CHORUS.

DUDE! YOU GOT EXPELLED!

PERCY.

I DIDN'T WANT TO BE A HALF- BLOOD

PERCY.

CHORUS.

I DIDN'T ASK TO BE A

EXPELLED!

HALF-BLOOD

EXPELLED!

(We are now at PERCY's home. PERCY's mom, SALLY JACKSON, appears.)

PERCY. Hey Mom. How was your day? Mine was okay. We went on this field trip, I got expelled, I saw some super X-rated art, museums are crazy -

SALLY. The headmaster called me

PERCY. About the art?

SALLY. About the field trip.

PERCY. Are you mad?

SALLY. Well, I'm not happy. What happened, Percy?

PERCY. So first the math teacher turned into a demon, and then I had this sword -

SALLY. (Quickly.) You know what, it doesn't matter. We'll find another school. Again.

PERCY. I'm not a bad kid on purpose.

SALLY. Oh, baby, I know. (Beat, then.) How would you like to take a trip? Just the two of us.

PERCY. Is that okay with "Smelly Gabe"?

SALLY. I'll deal with your stepfather.

(PERCY's stepdad, GABE UGLIANO, enters.)

GABE. Sally! Where's my bean dip? Ya tryin' to starve me here?

SALLY. Gabe, there you are... (This is hard to say.) ...dear. How would you like a weekend without me and Percy in your way?

GABE. Who's gonna cook for me? Who's gonna clean?

PERCY. My mom's not your servant.

GABE. Naw, she likes doin' things for me.

SALLY. I'll give you a back rub. (GABE's still not sold.) A... (This is gonna be gross.) foot rub?

GABE. (Giving in.) Both feet. And I ain't payin' any of that fancy tuition he wasted. It can come out that money you've been hiding from me. Yeah, I know about that. What're ya saving up for?

(SALLY is embarrassed to admit it.)

SALLY. Creative writing night classes.

GABE. Then I'm doin' you a favor. That's a waste a'money anyway. If he was my kid -

A Company of the second second

SALLY. He's not.

GABE. Lucky for him. (Then, as he exits.) Bean. Dip.

(He's gone. SALLY exhales.)

PERCY. Aw man, has that guy ever heard of showers? (Off SALLY.) Mom... You don't have to put up with him like that.

SALLY. It's complicated, Percy.

PERCY. You always say that. Why?

SALLY. Because the truth might mean saying goodbye to you. For good.