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ABIGAIL OWEN

"A stunning and unique fantasy laced with intrigue, adventure, and a delicious romance.
This story is my latest obsession." —USA Today bestselling author Devney Perry



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GODS PLAY

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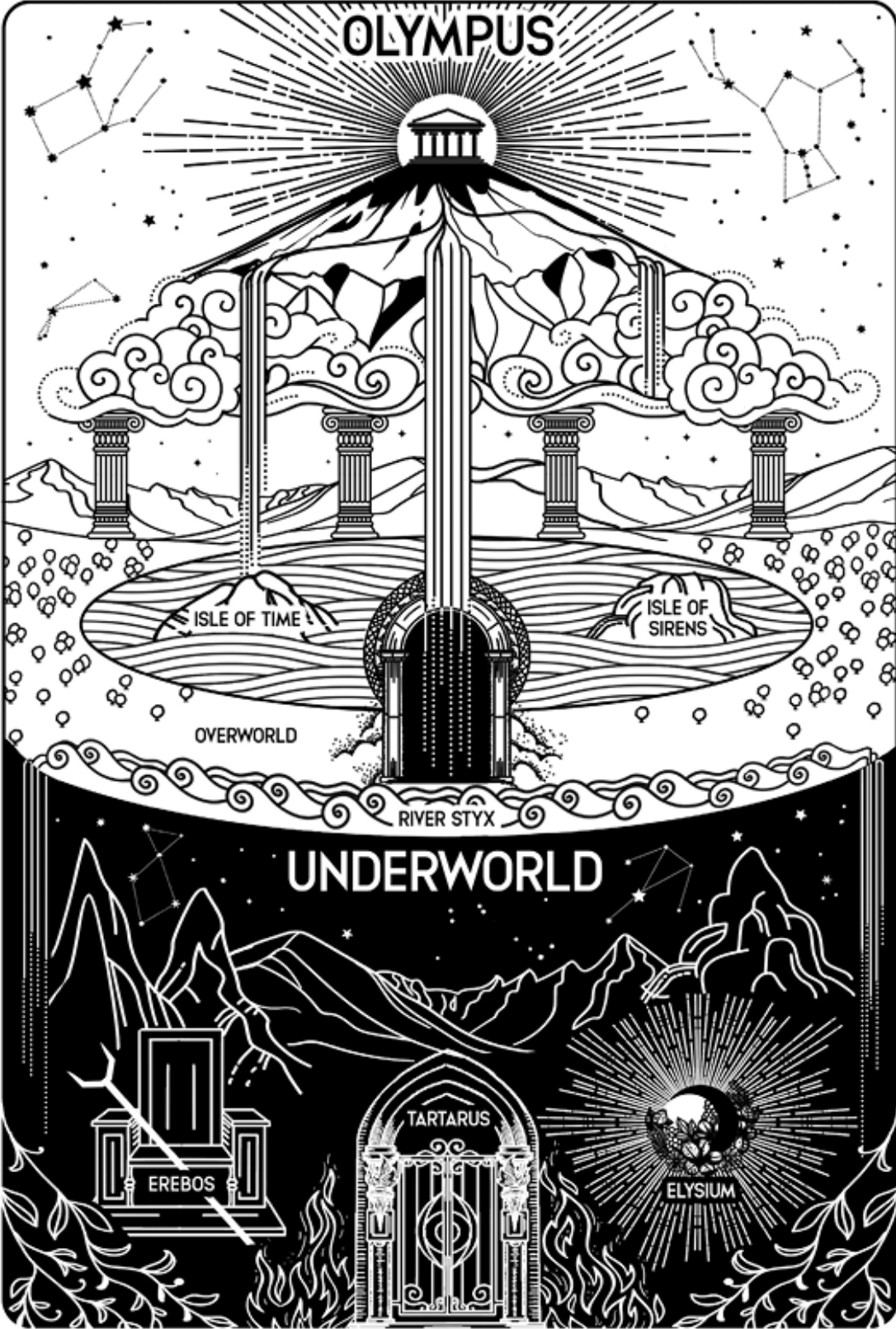
To Robbie—

my husband, my rock, my Jeopardy! partner,

my swoon-worthy hero, my star—

just one lifetime with you isn't enough.

In *The Games Gods Play*, the Greek gods walk among us—and they are as unspeakably beautiful as they are deadly. As such, this story features elements that might not be suitable for all readers, including blood, gore, violence (human, god, and monster alike), perilous situations, hospitalization, illness, injury, vomiting, abuse, bullying, theft, isolation, death, grief, use of alcohol, common phobias (including heights, burning, drowning, bugs, and darkness), graphic language, and sexual activity on the page. Readers who may be sensitive to these elements, please take note, and prepare to enter the Crucible...



PART 1

THE CRUCIBLE

The gods love to toy with us mere mortals.
And every hundred years...we let them.



Preface

Fuck the gods.

I got so close. So damned close to finally reaching my goal, finally seeing my curse broken, and maybe, just maybe, finally feeling the love of the one man I long for.

As I go limp on the blood-soaked ground, all I can think is, *What if.*

What if I hadn't tried to tear down Zeus' temple?

What if I hadn't met Hades?

What if I hadn't tried to reach for more than this world was willing to offer me...?

A tear squeezes from the corner of my eye. Then Zeus' feet come into view directly in front of me. Probably to finish the job.

Honestly, I'd rather go fast than sit here and bleed anyway.

"Bring it, asshole."