

ELEVATOR TO TARTARUS S1 EP1 - SECRET MISSION - WHITE
REVISION

Written by

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FADE IN:

1A INT. UNDERWORLD CAVE - NIGHT**1A**

WE OPEN on an ancient gondola drifting on still, dark water. The boatman and his passenger are lit by a dim hanging lantern. WE HEAR ominous wood-wind music.

A HOODED FIGURE in a flowing black robe steps silently onto the dock. WE HEAR fearful whispers as a crowd of shades part like the red sea to let the God pass.

The God approaches an ELEVATOR built into the cave wall. It's guarded by two skeletons in roman helmets. ROMULUS(Keegan-Michael Key) slouches on his SPEAR, while REMUS(Jordan Peele) snores standing up.

Romulus notices the God, straightens up, gives a stiff salute, and smacks Remus upside the head. His helmet CLANGS. Remus wakes up, nearly drops his spear, and bows over-dramatically.

ROMULUS
(presses elevator button)
Goin' all the way up today, boss?

The hooded figure nods. DING. The God steps inside.

1B POV FROM INSIDE THE ELEVATOR**1B**

REMUS
(peeks into the doorway)
Maybe bring us back some ambrosia?
If it's no trouble.

ROMULUS
Man, you can't ask the boss to run a freakin' errand! Who in the Tartarus do you think you are? You know that stuff goes right through you!

Romulus pokes his finger in Remus' chest. He swats it away. The skeletons slap-fight as the elevator doors close.

CUT TO:

2 INT. ELEVATOR - DAY**2**

The God checks his WATCH while JAZZ MUSIC plays. He fiddles with his gold SCARAB brooch, then folds his hands. WE HEAR a fly buzzing. He swats awkwardly at the fly, but we still don't see his face.

CUT TO:

3 INT. OLYMPIAN PALACE - DAY

3

DING. The God steps into an opulent, column-filled room full of beautiful people talking and laughing. A bountiful buffet is laid out. Tables are decorated with flower arrangements as if for a Kardashian's wedding. WE HEAR harp music and a peacock call. Nymphs with elf ears recline as they eat. A woman flocked by BUTTERFLIES speaks to a man with WINGS.

A banner reads: CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION - A Century of Peace Between Gods.

The fly BUZZES and lands on a small side table next to a Venus de Milo statuette. A fist slams down on the fly, THUD, shaking the small statuette. Everyone goes silent. The whole room turns to look.

A blonde BEARDED MAN in a white tuxedo looks up. ZEUS(Chris Hemsworth) greets them with a booming voice.

ZEUS

Hades!

HADES(Kumail Nanjiani) lowers his hood. He looks more friendly than expected without a beard. He shakes out his hand like it smarts.

HADES

Sorry, sorry everyone, there was a fly! It's kind of an occupational hazard.

ZEUS

I haven't seen you in a century!
How have you been, brother?

HADES

Oh, you know. Still counting dead people. Every day. All the time.

ZEUS

Ha! Still the life of the party.

HADES

Ha ha, never heard that one before.
You'd think a hundred years would
be enough time to come up with some
fresh material.

ZEUS

You know, you could at least answer
my phone calls. Don't tell me
you're still sending scrolls?

Hades pulls out an old flip phone.

HADES

No, but the signal down there is
terrible. I really need to upgrade
from Hex 2.0.

A BLONDE GODDESS takes Zeus' arm. HERA(Kristen Wiig) is
wearing a backless dress, like something out of old
Hollywood.

HERA

No plus one, I see. Still single as
well?

HADES

Hera, you're looking radiant as
usual.

Hades gives her a slight bow, puts the flip phone back into
his pocket.

HERA

Hades, you promised you'd start
trying to get out more and meet
someone. It looks bad when the
Goddess of Marriage can't arrange a
match after 10,000 years.

HADES

Hey, I tried. The last blind date
you set me up with turned into a
plant so she wouldn't have to
listen to me drone on about how
polluted the River Styx is getting
these days. Did you know 80% of
pollution comes from 50 big
companies?

Zeus yawns while Hades is talking. Hades looks annoyed.
POSEIDON(Rob Mac) appears with a grin. Poseidon wears a
sharkskin suit, a puka shell necklace, and an abundance of
hair gel. He grabs Hades around his shoulders, and leans in.

