! Are you enjoying yourself?

HADES

Uh, kinda? Look, I've got a question.

ZEUS

What's up?

HADES

It's about... dating.

ZEUS

Ooh! Who have you got your eyes on? Aphrodite? Hestia? Amphitrite? Looking to cause some marital strife?

Zeus nudges Hades, who backs away. The hydra's tail swings at them and they both duck.

HADES

What? No!

ZEUS

Just so you're aware, Hera is totally on the table.

HADES

It's Persephone.

ZEUS

Hold on.

Zeus throws a large lightning bolt at the hydra, which screams offscreen. Zeus pumps his fist.

ZEUS

Ooh, that was a good one! Ok, what were you saying?

HADES

Persephone!

ZEUS

What?

HADES

Persephone!!

ZEUS

Demeter's daughter?

HADES

Yeah!

Zeus pauses for a moment.

ZEUS

How old is she?

HADES

I don't know, old enough? Why?

ZEUS

Because I think she might be mine.

HADES

Wh-? You hate Demeter.

ZEUS

Hey, I get around, ok?

HADES

By Styx. So how do I approach her?

ZEUS

You don't.

HADES

What?

ZEUS

Yeah. Demeter is a serious helicopter. She will never let her daughter date, especially not you.

Hades' face drops.

HADES

Oh. So I'm out of luck?

ZEUS

No. You definitely should go after her. Love isn't just something you

ignore. Here, I'll tell you how to woo her in the most romantic way possible. Come close.

Hades and Zeus lean in.

ZEUS (CONTD)

Kidnap her.

Hades is stunned and leans back out.

HADES

I'm sorry, what?

ZEUS

Yeah, kidnap her! It always works for me!

HADES

Is that really the best idea?

ZEUS

Oh c'mon, it'll be great! That's how Hera and I met.

HADES

And how is that working out?

ZEUS

Uh... anyway, it worked for Poseidon and Amphitrite!

HADES

No it didn't. They met on a romantic undersea voyage-

ZEUS

Ok, ok, nevermind. But it works for other people. Just give it a shot! She'll see you take the initiative, and be like "oh, Hades! What a strong and handsome man! I'm so weak and helpless! I love you!"

While impersonating Persephone, Zeus pulls a stereotypical "girly girl" impersonation. Overall, he's very bad at impersonating her. Hades backs away in disgust.

ZEUS (CONTD)

And you'll be all like "Oh yeah! I'm so buff and strong and hot! Look at my

abs!!"

Zeus does a stereotypical macho man act, flexing his muscles and using a super deep, gruff voice.

HADES

I don't sound like that.

ZEUS

C'mon! She'll think it's so romantic and fall head over heels for you!

HADES

Shouldn't I just, y'know, ask her out?

ZEUS

Pssh! That's lame! You do that and she's for sure going to leave you. You gotta be aggressive. It helps if she already likes you.

Hades thinks for a moment.

HADES

Well, she did seem to like me.

ZEUS

Exactly!

HADES

But how will I know if it works?

ZEUS

It works every time! Trust me!

Hades pauses again to think.

BAM. The hydra's tail swings at the two and Zeus casually bats it away.

HADES

Ok, fine. But if you're lying to me, you're gonna regret it.

ZEUS

Ooh, I'm so scared!

ATHENA

Hey, can you two come help us?

Zeus winks at Hades and cracks his knuckles. He points at the sky, and a dark thundercloud appears over the hydra.

CRRASH. Suddenly two massive bolts of LIGHTNING slice off both remaining heads. The hydra's body falls onto the sand. The gods pause in shock, and then they all turn angrily towards Zeus.

ATHENA
For real?

ARES
Aw, I almost had it!

POSEIDON
You eschara!

ARTEMIS
Way to ruin the fun.

Zeus just smirks at the rest of the gods. Hades shakes his head.

EXT. HOUSE GATES

The chariot with Meg, Hypnos, and Eurydice pulls up to the House. Hypnos and Eurydice get out first.

HYPNOS
Ah, home sweet home! You're gonna love it here.

EURYDICE
Hopefully.

The two walk into the House. Meg jumps out but stops when she notices something on the ground.

A strange SYMBOL carved into the ground; The same symbol that Melinoe was wearing on her dress. Meg's eyes go wide.

HYPNOS (O.S.)
Meg! Are you coming?

Meg jolts up. She shakes her head.

MEG
Uh, yeah! I'm coming!

Meg turns around to look at the symbol again before walking into the House. The symbol on the ground glows purple and smolders.

EXT. FLOWER FIELDS- DAY

Persephone is walking through a large open field of colorful flowers. She holds a wicker basket and twirls around happily

as she passes a small pond and a pagoda. She stops and takes a deep breath, turning to a grove of TREES in the distance.

She squints and looks closer. Far in the distance, behind a tree, is a FIGURE in green. It's hard to make out, but they seem to be wearing a MASK, staring daggers and Persephone. Persephone tries to look closer, but is startled by a squeaky voice behind her.

MINTHE (O.S.)

Persephone!

