

BFD Writing Contest Entry

(2 years after the Trials of Apollo)

"Percy, I told you! The cookies have to be *rainbow*, not completely blue!"

Percy sighed. At first, he *was* annoyed that he made an entire tray of blue cookies and wouldn't get to share them with anyone. Then he realized that meant he got to eat all the cookies himself.

"Ooh, bwue cookies! Can I eat some?"

Scratch that. He wouldn't get to eat all the cookies himself. He would just get to eat most of them himself.

"Sure, Stella," Percy said, handing one of the fresh-baked cookies to his little sister.

"Well, at least they have some purpose," Annabeth sighed. "As much as we all love blue food, and your mother's blue cookie recipe, it's pride month. If we're going to surprise Nico and Will, the cookies have to be rainbow. Piper and I planned out an entire design for the layout of all the food the other campers are making, and it won't look right if the cookies don't match!"

"Well... sea green is a part of the rainbow, right?" Percy asked innocently.

"No, silly!" Estelle responded, looking up at the teenagers towering over her. "Sea green isn't part of the rainbow, normal green is!"

"And what shade of green is 'normal', Stella?" Percy asked.

"Um... umm..."

Luckily for Stella, her father walked into the room before her brother asked again.

"Daddy!" she exclaimed happily, running to her father, who picked her up gleefully.

"Oh, hey Percy!" said Paul Blofis, Estelle's father and Percy's stepfather. "I see you're making cookies for pride month. How's college?"

Percy smiled. "Turns out, when the majority of the students are ADHD and Dyslexic, all the courses are demigod-friendly."

"That's nice," said Sally, Percy's mother, as she walked in. "What about you, Annabeth?"

"Oh, it's wonderful! The campus, the lessons, and New Rome as a whole! It's so amazing, and architecturally advanced! I could go on for hours about the designing and-"

"Yes, Wise Girl. You can go on forever. And that's why you're not going to start," Percy interrupted. "We have to meet up with Chiron later, remember?"

"Of course," Annabeth signed. "Mrs. Jackson, do you think you can make some rainbow cookies by tomorrow?"

"Sure!" Sally replied, picking up Estelle. "You should start heading back to camp before it gets dark. Monsters are stronger at night, right?"

"Right."

Back at camp, Nico di Angelo, son of Hades, was in his cabin reading when his boyfriend Will came in.

"Hey," he said. "Whatcha up to?"

Nico held up his book. "Harry Potter is strangely entertaining, minus his questionable life choices. Well, are we allowed in the dining pavilion again yet?"

"Nope, still eating in cabins. No idea why, but Piper, Annabeth, and Percy are the only ones allowed in there, and they're all being extremely protective of it."

"Weird. So, why're you here?"

"There's a pride parade on Maple Street. Wanna come?"

Nico looked down. "You're not serious, right?" he asked, looking back up and then at his closet. "You want the one person at camp who owns nothing but black to attend a pride parade?"

Will held up two clothing bags with a big smirk, and Nico leaned back and sighed.

"Oh gods no," he said.

"See you at the camp entrance in an hour!"

While Percy and Annabeth were walking to camp, and Nico was changing into pride clothes for emo kids, the two couples were unknowingly being watched from Olympus.

"Ah, I *love* pride month," said Aphrodite. "It's so *romantic*, and all of the new options give a lot more opportunities for my son to shoot his little arrows!"

"I for one think it's silly," Hera responded. "Same-sex relationships are cute in the short term, but in a long term relationship, procreation requires two different genders."

"Not everything is about becoming a parent, Hera," Hermes said. "Personally, I think it's amazing."

"Those stupid demigods are celebrating," Ares interrupted in an annoyed tone. "Hey mom, do you want to ruin their day?"

"Which demigods?"

"Nico, Will, that twat Percy, Annabeth, and Pi-"

"Annabeth?" Hera interrupted. "I'm in!"

"Uh, Percy?" Annabeth asked. "Is it just me, or do we seem to get followed by *really* weird things?"

“Woah... when Thalia said that Hera sent internally challenged cows after you, I really didn’t think it was *this* bad.”

“This is *really* stupid,” said Annabeth. Percy looked up at the sky.

“Seriously, Hera?!?”

Annabeth glared at the cows and grabbed Percy’s hand. “Come on, Seaweed Brain. Let’s just go.”

Back at camp, the couple was surprised to find three empousa stupidly attempting to cross the border, and failing.

“What the-” Percy started, causing one of the empousa to notice him.

“DIEEEEE,” she screamed, lunging at Percy, who whipped out Riptide quickly and cut her in half. The other empousa turned sharply and set on fire.