POSEIDON

Well, if dryads aren't your thing,
I could always arrange something
with a sea nymph. They can talk
about rivers all day and night, if
you catch my drift.

WE HEAR a peacock call fill the awkward silence for a beat.

HERA

Charming. Hello Poseidon.

HADES

Thanks for the offer, but I think
I'm good. Remember how we talked
about personal space?

Hades removes Poseidon's arm from his person.

CUT TO:

4 INT. OLYMPIAN PALACE - DAY

4

The elevator DINGS and the GODDESS OF SPRING steps out. Pan up from the floor. She wears a green gown. Her long, wavy hair is adorned with a yellow POPPY FLOWER CROWN.

PERSEPHONE(Hannah Simone) appears humble and understated compared to everyone else, but still graceful and elegant. She looks around the room, searching for someone she knows.

A cat lounges on a sofa. Persephone crouches to pet it.

PERSEPHONE

Hey buddy -

The cat turns into a person and gives her some wicked side eye. She stands, surprised.

PERSEPHONE (CONT'D)

Sorry! Sorry!

ARTEMIS(Felicia Day) comes up behind her.

ARTEMIS

Persie!

PERSEPHONE

Heey!

They hug and SQUEAL like besties. Artemis is wearing a short, silver-sequined dress and leather jacket, a compound bow slung across her back. Her auburn hair is rolled up in a headband bun.

ARTEMIS

Oh my Goddess, I love your dress!

PERSEPHONE

Thanks! It has pockets.

Artemis and Persephone walk into the party.

ARTEMIS

Okay, I know this is your first time on Olympus, so let me do the talking. We wouldn't want you to accidentally insult anyone, especially not Aphrodite. You know how she gets.

PERSEPHONE

Let you do the talking? You're not exactly what I'd call an expert at the whole subtlety thing.

ARTEMIS

Whatever, you know what I mean. Let's get some food first, I'm starving!

They walk past a group of guys laughing around APOLLO(Andy Samberg), who has the vibe of a frat bro in his gold tracksuit. We overhear the end of a joke.

APOLLO

So I said, Euripideez nuts!

More LAUGHTER. The Goddesses roll their eyes.

APOLLO (CONT'D)

Whassup sis!

ARTEMIS

Sup bro.

They fist bump. Artemis and Persephone keep walking. A MAN WITH WHITE WINGS approaches, smiling a toothsome smile.

EROS

Artemis! Good to see another fellow archer.

EROS(Gianmarco Soresi) wears a shirt like Patrick Swayze in the Chippendales skit to show off his arm muscles. He carries his heart-shaped BOW AND ARROWS at his side.

ARTEMIS

Cupid! Hi! Maybe we can have a fun little contest later.

EROS

It's Eros.

ARTEMIS

Right, and this is my friend Persephone. She's a little new here, so make her feel welcome.

Persephone and Eros shake hands.

EROS

Goddess of Spring, right?

PERSEPHONE

Yep, that's me.

EROS

Love your work! Especially roses, mortals go crazy for those things on Valentine's Day. Biggest holiday of the year for me.

Persephone laughs awkwardly. She feels like her work is more than just flowers.

ARTEMIS

Well, it was so nice bumping into you, Cupid, but I'm trying to beat Dionysus to the ambrosia. Guy can drink, ya know?

Eros gestures with an arrow.

EROS

Uh, it's, it's Eros. Ya know, rhymes with arrows? I'm not a stupid flying baby, okay?

ARTEMIS

Oh, sorry. The diaper must've thrown me off.

Pan down to show he is indeed wearing something that looks like a white speedo with a built-in toolbelt full of love-potions over black ballet tights. Artemis finger guns at him as they walk away, both giggling as he throws a temper tantrum to himself.

EROS

It's not a diaper! It's not! It's aerodynamic. Superman doesn't get this kind of flack.

5A INT. OLYMPIAN PALACE - BUFFET LINE - DAY

5A

Hades has split from his brothers and is standing at the opposite end of the BUFFET. Persephone looks at him with curiosity.

PERSEPHONE

Who is that?

ARTEMIS

That's Hades. Lord of the Dead? The flowing black robes didn't tip you off? Like, who dresses like that anymore?

Hades picks up an apple, tries to take a bite, hoping this time will be different. But it shrivels and blackens in his hand. He tosses it.

