**SCENE 1**

*HERACLES is outside a farmhouse in Thebes. It is early morning. He is tending to household chores. His mother, ALCMENE, exits the house and calls to him.*

**ALCMENE:**

Heracles!

**HERACLES:**

Mom!

**ALCMENE:**

Why are you busy with chores so early?

**HERACLES:**

Because we live on a farm. A day without labor would mean certain death.

**ALCMENE:**

We’ll deal with that later. Come inside. I have a surprise for you.

*ALCMENE enters the house. HERACLES follows.*

**SCENE 2**

*Inside the farmhouse. It is a small kitchen/dining room, well-kept but cramped and quaint. There is a pile of pastries on the table.*

**ALCMENE:**

Happy birthday!

**HERACLES:**

Pastries! How can we afford these?

**ALCMENE:**

I saved some money from work. The tapestry business has been paying well.

**HERACLES:**

I wondered why you’ve been working so many nights.

**ALCMENE:**

Yes, I’ve been hard at work weaving tapestries… Happy Birthday!

**HERACLES:**

Thanks mom! These are delicious!

**ALCMENE:**

Heracles, now that you’re old enough, I think it’s time I tell you the story of your father.

**HERACLES:**

I thought I already knew that story. You and dad were in love and nearly married, but he was killed in battle before I was born.

**ALCMENE:**

That’s … one version of the story.

**SCENE 3**

*The farmhouse at night. It appears new, and the garden is in full bloom. There is a single lamp lit in the window of the kitchen. Stars and constellations twinkle in the sky.*

**ALCMENE (off-screen):**

I met him when I was young and we were very much in love. We lived together happily for a whole summer.

*View changes to a baby HERACLES in a cradle.*

**ALCMENE (off-screen):**

When you were born, he told me the truth. He was a very powerful, rich, and married man. He knew you would grow up to be the ruler of the land.

*View changes back to the farmhouse at night. The lamp in the window has been extinguished. As ALCMENE speaks, a shooting star flies from the ground into the sky.*

**ALCMENE (off-screen):**

He had to return home when the winter came, and I haven’t seen or spoken to him since.

**SCENE 4**

*Return to inside the farmhouse. ALCMENE and HERACLES sit at a table with a single pastry remaining on it.*

**HERACLES:**

That’s very different from the story you told me at bedtime when I was little.

**ALCMENE:**

I know, I’m sorry for lying to you.

**HERACLES:**

Why did you hide it from me?

**ALCMENE:**

Your father’s wife is a very jealous woman, and I was worried that, if you called too much attention to yourself, she would smite you.

**HERACLES:**

Surely only the gods could smite me!

**ALCMENE:**

Heracles.

**HERACLES:**

Yes?

**ALCMENE:**

You are the son of Zeus.

**HERACLES:**

What—Zeus? Zeus, Lord of Lighting and King of Olympus?

*Lightning and thunder crash outside, despite a clear sky.*

**ALCMENE:**

Yes, now that you have come of age I fear that you are a greater threat to his wife, Hera, more than ever.

**HERACLES:**

A threat? I am only a farmer.

**ALCMENE:**

If you remain a farmer much longer Hera will destroy you.

**HERACLES:**

What can I do?

**ALCMENE:**

You must travel to Olympus so you can remind Zeus who you are and he can claim you as his son. Here take this, it was a gift from Zeus.

*HERACLES receives a weapon—club, sword, bow, etc*

**SCENE 5**

*Return to outside the farmhouse. HERACLES is armored and prepared for his journey. ALCMENE waves from the threshold.*

**ALCMENE:**

Travel safely, come home soon!

**HERACLES:**

This is a lot to drop on a guy in one morning but sure, bye mom.

*This can lead into a tutorial level of traversing the plains and climbing Mt. Olympus*

**SCENE 6 / TUTORIAL: TO OLYMPUS**

*HERACLES begins on the plains. On the road, he finds a statue of HERMES, god of travelers.*

**HERACLES:**

O Hermes, I have no idea what I’m doing. How do I get to Mount Olympus?

*HERMES appears / STATUE OF HERMES awakens / whatever works. He directs HERACLES with a couple walking prompts.*

**HERMES:**

Just follow me!

*HERMES proceeds to show the player how to walk, grab things, and hit things. Maybe HERACLES helps a farmer catch one of his escaped animals as a tutorial capture level. Soon, they arrive at the base of a mountain.*

**HERACLES:**

It’s even taller up close.

**HERMES:**

That’s how mountains work.

**HERACLES:**

How do I climb it?

**HERMES:**

Like this.

*A click prompt appears. Player clicks, HERACLES jumps onto the mountain.*

**HERMES:**

Any point you click on becomes the arc of your jump. Try it again!

*Player progresses through two or three more click prompts and progresses slowly up the mountain.*

**HERACLES:**

Wow, this is pretty easy.

**HERMES:**

You have unnaturally powerful thighs for a mortal.

**HERMES:**

…

**HERMES:**

Remember, if you need me at any point on your travels, you can call on me for help.

**HERACLES:**

Thanks!

*HERMES flies off or something. Player continues up the mountain.*

**SCENE 7**

*ZEUS’ throne room on Olympus. The floor is ringed with clouds; the furniture is all gold and silver. ZEUS sits on a large throne; HERA sits on a similar throne to his left. Various other gods and attendants are present. HERACLES enters.*

**ZEUS:**

Who let this peasant in?

**HERACLES:**

Almighty Zeus! Lord of Lightning, King of Olympus!

*Lightning and thunder crash outside, despite a clear sky.*

**HERACLES:**

I have come from Thebes. I am the son of the fair matron Alcmene, who informed me only this morning that you, mighty Zeus, are my father.

**HERA:**

This again.

**ZEUS:**

I know no woman by that name.

**HERACLES:**

She gave me this as I left. She told me it was a gift from you.

*HERACLES presents his weapon. HERA becomes visibly angered—a stormcloud above her, red & steaming, whatever works.*

**HERA:**

‘Lost it in a battle’? I should have known you were on another one of your trysts!

*HERA storms out. Two handmaids follow.*

**HERACLES:**

She seems upset.

**ZEUS:**

Listen, boy, I don’t remember anything, and since you weren’t alive at the time that this alleged affair occurred, you can’t possibly pin anything on me. You have no evidence.

**HERACLES:**

That’s reasonable.

**ZEUS:**

Since you’ve angered by wife, I must ask you to leave, but if you leave me along and stop accusing me of sleeping around with mortals, I might favor you in the future.

**ZEUS:**

What did you say your name was?

**HERACLES:**

My mother is Alcmene of Thebes. I am Heracles, named for Hera, Goddess of Marriage, Women, and Family, for I was conceived in love.

**ZEUS:**

That does sound like something I would say.

**HERACLES:**

What?

**ZEUS:**

No need to grovel for attention, young man. I’m sure it was a struggle to get here. Since you made it this far, I’m willing to grant you a fighting chance.

**HERACLES:**

You want me to fight someone?

**ZEUS:**

Woah, chill out. You’re just a farmer. You’ve probably never fought anyone in your life.

**HERACLES:**

I never said I was a farmer.

**ZEUS:**

I—uh—visit Thebes sometimes. I must have seen you around.

**ZEUS:**

Anyway, I’m going to give you a task to prove yourself.

**HERACLES:**

What do you want me to do?

**ZEUS:**

There is a lion that has made its home roaming the fields of Nemea. It is eating all the wild animals and terrorizing the travelers that pass through the region. I want you to slay it before it does any more harm.

**HERACLES:**

That sounds way easier than fighting someone.

**ZEUS:**

Totally. Run along, and if you manage to kill the lion, come back and see how I feel.

**HERACLES:**

If?

**ZEUS:**

See you later!

*HERACLES is escorted from the throne room by a guard. HERA reenters.*

**HERA:**

Did you name him after me in the hopes that I would be less harsh on you?

**ZEUS:**

I don’t remember anything!

**HERA:**

Who else could he belong to? Only demigods can climb Olympus!

**ZEUS:**

I swear on my lightning, I remember nothing.

**HERA:**

Humph.

*HERA exits. Other gods and attendants follow, leaving ZEUS alone in the throne room.*

**ZEUS:**

Hm.

**ZEUS:**

Alcmene of Thebes.

**SCENE 8 / LEVEL 1: THE NEMEAN LION**

*HERACLES travels from the bottom of the mountain and across the plains. Perhaps he encounters his first enemy here and is taught by HERMES how to attack. Finally, he arrives at a rocky area. There is a single cave, from which the lion emerges. It roars. HERACLES is startled. Boss music begins and HERACLES must fight the lion.*

*When the lion is defeated, triumphant music plays. HERACLES celebrates.*

**HERACLES:**

I killed the lion!

*HERMES appears.*

**HERMES:**

You’ve done it!

*HERMES transforms the lion into a lionskin pelt for HERACLES to wear.*

**HERMES:**

Take this to Mount Olympus to prove the completion of your labor.

**SCENE 9**

*ZEUS’ throne room. ZEUS and HERA are seated on their thrones with the usual attendants. HERACLES stands before them, wearing his lionskin.*

**HERACLES:**

I have slain the Nemean Lion!

**HERA:**

This doesn’t look like you got rid of him.

**ZEUS:**

I’m working on it.

**ZEUS:**

Heracles, you have accomplished the first part of your task!

**HERACLES:**

The first part? What more is there?

**ZEUS:**

I want you too—um—

**ZEUS:**

A terrific beast has taken up residence in the Lernaean swamps. I want you to kill it!

**HERACLES:**

What kind of terrific beast?

**ZEUS:**

A hydra—a lizard with three heads on necks like snakes.

**HERACLES:**

That doesn’t sound so bad.

**ZEUS:**

Run along, and if you manage to kill the hydra, come back and see how I feel.

*HERACLES is escorted from the room by a guard.*

**HERA:**

Killing him doesn’t mean you didn’t cheat.

**ZEUS:**

I don’t know what you’re talking about.

**HERA:**

*Sigh.*

**SCENE 10 / LEVEL 2: THE LERNAEAN HYDRA**

*HERACLES travels through a swampy biome. It is dark, and he must light a torch. At last, he encounters the hydra. It is much larger than himself. Its heads move and hiss throughout the fight. Boss music begins. HERACLES must jump on and kill each head individually (or whatever unique boss mechanic we want to use here). After the three heads are defeated, they each fall off, and two more sprout from each neck.*

HERACLES:

Six heads! I’ll have to stop them from sprouting again.

*HERACLES defeats and cuts off each head one by one; he then uses his torch to burn the stumps. When the hydra is defeated, triumphant music plays. HERACLES celebrates.*

**HERACLES:**

I’ve killed the hydra!

*HERMES appears. He presents the hydra’s six heads in a basket to HERACLES.*

**HERMES:**

Take this to Mount Olympus to prove the completion of your labor.

**SCENE 11**

*ZEUS’ throne room. HERA is absent. Other gods and attendants are present. HERACLES presents the basket of the six heads to ZEUS.*

**HERACLES:**

I have slain the Lernaean Hydra!

**ZEUS:**

I thought the extra heads might get you, but no; you’ve brought me all six. Excellent.

**HERACLES:**

Will you now accept me as your son?

**ZEUS:**

Uh—not yet. I still have something I need you to do.

**HERACLES:**

What now?

**ZEUS:**

That’s a good question.

**ZEUS:**

…

**ZEUS:**

Ah, yes! On Mount Erymanthus, there is a rabid and dangerous boar. It is killing the people of the surrounding villages. I want you to capture it.

**HERACLES:**

Capture it?

**ZEUS:**

Yes. I want a pet.

**HERACLES:**

A rabid and dangerous pet?

**ZEUS:**

Yes. Bring it to me.

**HERACLES:**

*Sigh.*

*HERACLES exits.*

**SCENE 12 / LEVEL 3: THE ERYMANTHIAN BOAR**

*HERACLES must traverse a snowy tundra on his way to Mt. Erymanthus. Since this is a capture level, we might give him rocks, snow banks, and other obstacles to navigate around in preparation for the capture maze. He soon arrives at the base of a mountain, where he finds the boar. Boss music plays. He must lower the boar’s health to a certain point before he can trap it.*

*Once the boar is captured, triumphant music plays. HERACLES celebrates.*

**HERACLES:**

I’ve captured the boar!

*HERMES appears and presents the boar, tied up and complacent.*

**HERMES:**

Great job! Now you have to carry it up Mount Olympus.

**HERACLES:**

Right.

**SCENE 13**

*ZEUS’ throne room on Olympus. ZEUS, HERA, other gods, and several attendants are present. HERACLES enters with the boar on his back. He drops the boar in the throne room, and it begins running around and squealing.*

**HERACLES:**

I have captured the Erymanthian Boar! Now will you accept me as your son?

**ZEUS:**

*Sigh.*

**ZEUS:**

You know, that was great and all, but I didn’t expect you to let it loose in the throne room. You didn’t complete your task properly.

**HERACLES:**

You said to capture the boar! I brought it all the way up the mountain for you!

**ZEUS:**

Never fear, I have thought of another task for you.

**HERACLES:**

Fine! What is the next task?

**ZEUS:**

I want you to visit King Augeas and assist him in cleaning his stables. They stink so badly that we can smell them from up here on the mountain.

**HERACLES:**

And then you will recognize me as your son?

**ZEUS:**

If you manage to clean the stables, come back and see how I feel.

*ZEUS, HERA, other gods, and attendants exit. A single HANDMAID goes up to HERACLES and presents him with a package.*

**HANDMAID:**

A gift from Hera.

*HERACLES accepts the package. The HANDMAID exits swiftly. HERACLES opens the package to find a sweet-smelling perfume.*

**HERACLES:**

Hm. Flowery.

*HERACLES exits.*

SCENE 14 / LEVEL 4: THE AUGEAN STABLES

SCENE 15

SCENE 16 / LEVEL 5: THE STYMPHALIAN BIRDS

SCENE 17

SCENE 18 / LEVEL 6: THE CRETAN BULL

SCENE 19

SCENE 20 / LEVEL 7: THE MARES OF DIOMEDES

SCENE 21

SCENE 22 / LEVEL 8: CERBERUS OF HADES

**SCENE 23 / LEVEL 9: ZEUS**

*ZEUS’ throne room on Olympus. He is alone. The scene is darker than it has been previously. HERACLES enters with his spoils of battle. Lightning and thunder crash.*

**HERACLES:**

Zeus! I have completed yet another of your tasks. Do you now accept me as your son?

**ZEUS:**

Only a demigod could have completed any one of these labors. You have convinced me—at the very least, you must be the son of a god.

**HERACLES:**

So you claim me as your own?

**ZEUS (fuming):**

No! I am no cheat! Your labors prove nothing—only that you were born of some higher power. You cannot disgrace me in this way!

**HERACLES:**

I suppose there is only one way to earn your acceptance. As your father defeated your grandfather, and as you defeated your father, I shall defeat you!

*Boss music begins. HERACLES must fight ZEUS with whatever unique mechanic we decide upon. When ZEUS is defeated, triumphant music plays. The atmosphere returns to the glimmering, happy state we first saw it in. HERACLES celebrates. ZEUS is lying on the ground. HERMES and HERA enter.*

**ZEUS:**

Ugh…

**HERMES:**

You’ve defeated Zeus, Lord of Lightning, King of Olympus!

**HERA:**

He could have used a good beating long ago.

*Other gods and throne room attendants enter.*

**HERMES:**

Heracles, now that you have bested Zeus in battle, your parentage is without question.

**ZEUS:**

This proves…nothing!

**HERA:**

Heracles, I remember the summer Zeus spent with your mother. He told me that he had gone to Greece to assist his favorite city in battle. He had lied to me many times before, and he has lied many times since.

**HERA:**

You have already shown your strength, intelligence, and perseverance—would you do us the honor of becoming the next King of Olympus?

*Lightning and thunder crash, despite the clear sky.*

**HERACLES:**

Thank you for the opportunity, but I never wanted to be the king of anything. I only came here to figure out who my father really was. As it turns out, he’s not that great.

**ZEUS:**

I should have smitten you in the cradle.

**HERACLES:**

You probably should find a new king, though.

**HERA:**

We have a few other illegitimate sons to interview.

**HERACLES:**

In that case, I think I’ll go back to my farm.

*HERACLES turns to leave as several attendants pull ZEUS offscreen. As the other gods exit, HERA stops HERACLES.*

**HERA:**

Heracles.

**HERA:**

You should know that I was never angry with you or your mother.

**HERACLES:**

That’s a relief. She said that you wanted to destroy me.

**HERA:**

I’m sure Zeus told her that so that she would keep you hidden. His reputation is quite fragile as it stands, and we’re finding new demigods every year. You don’t have to worry about me. I hope you and your mother live uneventful lives down on your farm. You both will have my favor.

**HERACLES:**

Thanks, I guess.

*HERACLES turns to leave; HERA stops him once more.*

**HERA:**

What is it like to live on a farm? Are you happy?

**HERACLES:**

I’m very happy. My mother and I have everything we need—food, shelter, and good company. I’ve never needed more.

**HERA:**

That sounds lovely.

**HERA:**

May I visit your farm?

**HERACLES:**

Of course!

**SCENE Xi**

*Outside the farmhouse. HERACLES and HERA enter. HERACLES is wearing his lionskin and carrying his weapon; HERA is wearing peasant garb. ALCMENE exits the farmhouse.*

**ALCMENE:**

Heracles!

*They hug.*

**ALCMENE:**

Hello, my name is Alcmene.

**HERA:**

I am Hera, Goddess of Women and Family.

**ALCMENE:**

Hera!

**HERA:**

Fret not—I am no danger to you or your son. Zeus lied to protect himself from the repercussions of cheating on a goddess. My fury is only for him.

**HERACLES:**

I told Hera about how happy we are on the farm, and she wanted to see for herself.

**ALCMENE:**

Well—if you’re not here to set the farm on fire and roast us alive—you’re welcome to stay.

**HERA:**

Thank you. I’m looking forward to life as a farmer. You’ll have to teach me how to farm things.

**HERACLES:**

The first thing you’ll need to know is that any point you click on becomes the arc of your jump.

*HERACLES and ALCMENE jump. After a moment, HERA jumps.*

**ALCMENE:**

I think we’ll all get along just fine.

*HERMES flies across the screen with a banner that reads: THE END*

*8. Bull scene*

**H:** Ok, so now how do I capture this bull?

**Herm:** Fist you’re going to jump and you can throw the bull just like you jump. But you must throw him into a hole.

*Player Plays until bull is in the hole. Travels to the next thing.*

*9. Stables scene*

**H:** These stables stink, King.

**K:** Why don’t you go clean them then?

*Goes to the stables.*

**H:** How am I going to clean this?

**Herm:** It’s ya boi Hermes again! You see that river? Divert it!

*Water floods the stables*