“Uh, what in the Hades is happening?” asked Will, who was walking up to camp with Nico, who looked very unenthusiastic while wearing a black shirt with skeletons holding rainbow flags. One of the empousa lunged at Nico, who pulled out his sword and stabbed her.

“Why are they here?” he asked.

“WE HATE PRIDE MONTH!!!” said the last empousa. “HERA HATES PRIDE MONTH.”

“Oh, that explains it,” Annabeth grumbled.

“ARES HATES PERCY!” the empousa bellowed.

“New’s flash,” Percy mumbled. “I though empousa were smarter?”

“Maybe these are the ones Hecate cast out because they were failed creations?”

“APHRODITE DOES NOT AGREE WITH HERA AND ARES. APOLLO AND HERMES DO NOT EITHER.”

Suddenly, a pink arrow appeared out of nowhere and hit the empousa. Another one, which had a note on it, then appeared and hit a tree. The empousa began to hug the tree.

Nico walked over to the tree and read the note- “My mom sent me to help out, and Apollo allowed my arrow to fly. From, Eros?” he read. “Well, this is the weirdest day ever.”

“I love you, tree!” said the empousa. Annabeth shrugged, and grabbing Percy’s hand, the two walked past the camp borders. Nico and Will headed in the direction of the cabins, and Percy and Annabeth headed to the dining pavilion, where they found Piper.

“Hey Percy, hey Annabeth!” she smiled. “Percy, a package came in earlier, from your mom.”

“That was fast,” Percy noted. “Remind me to sacrifice something to Hermes, Apollo, and Aphrodite later.”

“What did my mom do?” Piper asked.

"Help save us from internally challenged cows."

"What?!?"

"Nothing," Annabeth interrupted. "Piper, the cookies go over there with the sandwiches. Percy, I'm teaching an art class, listen to Piper and help her set up for later. Since the cookies are here, we'll just celebrate at dinner and tonight instead of tomorrow."

Back on Olympus, Aphrodite smirked at Ares, and Apollo high fived Hermes. Hera sighed, exasperated.

"Well, Hera," Aphrodite said smugly. "Guess you lost. Say, if you're husband was here, maybe he would defend you, but thanks to my son, he's a bit busy-"

"I hate you."

"Nico, come on!" said Hazel, who was visiting from Camp Jupiter.

"Why? It's not even dinner yet."

From the dining pavilion, Chiron sounded the conch horn, informing the camp that it was, indeed, dinner time.

"Oh come on!" Nico muttered. "It's only 5:30, can I just stay here alone for a bit longer?"

Will appeared at the door. "Come on, Neeks!"

"Ugh, fine!" Nico replied immediately, getting up from his coffin bed. Hazel sighed and got up.

At the dining pavilion, Nico was surprised by what he saw- rainbow flags, rainbow cookies, and a lot more rainbow stuff.

"Oh my gods," he said.

"And the gods respond!" said another voice he hadn't seen in a while. It was Apollo, or rather, Lester Papadopoulos. "Happy Pride Month!"

"Oh my gods," Nico responded in a more exasperated fashion.

"Happy Pwide Monf Neeky!!!" Estelle stood next to Nico and looked up at him.

"Stella?" he asked. "How did you get in!"

"Yeah, who let Stella in?" Percy asked. Piper smirked.

"I was babysitting, and she wanted to come, soo."

Will walked over to the cookies and picked one up. "Sally Jackson recipe... this is the best day ever."

"Yes, this entire camp appears to be aware of Sally Jackson's cooking," Apollo said. "Enough chit chat! Let's eat!"

Walking over to their godly tables, everyone ate some cookies first on Estelle's order.

"Desert *a/ways* comes first!" she had said.

"You're learning well...." Percy had replied.

"Stella," Hazel was about to speak.

"Don't," Piper laughed.

Overall, the entire event was perfect, and went just as planned. Then it all went wrong when Connor Stoll started a food fight.

"CONNOR!!!" screeched one of the campers.

"APHRODITE!" Apollo yelled back. "You said you wouldn't make a sce-"

Connor launched a glass of apple juice at him.

"THE MITOCHONDRIA IS THE POWERHOUSE OF THE CELL!!!" yelled Eric the 3rd, if you know you know, as he threw some tomatoes. Estelle snuck up behind him from the table and jumped on him, smashing raw eggs she somehow acquired on his head.

"PROTECT THE COOKIES- AHHHH!" Percy was suddenly hit in the face with a sandwich.

Nico sighed and rubbed his forehead. "I should have stayed in Hades Cabin," he said, before Hazel threw some pieces of cookie at him. "Oh, you're on," Nico said, picking up some ammunition.

And so began the next big war. As it was called by future generations, **The War of the Mitochondria.**

THE ENDDDDDD