PERSEPHONE

What's his deal?

ARTEMIS

You want the tea? He haaates Zeus for claiming Olympus while he's stuck with the Underworld. Who complains about getting to be king of an entire domain?

Artemis puts a giant TURKEY LEG on her plate. Persephone takes some CARROTS AND HUMMUS.

PERSEPHONE

Honestly, he'd be kinda cute if he didn't look like he just smelled a fart.

Hades fills his WINE GLASS overly full of red wine at the punch bowl. GLUG, GLUG, GLUG.

ARTEMIS

Ew, isn't he like your uncle or something?

Hera enters.

HERA
Don't let that keep you from a good time.

ARTEMIS
Hera!

Artemis and Persephone bow respectfully. Hera ignores Artemis.

HERA
Listen, girl to girl? We're Gods. We don't have to follow the same rules as mortals. Aphrodite came from a disembodied ballsack thrown into the ocean. This is Olympus. Anything goes. Besides -

5B POV HERA

5B

She holds up her fingers framing Persephone and Hades together.

HERA (CONT'D)
You might make an advantageous match.

5C BUFFET LINE

5C

HERA (CONT'D)
Just keep an open mind. There are worse things than Death. Now if you'll excuse me, I have to go babysit my brother slash husband so he doesn't screw another nymph behind my back. Enjoy the partyyy!

Hera exits. A MAN IN WINGED SNEAKERS hovers down between them, cutting in line. HERMES (Joe Truglio) interrupts the conversation with the energy of a terrier after a cup of coffee.

HERMES
'Scuse me - Heeey! Persephone! You made it! I can't believe your mom actually changed her mind -

Persephone tries to signal for him to stop talking.

HERMES (CONT'D)

- Unless she didn't, and you finally decided to sneak out and join the party! Good for you! Don't worry, I can totally be discreet about it. You wouldn't believe the messages I have to send between Ares and Aphrodite. It gets spicy. Anyway, I hope they have live music like they did last Centennial, Hera booked Orpheus and the Muses and -

PERSEPHONE

I appreciate the sentiment, but I'm not here for fun.

Artemis nudges her with a look.

PERSEPHONE (CONT'D)

Well, maybe a little. Mostly I was planning to ask the other Gods to help the mortals with their latest plague.

HERMES

Ooh, like a secret mission! Nice!

PERSEPHONE

It's terrible, have you seen it? They're all wearing masks for Covid-19 down there, and -

HERMES

Oh, you mean those cool bird-man masks?

PERSEPHONE

No, you're thinking of the black plague, that was a while back.

Hermes nods without understanding.

HERMES

Ooh, gotcha. Listen, I'm gonna be upfront with you, nobody here is gonna wanna hear about the mortals, but I wish you luck. Oh! Look at the size of those prawns! Poseidon has really out done himself this year.

Hermes loudly SLURPS an oyster out of its shell and shoves PRAWNS in his pockets while Artemis and Persephone share a look of disgust. He is also the God of Thieves, after all.

CUT TO:

6A INT. OLYMPIAN PALACE - BALLROOM - DAY

6A

START MONTAGE

We follow a waiter carrying a tray around the party, hearing snippets of conversation.

PERSEPHONE

Hi, Dionysus? My name's Persephone
and -

PERSEPHONE

Athena, hello! I was wondering if -

Persephone walks past Zeus whose head turns to follow her. Hera sprays him with a spray bottle as if training a dog.

PERSEPHONE

Hephaestus, how are things at the
workshop?

PERSEPHONE

It's Apollo, right? Have you heard
about the -

PERSEPHONE

Hestia! How are you?

Persephone bumps into Hades on her way to speak to Aphrodite.

HADES

Sorry, excuse me.

They give each other a polite, apologetic nod, but otherwise barely notice each other.

PERSEPHONE

Aphrodite, so lovely to meet you.

APHRODITE(Jennifer Coolidge) has an attractive man, though shorter than her, hanging on her arm. She introduces him.

APHRODITE

Charmed, I'm sure. This is my date
for the night, Adonis.

ADONIS (James Marsden) shakes Persephone's hand. Aphrodite leans in to whisper, full of school girl crush energy.

APHRODITE (CONT'D)

He's actually mortal. Don't tell Ares!

ADONIS

Darling, maybe it's better you don't go around telling people that, what if Ares overhears?