Persephone twirls around and sees a small nymph with a smile too large for her face beaming at her.

PERSEPHONE

Oh, Minthe! Hey. Sorry, I was just...

She turns back to the trees, but the figure is GONE. Persephone shakes her head.

PERSEPHONE (CONTD)

Uh, sorry, I thought I saw something.
It was... nevermind, how are you?

MINTHE

I'm doing wonderful! It's such good
flower season this year. And I love
your dress!

Persephone smiles and twirls.

PERSEPHONE

Oh, thanks! My mother made it for me.
It was for that awful meeting on
Olympus.

MINTHE

Aw. Olympus sounds absolutely
dreadful. I would die if I was stuck
on that stuffy hill all day.

PERSEPHONE

It wasn't terrible. I met someone,
they were pretty nice.

MINTHE

Oh. My. Gods! Are you finally getting
a boyfriend?

Minthe leans in real close to Persephone. Persephone backs

away slightly and turns her head away in annoyance.

PERSEPHONE

Oh, by Zeus. He was just a nice guy,
that's all. Definitely just friends.

Minthe backs off, crosses her arms, turns her head and pouts.

MINTHE

Well, that's no fun. You need to start
branching out, I can't see you be
single forever.

Persephone rolls her eyes.

PERSEPHONE

(giving a half-hearted chuckle)
Ugh. Who are you, Aphrodite? C'mon,

let's just pick some flowers. Where's
Cyane?

MINTHE

You're such a buzzkill! C'mon, She's
over here.

Minthe grabs Persephone's arms and leads her across the
field, the two of them laughing. Yet behind them, the FIGURE
still looms beyond the trees.

CUT TO

The figure is shrouded in shadow,
nothing but one serious blue eye
staring out from behind the mask as
they watch the two friends meet with
another nymph, bounding toward them
and waving. The two friends wave back.

CUT TO

EXT. FLOWER FIELDS- DAY

Persephone is picking flowers on a small hill, away from the two nymphs. She notices a black spot in the distance. She looks at it curiously, and begins to move toward it. Minthe turns to her.

MINTHE

Hey, Pers! Where are you going?

PERSEPHONE

I'm just gonna grab something over there! I'll be back in a sec, I promise!

CYANE

Ok, just be back soon!

MINTHE

Let me know what you get!

Cyane and Minthe wave her off as they walk away. Persephone waves to them too, but when they leave, her arm drops quickly and she sighs. Persephone turns to the black spot and begins walking towards it.

As she gets closer, she sees that it's a PITCH-BLACK FLOWER. Persephone looks at it in confusion and hesitantly grabs it. Suddenly...

RUMBLE RUMBLE. The ground shakes. Persephone gasps and tries to stand up, to no avail.

CRACK.

THE EARTH SPLITS OPEN INTO A LARGE PIT. THE GALLOPING OF HORSES RINGS FAINTLY FROM DEEP IN THE PIT.

PERSEPHONE

Minthe! Cyane!

The galloping grows louder and louder, until...

BOOM!

A BLACK CHARIOT PULLED BY DOZENS OF SKELETAL HORSES BURSTS FROM THE PIT. THE HORSES ARE WHINNYING AND NEIGHING, THEIR EYES DEAD-SET ON PERSEPHONE, WHO IS SO TERRIFIED SHE CAN'T MOVE.

ATOP THE CHARIOT IS HADES, DRESSED IN BLACK ARMOR AND A PURPLE CLOAK, STERN AND COLD.

PERSEPHONE (CONTD)

Wh-?

Hades turns to look at Persephone, and smiles. His coldness drops.

HADES

Hi, wanna go out?

Persephone finally gets on her feet and tries to run, but the chariot turns toward her and Hades grabs her.

The chariot dives back into the pit. Persephone struggles against him and reaches for the surface as they dive deeper.

PERSEPHONE

AAAAAAAAAHHHHHH!!!!!!!

Persephone's screams grow fainter as they disappear into the darkness. The ground rumbles again and the pit closes up until the only thing left is a small gash in the ground.

The black flower and Persephone's PURPLE DAFFODIL are all that remain.

EXT. FLOWER FIELDS- DAY

Minthe and Cyane are picking flowers. Cyane is happily picking her flowers, but Minthe is growing concerned.

MINTHE

Hey, have you seen Pers?

CYANE

No? She said she was gonna be back, don't worry.

MINTHE

Hmm.

Minthe peaks over the hill and sees the black flower.

MUSIC CUE: HIGHWAY TO HELL - AC/DC

MINTHE HESITANTLY WALKS OVER TO THE GASH IN THE EARTH.

MINTHE

(chuckling)

Hello? Pers? You better not be pranki-

Minthe's face drops when she sees Persephone's purple daffodil on the ground.

She looks around. No Persephone. Minthe's face grows more and more concerned.

CYANE

Minthe? Did you find her?

Minthe doesn't respond. She kneels down and picks up the flower. She looks at the gash in the ground in fear.

Hidden in the trees once more, the masked figure walks away.

END OF EPISODE 1