APHRODITE

I know. I've been a bad, bad girl.

She squeaks with laughter, and playfully smacks him. Persephone laughs awkwardly and backs away before she has to witness them rubbing noses.

Artemis sneakily fills up a FLASK with ambrosia in the background as Persephone speaks to someone shaking their head. Persephone taps another God on the arm, only to be given the cold shoulder.

END MONTAGE

6B COCKTAIL TABLE

6B

Persephone sits down at one of the many cocktail tables, defeated. Artemis joins her, the hunter's plate now littered with TURKEY BONES.

ARTEMIS

So. How'd it go?

PERSEPHONE

Terrible. The only thing people here are interested in talking about is themselves.

7A INT. OLYMPIAN PALACE - THE LOUNGE - DAY

7A

Hades stands by himself in the corner next to the ballroom door. He looks bored, swirling his wine.

Hermes talks to ARES (Patrick Warburton), a decorated general. He gesticulates wildly with a PRAWN, and snorts laughing at his own lame joke. Ares is not impressed.

HERMES

Why can't you trust a Greek jazz
player? Cuz they're a saxophoney!
Get it? 'Cause the E is -

ARES

I can't believe we're related.

Eros brags to Apollo while demonstrating with his BOW AND
ARROW.

EROS

Yeah, I mean, I could probably
shoot that vase over there with my
eyes closed and behind my back -

7B SLOW MOTION

7B

The PRAWN slips from Hermes' grasp. OPERA MUSIC plays.
Closeup on Eros. It flies in Eros' face, slapping him in the
cheek. An ARROW flies. The camera pans to follow as it
wobbles midair, and lands in Hades' back.

Hades gasps, drops his WINE GLASS which breaks. He looks down
in dismay at the ARROW, pierced through his chest.

7C WIDE SHOT

7C

The same scene plays out again in real time. SLAP, SWOOSH,
THUNK, GASP, CRRSHH.

7D INT. OLYMPIAN PALACE - THE LOUNGE - DAY

7D

The ARROW quickly turns invisible. Hades looks up and sees
Persephone through the doorway, seemingly glowing. He inhales
deeply with yearning. Zoom into a closeup.

HADES

(said like Oh, Balls)
Obols.

Eros looks around, slightly panicked.

EROS

Shit - did I hit someone?

Hades steals another glass of wine off a WAITER'S platter and
takes 3 big gulps.

HADES

Here goes nothing.

Hades walks off screen.

CUT TO:

8 INT. OLYMPIAN PALACE - COCKTAIL TABLE - DAY

8

PERSEPHONE

I don't understand why no one will listen. The mortals need our help!

ARTEMIS

(slightly drunk)

Oh, Persie, you're still beating that dead horse? I know you're the bleeding heart type, but it's like; they don't care about us anymore, and they haven't for a long time. Why should we care about them? You have to stick with people that show you with their actions that they care. If I were you, I wouldn't waste my time on anybody who didn't return the favor.

PERSEPHONE

But we're divine beings! We have the power to make a difference. I feel like we shouldn't squander it on useless luxuries.

Persephone holds up a solid gold fork.

Hades inserts himself into the conversation by leaning against a nearby column. He tries to look casual, but fails.

HADES

I heard something about a dead horse?

Artemis looks up at him awkwardly, hinting for him to go away.

ARTEMIS

It's - just an expression.

HADES

Sorry. Force of habit. I never know what to talk about at these parties besides work. Hades, Lord of the Dead.

He extends his hand to shake. No one takes it. He points at Persephone.

HADES (CONT'D)

Have we met? I don't think I saw you at the last Centennial.

Persephone has a lightbulb moment, realizing that he's the only one she hasn't spoken to about her cause.

PERSEPHONE

(Nods towards balcony)

Actually, Lord Hades, I was wondering if I could speak to you about something. Do you mind if we talk somewhere quieter?

HADES

Sure! Absolutely.

Hades seems surprised that she would be interested in talking to him at all. While he isn't looking, Persephone gives Artemis a look as if to say, wish me luck.

Artemis gives her a thumbs up and a forced smile. She drinks some ambrosia from her FLASK.

ARTEMIS

Demeter's gonna be piiissed.

CUT TO:

9 EXT. OLYMPIAN PALACE - BALCONY - DAY

9

The God and Goddess walk out onto a curtained balcony. It feels more private here. The clouds around them give off a heavenly glow. In the corner, DIONYSUS (Zach Galifianakis) is busy making out with both a SATYR and a GRAPEVINE NYMPH. Hades and Persephone awkwardly ignore them. The amorous throuple don't seem to notice.

PERSEPHONE

So, you speak to dying mortals on a somewhat regular basis, right?

HADES

Well, yeah, it's kind of hard to take down their information if they can't speak.

TAG

CUT TO:

10 INT. UNDERWORLD PALACE - NIGHT

10

Hades sits at a Victorian DESK in an imposingly tall THRONE decorated with bones. Two arched doorways open to his left and right. The room is lit by blue wall torches.

A ZOMBIE moans in front of his desk. There's a long line of shades in various stages of decay in a winding queue, like the DMV. Hades holds a long SCROLL. He wears a pair of READING GLASSES.

HADES
4 million and twelve!

The Zombie smacks down a slimy TICKET on the desk.

HADES
Name.

ZOMBIE
Uugghhh.

HADES
I'm sorry, one more time?

ZOMBIE
UuuUUuuughgh.

HADES
Oh, Eridus. Sorry your accent is a little thick. Cause of death?

ZOMBIE
Uggh UuuGh uugghhh.

HADES
(takes off glasses)
You're really gonna have to enunciate for me.

The Zombie sighs and turns, revealing a SPEAR sticking out of their back.

HADES
Ah. Struck, by, spear.

Hades writes with a QUILL AND INK as he speaks.

END TAG

CUT TO:

11 EXT. OLYMPIAN PALACE - BALCONY - DAY

11

PERSEPHONE

Have you noticed a trend in the death toll lately?

HADES

(rubs his wrist)

Oh yeah, everybody's got Covid these days. It's giving me carpal tunnel.

PERSEPHONE

So, why isn't anyone doing anything about it? Doesn't that bother you?

HADES

Of course it does, it makes my life a living hell, and I live there! But it's not like I can change it.

PERSEPHONE

Why not? You're the Lord of the Dead! Can't you just, I don't know, send them back?

HADES

It doesn't work that way. If I send them back, there's no body for them to go back to. They'd end up specters, wandering the earth for eternity. And that is a fate worse than death. My job is to make sure the shades who are supposed to go to Elysium don't end up in Tartarus, and vice versa. And absolutely no one gets out of the Underworld. Cerberus makes sure of it.

TAG

CUT TO:

12 EXT. UNDERWORLD - LAVA FIELD - NIGHT

12

CERBERUS, a giant 3 headed Great Dane, pants with joyful anticipation. Hades teases the hellhound with a human thigh BONE. Everything is lit with the red glow of lava.

HADES

You want it? Yeah? Go get it! Go get him! Fetch!

Hades throws the BONE, and Cerberus gallops after a screaming, hopping, one legged SKELETON. BOOF, BOOF! He slams into the skeleton. WE HEAR it collapse like a stack of bowling pins.

The dog returns, each of its three heads drops a different set of BONES at Hades' feet.

HADES (CONT'D)

Good boy! Who's a good boy? Who wants belly scratches?

Cerberus flops over and Hades scratches his tummy while his three tails THUMP rhythmically. Stones shuttle along the ground like a mini earthquake. Cerberus licks Hades, coating him in clear SLIME.

HADES (CONT'D)

Ughh! Cerberus! I just got this dry cleaned.

Hades wipes his face and flings the SLIME off his hands.

END TAG

CUT TO:

13 EXT. OLYMPIAN PALACE - BALCONY - DAY

13

PERSEPHONE

Couldn't you talk to Zeus about it? He's your brother! He should want to take some of the burden off you, even if he doesn't care about the mortals.

HADES

You think I haven't tried? For 5,000 years I asked him to intervene with war after war after war. You'd think Ares would get tired of them eventually, but I guess that's his whole shtick. If there's not some hot chick involved, Zeus just flakes - oh, thank you.

Hades sets his empty WINE GLASS on a passing waiter's platter, and grabs a caviar hors d'oeuvre. The toothpick in it is a tiny plastic trident. He eats it in one bite, relishing it like a man deprived.

HADES (CONT'D)

(with his mouth full)
 Personally, I think interfering
 with the mortals is a futile task.
 Even Sisyphus wouldn't take that
 one on.

PERSEPHONE
 (holding her forehead)
 Mom was right. Coming here was a
 waste of time.

HADES
 Why do you care? What do you get
 out of helping me do less work?

She pauses for a beat.

PERSEPHONE
 One of my best friends is mortal.
 She's sick. She's one of many. She
 asked if there's anything I could
 do, and I -

HADES
 There it is. You want me to save
 her? I can't, my powers don't work
 like that.

He touches a decorative ORCHID and it blackens immediately.
 Persephone flinches. He sees her reaction and softens.

HADES (CONT'D)
 Look, I think it's great you want
 to help the mortals. Even humans
 don't seem to care about other
 humans. Not many Gods can see past
 the malaise of ambrosia to notice
 their suffering. Not many Gods want
 to.

He looks pointedly at Dionysus, still making out, oblivious
 to their conversation.

HADES (CONT'D)
 If you really want to help your
 friend, you'll need a damn good
 healer. Go talk to Chiron. You'll
 have to keep her body well enough
 to hold her soul. Keep her from
 entering the Underworld in the
 first place.

PERSEPHONE

Thank you. ... This has actually been helpful.

HADES

What did you say your name was again?

CUT TO:

14 INT. OLYMPIAN PALACE - ELEVATOR LOBBY - DAY

14

DEMETER(Lisa Edelstein) bursts through the elevator door, a fierceness in her eyes. She wears sprigs of WHEAT around her head like a horned crown. Her gown is dark, poppy red.

DEMETER

Persephone!

Poseidon chokes on his drink and makes a hasty exit.

CUT TO:

15A INT. OLYMPIAN PALACE - BALCONY - DAY

15A

DEMETER (O.S.)

Persephone!

PERSEPHONE

Shit! Get down!

She pulls him behind the curtain, and they peek around it.

HADES

Why am I hiding??

PERSEPHONE

Because my mother will kill me if she finds me here, after she explicitly forbade me to come. And I'd rather not find out what Tartarus looks like tonight.

HADES

Well, for one thing, Gods can't die, and two, I don't think you'd end up in Tartarus -

CUT TO:

15B INT. OLYMPIAN PALACE - BALLROOM - DAY

15B

HERA

Demeter, what is the meaning of this? Do you know how long it took me to put this party together? You are really pulling down the whole atmosphere -

DEMETER

Where is my daughter? No doubt you've tried to set her up with the royal funeral director.

ZEUS

Now, Demi, why don't we just take a chill pill, and continue this conversation privately in my office? My wife worked very hard to make this evening very special.

He tries to usher her away. She slaps his hand.

DEMETER

Don't you "Demi" me! You lost that privilege 2,000 years ago.

Artemis cringes and takes a swig of ambrosia while trying unsuccessfully to avoid Demeter's glare.

DEMETER (CONT'D)

And you! You know better than anyone why she's not supposed to be here.

Artemis waves awkwardly to her friend's mom.

ARTEMIS

Hi miss Demeter!

CUT TO:

15C INT. OLYMPIAN PALACE - BALCONY - DAY

15C

Persephone looks around for an escape route. The kitchen door swings open as a waiter enters. She sees them dump trash down a chute and has a lightbulb moment.

HADES

Wait, you're Demeter's daughter?
She's gonna kill me if she thinks
I'm -

Persephone grabs his hand and leads him, crouching behind the buffet tablecloths to the kitchen.

PERSEPHONE

This way!

CUT TO:

16 INT. OLYMPIAN PALACE - KITCHEN - DAY

16

A SATYR CHEF carefully arranges gourmet plating. The two Gods burst through the swinging door and bump into him, smearing his hard work.

Persephone stops at a small door in the wall that hinges from the bottom. She opens the TRASH CHUTE.

PERSEPHONE

Ok, get in.

HADES

What! Are you crazy? I'm not getting in there!

DEMETER (O.S.)

I know she's here!

HADES

Okay, I'm going, I'm going! Don't push!

WE HEAR Hades' yell get quieter. The bewildered Satyr Chef stares as Persephone climbs in. WE HEAR her scream get quieter. A POPPY from her crown settles to the floor.

CUT TO:

17 EXT. GREECE - MOUNT OLYMPUS SUMMIT - DAY

17

WE OPEN on a quiet mountain top strewn with trash. We look out over the landscape for a beat. The TRASH CHUTE is invisible, but a BANANA PEEL becomes visible as it falls out.

WE HEAR a distant yell. The YELL starts quiet and gets louder. Hades lands in the pile of garbage left by the Gods. He lays there inspecting the yellow BANANA PEEL with disgust before tossing it aside. It blackens with his touch.

WE HEAR another yell approaching. Persephone lands on his chest. They lock eyes for a beat before scrambling to get up. He clears his throat, brushes off his robe. Persephone picks garbage out of her hair.

Hades turns in a circle, taking in the view. The Greek FLAG flies at the summit.

HADES

Huh. It's been a while since I've stepped foot in the mortal realm. It's uh - different from what I remember.

He kicks a piece of trash. He teleports in a puff of black smoke about ten feet to the left, overlooking the mountain vista. Persephone does a double take.

PERSEPHONE

You could teleport this whole time?

He shrugs.

HADES

I may have panicked.

Persephone groans. Hades takes a FRUIT from his pocket, wipes it off, and offers it to her. This fruit does not turn black.

HADES (CONT'D)

Pomegranate?

Persephone looks confused for a beat, blinks twice, and walks off down the slope shaking her head.

HADES (CONT'D)

Suit yourself. They're great for anti-oxidants, you know.

He pulls a decorative knife from his pocket and cuts the FRUIT to eat it himself. He follows behind her.

HADES (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

PERSEPHONE

(without turning around)

I have to find Chiron.

HADES

And you're just going to walk there?

PERSEPHONE

Yes, because unlike you, I can't just "poof" wherever I please. All I can do is make flowers bloom.

HADES

(gestures with the knife)

That's silly, I could "poof" us both there, I know his old cave.

PERSEPHONE

I appreciate the offer, but I don't need your help.

HADES

No offense, but your plan landed us in garbage. You could probably use the help.

PERSEPHONE

I'm 2,000 years old, I think I can handle myself.

HADES

Oh my Gods, you're just a baby!

PERSEPHONE

(turns to face him)

Why are you still following me? I thought you said you couldn't do anything to help the mortals?

HADES

Well, maybe you've convinced me.

PERSEPHONE

Just like that?

HADES

It takes a lot of guts to go against Demeter. Takes even more guts to stand up to your own parents. If you have that much conviction, your friend must really be worth the risk. Let me at least help you get to Chiron. I've blocked off the whole day for this party, but honestly I'd rather be anywhere else.

Hades CRUNCHES a handful of pomegranate seeds.

PERSEPHONE

What about Zeus? Won't someone miss you up there?

HADES

Not really. He's easily distracted.

CUT TO:

ZEUS

Where is Hades? Has anyone seen
Hades?

Demeter and Hera stand behind him looking concerned. The crowd murmurs; people's heads turn, searching.

A NYMPH walks by and Zeus' head turns to follow her. Hera sprays him with the spray bottle.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

What? She looked like she might've seen something.

CUT TO:

19 EXT. GREECE - SIDE OF MOUNT OLYMPUS - DAY

19

PERSEPHONE

Do you think anyone will put two and two together that we left at the same time? I don't want any gossip spreading around.

HADES

So what if they do? It's not like I kidnapped you or anything.

CUT TO:

20 INT. OLYMPIAN PALACE - KITCHEN - DAY

20

Demeter kneels on the kitchen floor sobbing over a single POPPY. Zoom out. Hera's hand rests supportively on Demeter's shoulder. The TRASH CHUTE hangs open.

CUT TO:

21 EXT. GREECE - SIDE OF MOUNT OLYMPUS - DAY

21

PERSEPHONE

Okay. Then let's pay Chiron a visit. Hopefully the doctor is in when we get there.

HADES

Alright, but fair warning, you might experience some mild dizziness, light-headedness, nausea or vomiting.

PERSEPHONE

What?

He tosses the remaining pomegranate over his shoulder, and snaps his fingers.

Black smoke envelopes them both as the camera spins rapidly.

FADE IN:

22 EXT. GREECE - KATERINI - DAY

22

They find themselves in the middle of a busy city street full of pedestrians. Persephone wobbles, disoriented.

Hades is unfazed, but looks up. Zoom out, revealing the modern buildings surrounding them.

HADES

Huh. He may have changed his address in the last 500 years.

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW