

MEDUSA

"Pilot"

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1 EXT. ATHENS - NIGHT (500 BC)

1

A bonfire burns on the Acropolis with the moonlit city below. An olive grove at the base of the Acropolis.

2 EXT. OLIVE GROVE - NIGHT

2

A stone statue of a frightened man on a path through the trees. In the distance, people cheer, drums bang, a general festiveness in the air.

TWO WOMEN make out drunkenly as they pass the statue. One has her hair pulled up. The other's is unkempt and messy.

UNKEMPT WOMAN

Oo, handsome.

CLEAN WOMAN

Save it for your husband.

They stop kissing. Stare at each other. Go back at it.

They push up against an olive tree, and the tree RUSTLES. The UNKEMPT WOMAN glances up and quickly catches an olive.

UNKEMPT WOMAN

Mm, an olive. Praise Athena.

CLEAN WOMAN

Praise me.

She feeds the olive to the CLEAN WOMAN.

HISSING nearby. The women startle and frighten.

Clean Woman grabs her lover's hand, and they leave.

Deeper into the grove, a gazebo lingers.

3 INT./EXT. GAZEBO - NIGHT

3

MEDUSA (F, 20), snakes for hair and yellow eyes with slit pupils, kneels, alone. Holds a knife.

She grips one of her snakes. Pulls it taut, away from her scalp. Lifts her knife to its body.

The other snakes bite at her hands. Wrap around her arm. Pulls away her arm. Medusa struggles. Breaks her hand free.

She slices through the taut snake. Screams in agony.

The once-taut snake body falls limp against her head. Blood drips down Medusa's face. She collapses and sobs.

The severed snake head writhes in a pool of blood.

Title Card: MEDUSA

4 EXT. ACROPOLIS - DAY (EARLIER THAT DAY)

4

A parade of excited Athenians line up with gifts of robes, fruits, and animals.

5 EXT. PARTHENON - DAY

5

Medusa, now with tawny skin, auburn hair, and striking green eyes, stands at the columned entrance. She receives people's offerings. Passes them to a Young Priestess (15).

A MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN brings a large vase of oil to Medusa.

MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN
Medusa! Beautiful as always.
(hushed, to Young
Priestess)
She could be a priestess of
Aphrodite!

Medusa looks down, bashful. She takes the vase.

MEDUSA
Kind words, Thessa, but I'm more
than grateful to service Athena.

The Woman smiles and leaves.

Next, a Young Man, gives Medusa a fat hen.

MEDUSA (cont'd)
May Athena grant you grace, Nico.

YOUNG MAN
If Athena has any grace, she'd
grant me a night with you.

He gives a creepy smirk. Leaves.

Medusa gives the hen to the Young Priestess. They share a creeped-out look.

Next, an older NICE MAN chuckles. He hands a glistening sword to Medusa.

NICE MAN

Ah, Medusa. You are too often
plagued with these compliments.

Medusa takes his gift. Hands it to the Young Priestess.

MEDUSA

They mean well. May Athena grant
you grace.

6 INT. PARTHENON - DAY

6

A massive gold-and-ivory statue of Athena dominates the
room. Livestock chained to the wall.

Medusa walks toward the statue with a bowl of figs.

The Young Priestess enters.

YOUNG PRIESTESS

High Priestess? I've prepared all
the animals for the ceremony, I've
set out all the oils and fruits. Is
there anything else... Or....

MEDUSA

Yes, you can go join the
festivities. You've done your
duties well.

Young Priestess beams. Bolts for the exit but stops.

YOUNG PRIESTESS

You are welcome to join me.

MEDUSA

Go on ahead. I should tend to the
temple first.

YOUNG PRIESTESS

You do not have to be alone here
all the time.

MEDUSA

I'm not alone.

Young Priestess nods. Exits.

Medusa smiles. Carries the offerings to the statue.

MEDUSA (cont'd)

The people of Athens adore you,
Lady Athena. The best harvest, the
(MORE)

MEDUSA (cont'd)
best animals. The day is next to
perfect.

ATHENA (O.S.)
I expect no less.

Medusa smirks. Looks up to see ATHENA (F, early 30s), tall
with an air of maturity, walk out from behind the statue.
She smiles. Moves to Medusa and embraces her.

ATHENA
Rest now, love. You've done well
with preparations. I wish for you
to enjoy my celebration.

MEDUSA
I do. Every moment in your
presence. All of it devoted to you.

ATHENA
I have always admired how mortals
devote their entire being to
something. It is beautiful.

MEDUSA
How beautiful?

ATHENA
Unparalleled.

Athena tucks Medusa's hair behind her ear.

ATHENA (cont'd)
Shall we hold our festivities here?

MEDUSA
I'd rather we find somewhere more
private.

A MOO. Athena looks to a chained bull. Narrows her eyes.

MEDUSA (cont'd)
The man who gifted it thought it
would amuse you.

ATHENA
How right he was.

She strides over. Glares down at the bull.

ATHENA (cont'd)
I am almost tempted to gut it here.
Filthy creature. A beast befitting
such an abhorrent god.

Medusa joins her.

ATHENA (cont'd)
I wish it were him. The world would
be a better place without men like
Poseidon.

Athena cracks a grin.

ATHENA (cont'd)
Shall we get rid of them all?

MEDUSA
Leave them be, Athena.

ATHENA
I am sorry my thoughts soured the
mood. I only want this day to be
perfect.

Athena looks to Medusa.

ATHENA (cont'd)
But I see now that it already is.

7 EXT. ACROPOLIS - NIGHT

7

On a platformed stage, the festival ROARS.

Calloused hands SMACK a stretched-hide drum. Delicate nails
PLUCK a lyre. PARTYGOERS STAMP their feet and dance around a
bonfire of SIZZLING meats.

A PRIESTESS buries her knife into a bull's belly. TEARS it
open. Everyone CHEERS and CLAPS.

8 INT. PARTHENON - NIGHT

8

Medusa nurses the fires at either side of Athena's statue.
Places new logs and branches. CRACKLE.

She stands, gaze still on the fires. Bumps into an OLDER MAN
with salt-and-pepper hair and beard. He wears a short cape
tied with a trident pin.

MEDUSA
Apologies.

OLDER MAN
Why aren't you out enjoying the
festivities like the rest?

MEDUSA

My responsibilities are here.

OLDER MAN

Ah, I see now. Forgive my bad eyes.
You are the Priestess Medusa.

MEDUSA

Indeed I am. Pardon, I don't
recognize you.

OLDER MAN

I'm just a sailor.

MEDUSA

Well, I encourage you to join the
party. Make good with the time you
have on land.

Medusa turns. Older Man steps in her path.

MEDUSA (cont'd)

You must excuse me.

She skirts past. Older Man grabs her wrist. Flames glimmer
in his eyes.

She tugs. He tightens.

A strand of Medusa's hair falls in her face. Older Man
brushes it aside.

OLDER MAN

Such soft, slick hair.

He trails a finger down her cheek. She paralyzes, eyes wide.

Medusa's breath shortens. He steps closer.

MEDUSA

My sisters are waiting for me. I
mustn't-- I mustn't keep them
waiting.

Older Man shoves Medusa against the statue's platform. Pins
her down. Flicks a hand toward the entrance, and the temple
doors SLAM shut.

Medusa startles. Stares in horror at the Older Man. This is
not just an Older Man; this is POSEIDON.

He gazes down at Medusa. She writhes. Tries to push him
away.

She looks up to the Athena statue's face desperately. Its stoic, jeweled eyes refract red.

MEDUSA (O.S.)
No, please! I-- Stop!

The RUFFLE of clothes.

MEDUSA (O.S.) (cont'd)
NO!

9 EXT. OLIVE GROVE - NIGHT

9

INTENSE DRUMMING. LAUGHING. Medusa runs. Hyperventilates. Clutches her hands to her chest.

Her hair falls out one-by-one, then in chunks. Medusa grips the loose strands. Trembles.

She glances over her shoulder as she flees. Her pores shift to scattered, emerald scales.

BAF. Medusa SLAMS into Nice Man.

NICE MAN
Oh, excuse m--

He meets Medusa's yellow, slitted eyes. The CRACKING of STONE. He looks down-- a rough, dark-gray stone creeps up his legs, waist, then chest. His face contorts. He chokes a SHRIEK. Puts up his arms. Petrifies.

Medusa stumbles back. Stares at the stone man.

SLITHER... Medusa turns about herself. Chest steeply rises and falls. A HISSING GROWS as she sprints away into...

10 INT./EXT. GAZEBO - NIGHT

10

Medusa collapses before a shield-toting maiden statue.

She SOBS. Looks up. Catches her reflection in the polished bronze shield-- A serpent-like creature stares back.

Medusa SCREAMS.

11 INT./EXT. GAZEBO - LATER

11

The severed snake head lies motionless. A string of blood leads to Medusa who sobs on the floor, trembling.

Sandal SHUFFLES approach and stop. The snakes glance up. Bow their heads.

From behind, Athena looks down at Medusa pitifully.

ATHENA
My sweet priestess...

Athena crouches beside Medusa. Presses a hand to her head. Cauterizes the wound. Medusa winces.

ATHENA (cont'd)
Rest assured, Poseidon shall pay
for this transgression. Crossing me
I can understand, but you...?
(under her breath)
He disrespected my head priestess,
in my temple on the day of my
procession? This was a premeditated
attack.

Medusa slowly rises. Meets Athena's gaze in the shield's reflection. Athena quickly looks away.

MEDUSA
What has he done to me?

ATHENA
Taken you. And everything you've
worked for.

Medusa whips around, monstrous features on full display.

MEDUSA
Where were you?!

Athena steps back.

MEDUSA (cont'd)
Answer me.

ATHENA
Every decision I ever made was to
protect you. Know that and know
that well. Do not begin to doubt me
now.

MEDUSA
You did this...? You watched as
he--

Medusa's words catch in her throat. Clamps a hand over her mouth. Heavy tears spill. Turns away.

ATHENA

There's no need for tears. This is
a blessing!

MEDUSA

Look at me! Do you expect me to
thank you?

ATHENA

I did not--

MEDUSA

What stopped you? All you want is
to protect me, what stopped you
now?

ATHENA

(sighs)

I did what was right, Medusa.

MEDUSA

He hurt me!

The snakes HISS, rise to their full height.

Athena deflates. Glances aside.

MEDUSA (cont'd)

(chokes a sob)

He....

ATHENA

The hardest decisions in this world
tear us from the ones we love.
Always remember that love, and you
will see this through.

She turns to leave.

ATHENA (cont'd)

Athens is not safe for you anymore.
Go, and I will find you.

A breeze flickers the torch light, and Athena vanishes.
Medusa shuts her eyes. Her tears fall onto the marble below.

12 EXT. SERIFOS - NIGHT (FIVE YEARS LATER)

12

Waves CRASH against the island. A warmly-lit palace perches
on a hill overlooking the town.

13 INT. PALACE - HALL - NIGHT

13

Guests in fine garments relax around the spacious room. Wine bearers shuffle around and fill cups.

POLYDECTES (M, 50s), wearing a crown and a wine-stained gold-embroidered robe, chugs from a chalice. He dons a trident pin and watches an ACTOR's performance.

ACTOR

(overly dramatic)

The man approached the monster's cave to attempt to have the island saved. But when her head of snakes was shown, the tragic hero turned to stone!

PERSEUS (M, 19), scrawny in commoner's clothing, enters and looks around. Tries to get the attention of a WEALTHY GUEST.

PERSEUS

Excuse me, have you seen --

The Guest greets him, bright.

WEALTHY GUEST

Ah, wine bearer! Please, a refill.

The Guest hands Perseus his chalice.

PERSEUS

No, I'm --

The Guest walks off. Perseus sets down the chalice and looks across the hall to see DANAË (F, late 30s), eyeshadow concealing a kind, wrinkled face. She talks to Polydectes.

Perseus sighs and leans against a column.

ANDROMEDA (O.S.)

I don't know what anyone sees in that man.

PERSEUS

(disgusted)

He's royalty.

Perseus turns to see ANDROMEDA (F, early 20s). Jewels adorn her elaborate cornrows, braided back into an afro-puff.

PERSEUS (cont'd)

Oh! I'm so sorry.

ANDROMEDA

Rich people and their joys, right?

PERSEUS

I'm sure you're a lovely person.

ANDROMEDA

I'm not offended. Actually, I respect your sentiments.

PERSEUS

Huh?

She offers her hand.

ANDROMEDA

Andromeda.

Perseus stares at her hand. Then takes it and plants a kiss.

PERSEUS

Oh, I know. People speak wonders of the beautiful princess from Aethiopia.

ANDROMEDA

Damot, if you don't mind.

PERSEUS

Damot. I'd love to visit.

ANDROMEDA

Well, Serifos has been kind to me, but I wonder. What do the people really think of me?

PERSEUS

I hear you treat each of your subjects with equal respect. We could use someone like you.

ANDROMEDA

I was always taught it was better to care for those around you.

PERSEUS

They'll have to add wisdom to that list of rumors about you.

Andromeda smiles. Sips from her cup.

Across the room, Polydectes catches sight of Perseus and Andromeda.

ANDROMEDA
I don't think I got your name.

PERSEUS
Oh, it's --

POLYDECTES (O.S.)
PERSEUS!

Perseus and Andromeda turn to Polydectes, his tipsy face a shade of red.

PERSEUS
Polydectes.

POLYDECTES
King Polydectes. I'm surprised to see you.

PERSEUS
I'm here for my mother.

POLYDECTES
And what about my gift?

Perseus opens his mouth, hesitates, closes it.

POLYDECTES (cont'd)
I expect a gift.

Danaë grabs Polydectes's hand.

DANAË
Polydectes, please.

POLYDECTES
Since this young man has not brought anything, I propose some entertainment. A fight.

DANAË
This is foolish.

PERSEUS
I accept.

Danaë shoots Perseus a look. Polydectes grins.

POLYDECTES
Alkibiades!

ALKIBIADES (M, 20s), ripped muscles, emerges from the crowd. Perseus gulps.

Polydectes claps twice, and the partygoers clear the center of the room. Only Perseus and Alkibiades are left.

PERSEUS

How about we just draw straws?

ALKIBIADES

Fight me like a Greek!

Alkibiades tears away his tunic to reveal his nudity.

PERSEUS

Oh. If we have to.

Perseus slowly removes his top, revealing his gangly torso.

The Crowd LAUGHS and SNICKERS.

Alkibiades runs at Perseus and throws a punch. They fight.

POLYDECTES

Look, Andromeda! My boy's a powerhouse! A perfect pick for marriage, wouldn't you agree?

Andromeda shakes her head in disgust. Walks away. Perseus watches her exit.

PERSEUS

Andromeda! Wait!

Alkibiades grabs Perseus and hurls him onto a table.

CRASH. Perseus shakes his head to clear it then grabs a chalice next to him. Chucks it at Alkibiades's head.

THONK. Alkibiades stumbles back, clutching his bleeding forehead. He lunges at Perseus and grapples him into a chokehold. Perseus struggles.

DANAË

Stop this!

POLYDECTES

Perseus, do you surrender?

Perseus claws at Alkibiades's arm.

POLYDECTES (cont'd)

Surrender, Perseus.

PERSEUS

(choking)

I -- I surrender.

Alkibiades releases Perseus, raises his fists in victory. A simmer of CHUCKLES and CLAPS.

POLYDECTES

Well done, boy. Perseus, that was... to be expected.

Perseus catches his breath.

PERSEUS

Still not down. I'm the son of Zeus.

Perseus gets in a fighting pose, visibly tired.

POLYDECTES

Well, son of Zeus. Let's put your name to the test. I want you to trek to the gorgon's cave. She's plagued this island for years. Slay the creature, and bring me her head. Easy enough for the son of Zeus.

Perseus fills with fear. He looks to Danaë. She turns away. He clenches his jaw and looks back to Polydectes with a determination.

PERSEUS

I'll get you the monster's head. But you might not keep yours.

The crowd falls to a hush. Polydectes relaxes back into his throne with a smirk.

Perseus turns to leave. Danaë grabs his arm.

DANAË

Perseus, stop. I won't let you risk your life to prove a point.

PERSEUS

This is more than just proving a point, Mom. Let me do this.

He pulls his arm free and exits.

14 EXT. MEDUSA'S CAVE - NIGHT

14

Shadows conceal the entrance of a cavern in the island's remote wilderness. The palace in the far-off distance.

15 INT. MEDUSA'S CAVE - NIGHT

15

A dank cave filled with dozens of petrified people in various positions of terror.

Medusa sits at a small makeshift shrine of rat bones. Her clothes tattered. Eyes wide and bloodshot.

She rips off some of her tunic. Takes a statuette of Athena from a petrified hand. Wraps the cloth around it.

MEDUSA

Hello, Athena. Medusa again.
Nothing particularly special today.
I didn't wake up in a damp puddle
this time. Oh, and I found a rat!
Now he's part of my shrine to you.

Medusa forces a smile. One of her snakes bites her ear. She smacks it away. Puts the statuette back down.

MEDUSA (cont'd)

I know it's been a while, but I'm
sure she has her reasons. Gods are
busy. They do have the whole world
to think about. It could be worse.

She looks at the statues around her.

MEDUSA (cont'd)

I think.

Her snakes stretch toward the cave's exit.

MEDUSA (cont'd)

I know. It would be nice.

She stares at the exit, to the moonlight and fresh air.

MEDUSA (cont'd)

Even if it's gorgeous out. No! No,
I can't. It never works. Remember
last time?

She looks to a petrified family, all faces of fright except their smiling goat.

Her snakes HISS in protest. A sudden RUSTLE from the cave startles Medusa. She whips around.

MEDUSA (cont'd)

Who's there?

The snakes perk up, fangs out. Medusa shuffles cautiously toward the entrance, moving through the shadows.

MEDUSA (cont'd)
You need to leave now before you
get hurt. I beg of you, please.

She reaches the cave's mouth to find... no-one.

A familiar voice from behind. She whips around to look at the statuette.

ATHENA (V.O.)
My sweet priestess.

Medusa is overwhelmed with shock and glee. She hurries to the statuette. Her face inches from it.

MEDUSA
You're here! You finally came!
Where have you been? Can I see you?

ATHENA (V.O.)
I can't.

MEDUSA
You can't? What do you mean you
can't? It's been so long. After all
these years you can't even --

ATHENA (V.O.)
Medusa. This is important.

Medusa steps back and shrivels.

MEDUSA
Right. Of course.

She rubs her scales with an anxiousness. The snakes nuzzle her cheeks.

ATHENA (V.O.)
I have found a way to restore your
human form.

MEDUSA
A cure?

ATHENA (V.O.)
It is on the isle of Thirío. There
the Oracle of Asclepius awaits. You
haven't much time. You must leave
now.

MEDUSA

Why an oracle? Why not you?

ATHENA (V.O.)

Good luck, my priestess. May your journey be blessed. I trust you'll follow the right path.

MEDUSA

Wait. What has taken so long?

Silence.

MEDUSA (cont'd)

Athena?

She pokes the statuette. Waits for a response.

MEDUSA (cont'd)

I just want to talk.

She furrows her brow then stands up straight. Goes across the cave to pick up a head-wrap off a stalagmite. She ties it over her snakes. Grabs a veil and droops it over her face.

MEDUSA (cont'd)

That's enough of you for a while.
You might not think well of her,
but I still do.

She takes the statuette. The cloth tied to the statuette falls onto the floor as Medusa leaves the cave.

16 EXT. SERIFOS DOCKS - DAY

16

SAILORS tend to their ships. Servants haul ornate chests to a large, well-equipped ship with colorful sails.

Medusa, head concealed by her veil, emerges from the town and approaches the docks, glancing around at the people with a nervousness.

She slows to a stop just before stepping onto the docks. Stares off at the sea. Takes a shaky breath. Pulls her Athena statuette closer to her chest.

MEDUSA

Please protect me.

Medusa steps onto the docks. Approaches a sailor.

MEDUSA (cont'd)
Hello, do you know where Thirío is?

He ignores her.

She walks off and approaches another SAILOR.

MEDUSA (cont'd)
Excuse me, could you offer passage
to --

SAILOR
Max capacity.

He steps off the dock onto a small rowboat and paddles away.

Nearby, Perseus arrives at the docks and approaches the large ship. He attempts to board it, but the DOCKMASTER standing beside the gangplank steps in front of him.

DOCKMASTER
No entry.

The Dockmaster sees two servants approach with a chest. He pulls Perseus aside to let the servants board.

PERSEUS
I'm here to see Princess Andromeda.

DOCKMASTER
You and every other guy around
here.

PERSEUS
It's really important that I see
her. We met last night --

DOCKMASTER
You think you're special, kid?

Aboard the large ship, Andromeda steps to the railing and looks down to see Perseus.

DOCKMASTER (cont'd)
Makada Andromeda is not taking
visitors.

Andromeda descends the gangplank.

ANDROMEDA
It's okay. He's a friend.

The Dockmaster bows and steps off to the side. Perseus smiles as Andromeda approaches him.

PERSEUS
You're leaving already?

ANDROMEDA
Serifos is beautiful, but I can't
say the same for its court.

She brushes a bruise on Perseus's cheek. He grimaces.

ANDROMEDA (cont'd)
Was it worth it?

PERSEUS
It will be. One day.

ANDROMEDA
I hope so. I did enjoy meeting you,
Perseus.

PERSEUS
You as well... *Makada*?

Andromeda smiles.

ANDROMEDA
You're welcome to join me. There
are many things to see beyond this
horizon.

PERSEUS
Oh my, I- Thank you, but... My
mother, she....

MEDUSA (O.S.)
Please.

Andromeda and Perseus turn to see Medusa approach the
Dockmaster.

MEDUSA
I need to get to the Isle of
Thirío.

Medusa grabs the Dockmaster's sleeve.

DOCKMASTER
This ship is off limits.

ANDROMEDA
No, it's not. What's wrong?

MEDUSA

I need to get to Thirío. Athena
sends me there to seek the Oracle
of Asclepius.

ANDROMEDA

What for?

MEDUSA

... Healing.
(hesitates)
A man attacked me.

ANDROMEDA

I apologize. I didn't mean to pry.
I will take you to this island.

MEDUSA

Will your captain approve?

ANDROMEDA

My dear, this ship sails anywhere I
command it. Captain!

The CAPTAIN (M, 40s), bald and well-built, appears at the
ship's railing.

CAPTAIN

Yes, *Makada*.

ANDROMEDA

How far to Thirío?

CAPTAIN

Thirío?! Forgive me, but no ships
sail there.

ANDROMEDA

Then, we'll be the first.

Medusa bows her head.

MEDUSA

May Athena bless you for your
kindness.

ANDROMEDA

Will you be joining us Perseus?

Perseus looks off to the distant palace.

PERSEUS

My obligations are here.

ANDROMEDA
I understand.

Andromeda kisses Perseus on the cheek.

ANDROMEDA (cont'd)
Goodbye, Perseus.

Perseus stands shocked as Andromeda leads Medusa up the gangplank.

Perseus clears his throat and turns to see every sailor staring slack-jawed. He holds his head high and leaves.

Andromeda and Medusa board the large ship.

MEDUSA
Forgive me, but I didn't catch your name.

17 EXT. MEDUSA'S CAVE - DAY

17

Perseus lingers before the cave's shadowy entrance. An EERIE silence permeates the area.

He wears shabby armor too loose and cumbersome for his scrawny stature. His helmet bobbles on his head, and he readjusts it.

PERSEUS
Come on, Perseus. Stick to the plan. Go in there, slay the monster, get the head. Okay?

He unsheathes a short sword and struggles to lift it. Cautiously tiptoes into the cave.

PERSEUS (cont'd)
Go in there, slay the monster... Slay the... Slay the....

He quickly makes a one-eighty and comes back outside.

PERSEUS (cont'd)
Holy Hades, slay the monster?! I think I missed a few steps.

He takes several deep breaths.

PERSEUS (cont'd)
Okay, relax. You're doing this for a reason. This is for your honor. This is for mom.

He readjusts his helmet and readies his sword. After one final deep breath, he runs into the cave.

PERSEUS (cont'd)
AHHHHHH!

18 INT. MEDUSA'S CAVE - DAY

18

Perseus runs in to see the numerous petrified people. He halts and stands motionless as he cuts his battle cry short. It ECHOES and succumbs to silence.

He holds his sword ready to strike and walks the length of the cave.

He comes to a statue of a petrified man. He pokes the statue's head with his finger. The petrified man tips over and SMASHES against the rocky floor, shattering into a thousand pieces. Perseus cringes.

PERSEUS
(hushed)
Sorry! Ah, sorry!

He glances around the cave. Waits for any sign of movement. Spots a rat in the shadows. Startles. Watches the rat run over to the rat-bone shrine and sniff at it.

Perseus moves toward the rat-bone shrine. Stares at it with disgust. Stifles a vomit and swallows.

He turns to see some snake shedding on the ground. He pokes it with the tip of his sword and inspects it.

PERSEUS (cont'd)
Ugh...

He tries to shake the shedding off his sword, but it's stuck. He shakes the sword again a bit too hard, loses his balance, and falls backwards onto his back.

He groans and turns his head to find a strip of cloth on the ground. He stands, moves to the cloth, and picks it up. It matches the same material Medusa wore.

His eyes widen.

PERSEUS (cont'd)
Oh, gods.

19 EXT. SERIFOS DOCKS - DAY

19

Perseus runs to the end of the dock. Spots Andromeda's ship on the horizon.

PERSEUS
Andromeda!

He lingers for a moment. He turns around.

PERSEUS (cont'd)
Dockmaster!

The Dockmaster lies atop some crates underneath a tent. He looks annoyedly over to Perseus.

PERSEUS (cont'd)
Ready the Priapic Wood.

DOCKMASTER
She's all set.

Perseus grins. Hurries along the dock past successively less-impressive ships until he comes to a tiny, weathered dinghy with faded lettering: "THE PRIAPIC WOOD"

He step down into it with pride and unfurls the sail. A patch of canvas falls away from the sail, revealing a large hole. He grabs the patch, dunks it in a nearby bucket of glue, and smacks the patch over the sail's hole.

20 EXT. ANDROMEDA'S SHIP - DAY

20

The prow glides through the sea.

Medusa sits at the foredeck. Grips her Athena statuette. Nervously stares off at the water. Shakes her head.

MEDUSA
He's not here. He's not here.

Across the deck, Andromeda speaks with the Captain. Crosses her arms.

ANDROMEDA
There's no harm in a two-day extension.

CAPTAIN
Orders are orders, *Makada*.

Andromeda looks over the Captain's shoulder to spot Medusa fidgeting.

CAPTAIN (cont'd)
We must obey the King's --

Andromeda puts a finger to the Captain's mouth, silencing him mid-sentence.

She saunters across the deck to Medusa. Medusa startles at the approach. Averts her eyes.

MEDUSA
Your Highness.

ANDROMEDA
Please, no need for formality.

She loosely points at Medusa's veil.

ANDROMEDA (cont'd)
And fear not the crewmen. They are
not like your lovely Grecian men.

Andromeda removes her brooch and frees her hair.

ANDROMEDA (cont'd)
See?

Medusa shakes her head fervently.

MEDUSA
It'll offend my goddess.

ANDROMEDA
Right. The "virgin goddess".
(snorts)
Heavenly, and yet, not so
different.

MEDUSA
How do you mean?

ANDROMEDA
I mean, where else did we get our
innate pride, our innate
selfishness? To be virgin is to be
pure, but none of us are, just as
the gods. In our image, after all.

MEDUSA
(gasps)
Please!

ANDROMEDA

(laughs)

Your gods shouldn't take offense,
don't worry. I don't speak for
them.

Medusa looks up to the cloudless sky. The calm sea. She
slumps, perplexed.

MEDUSA

Who do you speak for then?

ANDROMEDA

Those not so different from yours.
The sun, the moon, the stars.

MEDUSA

Do you not fear them?

ANDROMEDA

Why would I fear those meant to
protect me?

Medusa curls around the statuette. Andromeda sits beside
her.

ANDROMEDA (cont'd)

I remember the stories my
grandmother used to tell. She and I
would sit on the highest cliff and
recount how Behr and Medr's rage
created our mighty kingdom. And
she'd hold me close till sunset.

(sighs)

She taught me everything. Much more
than any tutor. She taught me to
love things as they are. The
prickly grass, the raging seas, the
venomous lizards... Because they're
beautiful in their own ways. Maybe
I can't appreciate how grass makes
me itch, but someone does.

Medusa stares at the statuette. Andromeda stands. Stretches.

ANDROMEDA (cont'd)

You know what else my grandmother
taught me?

MEDUSA

What?

ANDROMEDA

To appreciate quiet people. Because
you always know they're listening.

She walks off. Medusa smiles behind her veil.

21 INT. ANDROMEDA'S SHIP - CABIN - NIGHT**21**

A cramped, but rustically charming cabin. Andromeda removes her jewelry and outer clothing. Washes her face with water from a wooden bowl. FLOPS onto a nice bed. Closes her eyes.

The GROANING of the SHIP'S WOOD fades away to HONKING SEAGULLS and CALM WAVES.

22 DREAM SEQUENCE - EXT. ANDROMEDA'S SHIP - DAY**22**

Crewmen haul ropes. Heave oars. Unfurl the sails.

Andromeda stands at the railing. Waves to her parents standing on the dock below. They clutch each other. Stare back at her in resigned fear. Andromeda furrows her brow and looks down.

23 EXT. SEASIDE CLIFF - DAY**23**

Andromeda looks down to find she stands on a rock. Her hands manacled. She lifts them, their CHAINS CLINKING.

The chains pull back, and Andromeda SLAMS against up against the cliff. THUNDER BOOMS, and rain pelts her. More chains wrap around her waist. They tighten.

She looks out to the vast, stormy sea. The waters below quickly rises. Submerge her feet, then her waist, her chest. She takes a deep breath as the seawater rises over her head.

24 EXT. UNDERWATER - DAY**24**

Andromeda struggles against the chains. In the watery abyss before her, a massive pair of yellow-slitted eyes open. A MASSIVE MEDUSA head appears in the murky darkness.

A light gleams from the huge eyes. Andromeda tenses. A ROCKY CRACKLING as she begins to petrify. She CRIES OUT as her entire head turns to stone.

25 INT. ANDROMEDA'S SHIP - CABIN - DAY**25**

Andromeda's eyes shoot open. She hyperventilates, sweat pouring down her brow.

The boat ROCKS steeply. She tumbles into the wall. STOMPS from above. MUFFLED SHOUTS.

Andromeda gets out bed, throws on an outer layer, and rushes out the door.

26 EXT. ANDROMEDA'S SHIP - DAY**26**

A dark, cloudy storm rages. Heavy rain. Violent waves toss the ship as the crew fight to furl the sails.

Andromeda arrives on deck. Sees Medusa clinging to the mast, statuette in hand and her clothes soaked through. Medusa holds on to her head-wrap and veil as the wind threatens to strip it away.

Andromeda moves toward Medusa, but a wave CRASHES into the hull and rocks the ship. Andromeda stumbles. Regains her balance and hurries to Medusa.

She grabs Medusa's hand and holds onto the mast.

ANDROMEDA

Are you okay?!

Medusa nods frantically.

The Captain turns the wheel to face the ship into an oncoming wave.

CAPTAIN

Brace!

The ship's bow punches through the wave. Seawater sloshes over the railing and floods the deck.

ANDROMEDA

(to Medusa)

Stay here!

Andromeda runs for a tumbling bucket and snatches it before it falls overboard.

ANDROMEDA (cont'd)

Bail!

She shovels the water off the deck with her bucket. The crew grab buckets and help bail.

Medusa looks around at the violent sea. Spots a massive scaled body disappear under the water.

The Captain points to where the scaled body submerged.

CAPTAIN

Stations, men! The beast is back!

ANDROMEDA

What's back?!

The head of a GIANT SEA SERPENT bursts out of the water. ROARS then runs the length of its body against the side of the ship, flooding more water onto the deck.

The Serpent plunges back underwater, causing a wave to CRASH into the ship. Crewmen fall overboard. The Serpent's tail SMACKS the surface as it submerges. Another wave CRASHES. All hold on for their lives.

Medusa watches in horror. One of her snakes wriggles out from underneath her head-wrap. HISSES.

MEDUSA

No, I can't!

Her snake HISSES again.

MEDUSA (cont'd)

They'll see what I am!

Her snake nods. She stares at it for a moment before letting go of the mast.

Medusa stumbles to the side of the ship. Looks out to see the Serpent resurface. It ROARS. The crew and Andromeda cower behind cover, but Medusa stands firm at the railing.

She pulls away her veil and head-wrap, unleashing her writhing mass of snakes.

Across the deck, Andromeda peaks out from cover to see Medusa's scaled neck and her snake hair.

Medusa looks at the Sea Serpent's tail. A gleam of light shines in her eyes, but her snakes quickly cover her face.

MEDUSA (cont'd)

Hey! Stop!

The Sea Serpent watches its tail turn to stone.

Medusa brushes her snakes away. Watches with anger until the Sea Serpent talks.

SEA SERPENT

Aw. Why'd you have to do that?

She shakes her head, confused. The Sea Serpent frowns at its petrified tail.

SEA SERPENT (cont'd)

I was just scratching an itch.
Sorry to be a bother.

The Sea Serpent plunges back into the water and swims off toward an island in the distance surrounded by clear skies and calm waters.

Medusa watches it leave. Looks to her snakes.

MEDUSA

Why can't you talk?

Her snakes shrug.

CAPTAIN

Land ho!

Medusa hurriedly ties on her head-wrap and puts on her veil, concealing her snakes and face.

The ship emerges into sunny, peaceful waters.

Andromeda approaches Medusa.

ANDROMEDA

What was that?

MEDUSA

What?

ANDROMEDA

Sara, your hair.

MEDUSA

What about my hair?

ANDROMEDA

I saw something in your --

She reaches for Medusa's veil but Medusa pushes Andromeda's arm away.

MEDUSA

I don't know what you think you saw, but please don't touch me.

ANDROMEDA
I apologize. I could've sworn --

MEDUSA
You bumped your head. Go lie down.

The ship nears the island. Andromeda stares off at its shores and furrows her brow.

ANDROMEDA
I think I may have to.

Medusa looks to the island. Tilts her head.

27 EXT. THIRÍO BEACH - DAY

27

Various MYTHICAL MONSTERS lounge and play about. Beyond, a village of caves set into the rocks of the island.

28 EXT. THIRÍO DOCKS - DAY

28

Andromeda's ship sails to port. Lowers the gangplank.

Medusa and Andromeda make their way down the gangplank but halt halfway when they see a well-groomed HECATONCHEIRES BELLHOP, a man with seven heads and seven pairs of arms and legs dressed in a porter's uniform.

The Bellhop hurries to them.

BELLHOP
Hello, hello! Welcome to Thirío!

Medusa takes a step away. Andromeda glances back at Medusa.

ANDROMEDA
What did you say you needed to come here for?

BELLHOP
I hope your travels were pleasant.
May I take your bags?

ANDROMEDA
That won't be necessary.

BELLHOP
Then may I help you down?

The Bellhop extends all his arms. Andromeda chuckles awkwardly. Rests a hand in one of the Bellhop's. Walks down onto the docks.

The Bellhop offers another hand to Medusa. She leans away. Clutches her statuette as she scurries to join Andromeda.

ANDROMEDA
What is this place?

BELLHOP
The finest spa and resort a monster can find.

ANDROMEDA
What makes you so certain that we are monsters?

BELLHOP
I'm not looking to discriminate. Whether you have seven heads or one or none, we will provide first-rate relaxation.

MEDUSA
Pardon, but we're looking for someone. Is there any chance you know where the Oracle of Asclepius is?

The Bellhop puts seven fingers to seven chins.

BELLHOP
Oh, the Oracle's Temple! What you'll want to do is follow the path to the left, then to the right, then another right. When you get to the signpost, take a left and follow the path straight on from there! Got that?

ANDROMEDA
Not --

MEDUSA
Yes, thank you!

Medusa speed-walks in the direction the Bellhop indicated. Andromeda smiles at the Bellhop and follows Medusa.

29 EXT. ORACLE'S TEMPLE - DAY

29

Medusa and Andromeda stand before the closed door of a large hut. A sign reads: "ORACLE'S TEMPLE"

MEDUSA
Not much of a temple, is it?

She forces a smile. It fades. She lingers.

ANDROMEDA

Well? Are you going in?

MEDUSA

Would you mind waiting out here? I need to do this alone.

Andromeda nods. Turns and saunters a few yards off.

Medusa steps to the hut's door.

30 INT. ORACLE'S TEMPLE - DAY

30

A haze of smoke hangs in the air. At the center of the cramped room sits a small table with a bowl of water atop it. Behind the table sits LAMIA (F, late 50s), haggard hair and untrimmed fingernails. She slouches over, face unseen.

The door opens, and Medusa enters.

MEDUSA

Hello? Are you --

LAMIA

Please shut the door.

Medusa lets the door close behind her.

LAMIA (cont'd)

Have a seat.

Medusa sits on a bed of pillows across from Lamia.

Lamia fishes her hand into the bowl of water and retrieves two eyeballs from within.

She lifts her head to reveal her empty eye sockets. She pops the eyeballs back into her head with a SQUELCH.

Medusa squirms in her seat. Holds the Athena statuette close to her chest.

LAMIA (cont'd)

It's nice to see a fresh face in here. So, what would you like to know?

MEDUSA

I was told you could help me find a cure.

LAMIA

Perhaps. I cannot guarantee. Life
is what the gods will it.

MEDUSA

Athena said you would know what to
do.

LAMIA

Athena is not the one in control
here. Let's see what fate your
thread spins.

Lamia pulls out a tiny chest. Opens it to reveal old, brown
teeth inside. She smiles, revealing her toothless gums.

She scoops out the teeth from the chest. Holds her cupped
hands above the table and drops the teeth.

The teeth SCATTER and come to a rest. She studies them.

LAMIA (cont'd)

Oh, dear.

MEDUSA

What?

LAMIA

Mmm, that's no good. Best not worry
yourself about any of this, dear.

MEDUSA

Tell me what it says.

LAMIA

Your thread is... nearing the end.

MEDUSA

What do you mean the end?

LAMIA

There are shadows all around you.
Some that are young and some deeply
ancient. All harbingers of death.

MEDUSA

But what about the cure?

LAMIA

A cure? Yes, I see a brightness yet
to be uncovered. It's faint. A
tinge of orange. And it's
dwindling.

MEDUSA

But how do I get it?!

LAMIA

I'm sorry, dear, but my services
can only guide you so much.

MEDUSA

You just spoke in vague nothings!
What kind of Oracle are you?!

LAMIA

I am the Oracle of Thirío, and I'll
have you know that --

MEDUSA

Oracle of... Thirío?

LAMIA

Who else would you expect on the
island of Thirío?

MEDUSA

The Oracle of Asclepius.

LAMIA

I can't say I know that one, dear.

Medusa's breaths quiver and grow short. She quickly stands
and rushes out the door.

31 EXT. ORACLE'S TEMPLE - DAY

31

Medusa hurries out of the hut, flustered.

Andromeda leans against a nearby tree. Sees Medusa come out.

ANDROMEDA

Sara?

Medusa stares off with glazed eyes.

MEDUSA

There must be some mistake. Athena
said that the Oracle would be here.
Why aren't they here?

ANDROMEDA

Maybe we're in the wrong place.

MEDUSA

But she promised.

Andromeda moves to Medusa. Rests a hand on her shoulder.

ANDROMEDA

You will find the Oracle. You just need to be patient.

MEDUSA

I have been patient!

ANDROMEDA

You're exhausted. Let's go back to the ship and rest.

MEDUSA

No.

Medusa hurries to a nearby fork in the road. Scans the paths.

Andromeda catches up to her.

ANDROMEDA

Sara.

MEDUSA

What?

ANDROMEDA

You know I'm only trying to help.

MEDUSA

Then do something helpful.

ANDROMEDA

You're being unreasonable.

MEDUSA

I've wasted my life waiting for something that's not even here! And you don't give a damn!

ANDROMEDA

As if sailing a hundred leagues out of my way means I don't care.

MEDUSA

You know what? I think you're the one that needs to rest. You are royalty after all. I doubt you've ever had to worry about anything, Princess.

ANDROMEDA

Be grateful I even brought you here!

MEDUSA

I'd be grateful if I had someone who didn't hold me back. You on the other hand have the whole world pushing you forward and doting on you, aching to carry out your every desire.

Andromeda shakes her head.

MEDUSA (cont'd)

Just let me do what I have to do, and don't pretend like you have to follow. It's about time for your royal midday nap anyway, isn't it?

Andromeda fumes. Storms off.

Medusa watches Andromeda leave. Her heavy, angry breathing slowly subsides. Sorrow eyes of remorse.

32 EXT. ISLAND PATH - DAY

32

Andromeda marches past several huts. The docks and her ship in the distance.

A CHORUS of FAMILIAR SHOUTS over her shoulder. Andromeda whips around to look behind her. She's alone.

ANDROMEDA

Hello?

Andromeda turns about to see a deteriorated path lead to a shadowy cove on the shore.

33 INT. COVE - DAY

33

Andromeda steps into the dimness of the damp, rocky cavern.

POSEIDON (O.S.)

Hello, Princess.

Andromeda whips around. Poseidon lingers in the shadows. She studies him.

ANDROMEDA

Do I know you?

POSEIDON

You do.

ANDROMEDA

Forgive me, but your name escapes me.

Poseidon half-smiles. Steps closer.

POSEIDON

I'm here to talk about your... companion.

ANDROMEDA

Sara?

POSEIDON

Sara. Strange how she wears that veil everywhere, isn't it?

ANDROMEDA

Lots of women cover themselves.

POSEIDON

Not in the company of friends. I think you saw something in that storm.

Andromeda furrows her brow.

POSEIDON (cont'd)

And I know you saw it in your dreams.

Andromeda narrows her eyes. Steps away.

ANDROMEDA

Who are you?

POSEIDON

You know who I am.

A WAVE CRASHES against the rocks of the cove.

ANDROMEDA

What do you want with me? I'm not one of yours. I have no quarrel with the pantheon.

POSEIDON

You are involved in something very dear to me.

ANDROMEDA

Sara.

POSEIDON

Her name is Medusa.

ANDROMEDA

Stay away from her.

POSEIDON

Or what?

Andromeda glares at Poseidon. He steps uncomfortably close.

POSEIDON (cont'd)

I do not think you truly grasp who
is in control here. My domain
stretches far beyond the Aegean. It
extends to more familiar shores.

He slowly circles Andromeda.

POSEIDON (cont'd)

Your kingdom is not safe from the
sea, princess. Your land, your
loved ones, everything you've ever
cared for in this world can drown
at my command.

Another WAVE CRASHES. Water rushes over Andromeda's sandals
then recedes back into the sea.

POSEIDON (cont'd)

You alone can prevent that.

Andromeda breathes with slow heaviness.

POSEIDON (cont'd)

All you have to do is deliver
Medusa to Perseus. Let all know the
might of Damot.

Andromeda stares unblinking at Poseidon.

POSEIDON (cont'd)

She's not your friend. She never
was.

They stare at each other in silence.

Medusa hurries toward Andromeda's ship.

MEDUSA
Andromeda! Wait!

She reaches the gangplank. Sees only the crew.

MEDUSA (cont'd)
Andromeda, please. I'm sorry.

Aboard the ship, the Captain takes notice of Medusa.

CAPTAIN
Have you seen the princess?

MEDUSA
She's not with you?

CAPTAIN
What do you mean she's not with me?
She was with you! You were supposed
to keep an eye on her! Go fetch
her. We must be off.

MEDUSA
I don't think she wants to see me.

ANDROMEDA (O.S.)
Captain.

Medusa and the Captain turn to see Andromeda stride up the docks. She walks past Medusa without even giving her a glance. Goes up the gangplank onto...

35 EXT. ANDROMEDA'S SHIP - DAY

35

Andromeda boards the ship.

ANDROMEDA
Ready the ship to return to
Serifos.

CAPTAIN
At once, *Makada*.

The Captain moves off and whistles at the crew.

Andromeda sighs and puts her hands on her hips. Looks off at the horizon for a moment. Then looks down at the docks to Medusa who still stands at the foot of the gangplank.

Andromeda motions for Medusa to board.

Medusa lowers her head and boards the ship. Steps to Andromeda who keeps her gaze fixed on the horizon.

MEDUSA

I wish you never went out of your way to help me back at Serifos. Not because I'm ungrateful but because I never would have ruined the only friendship I've had in years. I'm sorry. Thank you for everything. I mean it.

Medusa turns and walks off toward the cabin door.

Andromeda's lips quiver open. A tear slips down her cheek.

ANDROMEDA

You need to get off this ship.

Medusa halts and turns back to Andromeda.

MEDUSA

What?

ANDROMEDA

Please go.

MEDUSA

So, you're just abandoning me here?

Andromeda whips around. Storms up to Medusa.

ANDROMEDA

(hushed)

I know what you are.

MEDUSA

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

ANDROMEDA

Take off your veil.

MEDUSA

(hesitates)

I can't.

ANDROMEDA

I want to help you, I do, but you're not safe with me anymore. I think your goddess sent you here for a reason. Not for the Oracle.

MEDUSA

You think I belong here? With these... things?!

ANDROMEDA

You are more like them than you
realize, Medusa.

Medusa shoves Andromeda away.

MEDUSA

What a foul creature you are.

Medusa storms off the ship and away down the docks.

Andromeda watches with a bitterness as Medusa leaves.

36 EXT. DINGHY - DUSK

36

Perseus stands valiant and drenched at the bow as his boat
sails out of stormy waters and approaches the isle of
Thirío.

37 EXT. THIRÍO BEACH - DUSK

37

Perseus's dinghy makes landfall.

He hops out onto the sand. Sees the numerous monsters
lounging along the beach. Freezes.

The monsters make eye contact with Perseus.

He unsheathes his sword.

PERSEUS

(stammers)

Uh, cower before the son of Zeus.

The crowd of monsters burst into laughter.

Perseus puffs up his chest. The crowd laughs even harder. He
deflates.

A CYCLOPS moves to Perseus. Towers over him.

Perseus swings his sword at the Cyclops's stomach. His blade
ricochets off without making a scratch.

The Cyclops takes Perseus's sword. Studies it, breaks a bit
off its tip, and files the broken tip down to a sharp point
against his abs. He hands it back to Perseus.

CYCLOPS

Try now.

Perseus again swings his sword at the Cyclops. A faint-red scratch on its stomach. The crowd of monsters CLAP politely.

CYCLOPS (cont'd)
Much better, yes?

PERSEUS
Uh, it is. Thank you.

Elsewhere further up the beach, Medusa briskly walks past lounging monsters. Notices the Sea Serpent from before slither out from the sea.

MEDUSA
Pardon.

The Sea Serpent scowls at Medusa.

MEDUSA (cont'd)
I need to get off this island. Do you think you could help me --

SEA SERPENT
Help you?

The Sea Serpent fully emerges from the water, revealing its petrified tail.

MEDUSA
Oh. Right. I am so sorry about that.

SEA SERPENT
Sorry? I just got back from my physician who told me there's a waitlist for replacement tails. A waitlist. And now the person who put me out of a job is asking me for a free ride. Unbelievable.

The Serpent slinks off, its petrified tail dragging behind.

Medusa slumps. Continues further past the crowds until she sees an unattended dinghy in the sand.

She approaches the dinghy then looks around to spot Perseus up the beach flirting with a few sirens.

MEDUSA
Perseus?

Perseus doesn't hear her and continues gazing lovingly into one of the siren's eyes.

Medusa beams and jogs toward Perseus.

MEDUSA (cont'd)
Perseus!

Perseus notices Medusa. His smile turns to instant shock,
mouth agape.

MEDUSA (cont'd)
I am so glad to see you. What are
you doing here?

Perseus tenses. Swallows. Unblinking eyes.

MEDUSA (cont'd)
I don't mean to be a bother, but is
that your boat?

PERSEUS
Medusa.

Medusa halts. Frightens.

Perseus draws his sword.

She runs. He chases.

She weaves through the crowd of monsters. Glances over her
shoulder, Perseus hot on her tail.

Medusa runs toward the dinghy. Pushes it out into the
lapping water.

PERSEUS (O.S.)
Don't touch my Wood!

Medusa turns around. Perseus swing down at her with his
sword. Medusa jumps out of the way. Perseus's blade cleaves
into the dinghy. He tries to pull it out, but it's stuck.

Medusa shoves Perseus, and he falls over into the sand.

Medusa walks into the ocean. Pushes the dinghy further out.
Climbs aboard and rows.

Perseus gets up and runs until he is waist-deep in the
water. Watches Medusa paddle away.

PERSEUS
I will find you! Your head will be
mine!

38 EXT. DINGHY - DUSK**38**

Medusa kicks the sword lodged in the dinghy's edge. It sinks into the sea.

She pulls out her Athena statuette. Embraces it. Sets it down on the deck. Looks to the storm on the horizon.

39 EXT. THIRÍO BEACH - NIGHT**39**

Perseus wrings out his tunic. Slips it back on. Notices the torchlight on the nearby docks illuminates Andromeda's ship. He grins.

40 EXT. THIRÍO DOCKS - NIGHT**40**

Perseus walks toward Andromeda's ship. Tidies his hair. Sees the crew untie the ship from the dock.

PERSEUS

Wait!

The ship slowly casts off. Perseus hustles to catch up.

PERSEUS (cont'd)

Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait!

Aboard the ship, Andromeda appears at the railing with a sour look.

Perseus slows his pace and plays it cool.

PERSEUS (cont'd)

'Dromeda, funny seeing you here.

He stumbles over a pile of rope. Hurries to keep pace with the ship. Not much dock left for him to run.

PERSEUS (cont'd)

Look, I would appreciate it if you could spare a bunk or even just some floor-space so I can, uh, return to Serifos.

ANDROMEDA

Sail back yourself. There's nothing for you here.

Perseus reaches the end of the dock. The boat slowly continues on.

PERSEUS

Ah, another funny thing. A monster stole my boat.

ANDROMEDA

What monster?

PERSEUS

(mumbled, ashamed)

The gorgon Medusa.

Andromeda looks out to sea. Spots a dinghy in the distance. Glares. Picks up some rope and casts it at Perseus. He catches it. Gets yanked.

41 EXT. ANDROMEDA'S SHIP - NIGHT

41

Perseus climbs over the railing, completely drenched. Slips and falls onto the deck. Hops up.

He strides past Andromeda to the bow. Faces the crew.

PERSEUS

Full sails, men! Follow my Wood!

He scans the storm on the horizon.

PERSEUS (cont'd)

Lower the anchor. It will be slow, but it's our safest bet to get back through that storm.

They ignore Perseus. He deflates. Andromeda approaches.

ANDROMEDA

Is that true? Would that be safer?

PERSEUS

As I know it to be.

The Captain joins the two.

CAPTAIN

Do not listen to this boy. He will maroon us all.

PERSEUS

As long as someone competent mans the wheel, we'll be fine. The man who raised me was a fisherman. Forty years on the Aegean. He and I practically lived with the waves. I know how to survive a storm.

A smile creeps on Andromeda's face.

ANDROMEDA

Men, do as my friend commands.

The Captain nods and walks off.

Perseus smiles at Andromeda.

42 EXT. DINGHY - NIGHT

42

Medusa unfurls the sail. The wind catches and blows it taut.

She glances up at the stars. Looks down and adjusts the rudder. Looks back to the sky. A hand-shaped cloud blocks out the stars, and a light rain begins. The RUMBLE of THUNDER.

Heavy rain. Strong winds. MORE THUNDER.

The boat rocks. A wave hits it. Medusa falls to the deck. Her head lands right next to the toppled Athena statuette.

Medusa stares at the statuette's stone face.

MEDUSA

Why would you send me on a false quest? How could you not guide me true? Please, I beg you. Put me back on course to be myself.

Another wave CRASHES into the boat and washes over Medusa. She coughs up seawater and looks around to see the statuette is gone.

MEDUSA (cont'd)

Athena?!

She looks around the small boat. No statuette anywhere.

MEDUSA (cont'd)

Athena!

She crawls to the railing. The statuette floats away.

MEDUSA (cont'd)

Athena!

She rows toward the drifting statuette, but a wave pushes her boat away.

MEDUSA (cont'd)

No!

The statuette disappears with the waves.

Medusa wells with tears.

MEDUSA (cont'd)

Athena.

A RIPPING behind her. She turns to see the sail tear at its bottom. She hurries over and holds it together.

The patch glued to the sail falls away, uncovering a hole.

Medusa lets go of the sail and tries to grab the patch as it flies away, but the wind sweeps it off in an instant.

A STRONG GUST hits, and the sail RIPS in two.

Medusa grabs both torn halves and tries to hold them together, but the wind knocks her down.

She gets up and grabs the oar. Paddles.

The boat nears calm waters.

Medusa paddles, strength draining with every stroke.

She paddles and paddles and paddles until the sea evens out and the rain stops.

Medusa collapses. Gazes up at the starry sky with exhausted eyes.

Her eyelids grow heavy. She falls asleep.

43 EXT. DINGHY - DAWN

43

The sun shines on Medusa's soaked, sleeping face. The boat rocks until it suddenly stops with the GRINDING of SAND.

Medusa wakes. She sits up and sees that the boat rests on a shore.

44 EXT. ATHENS BEACH - DAWN

44

Medusa climbs out of the dinghy. Her damp head-wrap contours the bodies of her snakes, veil plastered across her eyes.

She looks around and sees the Acropolis in the distance.

45 EXT. ATHENS MARKET - DAY**45**

Medusa walks through a busy street, drained of emotion.
Shoulders slumped, arms loose at her sides.

She passes an OLIVE SELLER. He double-takes when he notices
the snake-like contours beneath Medusa's head-wrap.

One of Medusa's snakes wriggles its head out and THHPS its
tongue at the Olive Seller.

Medusa continues on with a thousand-yard stare. The steps of
the Acropolis ahead.

46 EXT. PARTHENON - DAY**46**

Medusa stands at the steps. The open doors loom before her.

47 EXT. ANDROMEDA'S SHIP - DAY**47**

Perseus and Andromeda stand at the bow. Athens grows on the
horizon.

PERSEUS

Now that we've cornered the
monster, she'll have nowhere else
to go. Prepare to send word of my
triumph to Serifos.

ANDROMEDA

A bit premature, don't you think?

PERSEUS

She won't escape again.

ANDROMEDA

And what makes you so sure of that?

PERSEUS

Well, after all, I am the son of
Zeus.

ANDROMEDA

Oh yeah? Which one?

PERSEUS

The one and only.

Andromeda turns around to face her crew.

ANDROMEDA

Hey! How many of you guys here know
a "son of Zeus"?

Every crew member raises their hand. Andromeda smirks at
Perseus, satisfied with herself.

ANDROMEDA (cont'd)

The man gets around.

The crew chortles. Perseus's cheeks flush with
embarrassment; his head hangs in shame.

Andromeda's brow furrows.

ANDROMEDA (cont'd)

I'm sorry. It's just... I don't
understand why you let being the
son of Zeus — I don't know — define
you.

PERSEUS

You were born into royalty. I was
supposed to be, too, you know. But
your family actually wanted you. I
just want to live up to the name I
was given. It's all I have.

Andromeda rests a hand on Perseus's shoulder.

ANDROMEDA

No, it's not.

Perseus smiles. He clears his throat and straightens up.

PERSEUS

Anyways, the Athenians will surely
come to my aid in slaying the
beast. But, uh, I was wondering if
you could back me up? The support
of a princess would no doubt rally
the people's hearts.

ANDROMEDA

Oh? The valiant Perseus requests my
assistance? I don't think my
presence means as much as you
think. Especially in Athens. I may
be a princess, but I am still just
a woman to them.

PERSEUS

You're so much more than that.

Andromeda's face softens. Athens is close.

48 INT. PARTHENON - DAY

48

The Athena statue towers over Medusa. She kneels at its platform, alone.

MEDUSA

Why. Why would you do this to me.
Why would you cast me away on empty
promises. Make me an exile. Make me
a monster.

A tear slips down her cheek.

MEDUSA (cont'd)

I can't understand it. I always
understood you. I thought you knew.

She hangs her head. Shuts her eyes. Tears fall down her face.

ATHENA (V.O.)

The hardest decisions in this world
tear us from the ones we love.

She looks up at the Athena statue with glistening eyes.

ATHENA (V.O.) (cont'd)

Always remember that love, and you
will see this through.

Medusa stands. Wipes away her tears.

MUFFLED SHOUTS outside. She whips around. Looks out the open doors to the clear sky.

49 EXT. PARTHENON - DAY

49

Medusa emerges from the temple. Spots an angry mob gathering on the far side of the Acropolis. At the mob's center stands Perseus and Andromeda.

Medusa hides behind a column and watches.

50 EXT. ACROPOLIS - DAY

50

Perseus and Andromeda stand on a platform at the heart of the angry mob. Perseus looks about at the crowd of ATHENIANS wielding torches, pitchforks, and sickles.

PERSEUS

Attention! Attention! Behold! It is
I, Perseus, son of Zeus! And here
with me is Princess Andromeda of
Damot!

CRICKETS. One man in the crowd claps enthusiastically.

PERSEUS (cont'd)

I have come here today to rid
Athens of the hideous monster that
has terrorized your lands for
years!

ATHENIAN 1

You mean my wife?

The crowd erupts with laughter.

PERSEUS

(forced)

Ha-ha! Whew. That was a good one.
But listen. I have come to rescue
you.

At the Parthenon, Medusa listens intently.

ATHENIAN 2

And what makes you think we need
rescuing?

The crowd snickers. Perseus's face grows hot.

PERSEUS

Well, I-uh...

Perseus glances at Andromeda. She gives him a reassuring
smile and nods.

PERSEUS (cont'd)

I have been tasked with claiming
the head of the gorgon Medusa!

Medusa's eyes go wide.

ATHENIAN 2

The priestess that disgraced the
temple?

ATHENIAN 1

She has brought shame to us all!

PERSEUS

Yes! And she is here in Athens as
we speak!

The crowd GASPS and MURMURS.

PERSEUS (cont'd)

Which is why I have come to slay
the creature once and for all!

The crowd CHEERS with riled-up anger.

Perseus glances to Andromeda. She gives him a thumbs up. He
turns back to the crowd.

Andromeda looks past the mob and catches sight of someone
hiding behind one of the Parthenon's columns.

She shades her eyes from the sun and squints. Sees that the
person hiding is Medusa. Andromeda's eyes widen.

Medusa sees that Andromeda has spotted her. Medusa shakes
her head pleadingly.

Andromeda glares back at Medusa. Grabs a sword from one of
the Athenians and points it at Medusa.

ANDROMEDA

There!

Perseus and the mob turn and spot Medusa. GASPS and SHRIEKS
from the crowd.

Medusa hurries down the Parthenon's steps to run away, but
the mob charges straight for her. She stops and hurries back
up the steps.

The angry mob surrounds the base of the Parthenon, weapons
pointed up at Medusa. She's cornered.

MEDUSA

Please! I don't want to hurt you!

Perseus and Andromeda hurry over and join the mob.

MEDUSA (cont'd)

Andromeda! Tell them I mean no
harm!

ANDROMEDA

You're a danger to yourself and
others. Come with us, and we can
figure something out.

MEDUSA

I'll come! Just stop them!

Her snakes wriggle free from her head-wrap and HISS at the encroaching crowd with fangs bared.

The angry mob inches up the steps toward Medusa.

PERSEUS

Wait! Don't touch her! It has to be me! Her head is mine!

The mob lashes their weapons at Medusa. She backs up to a wall.

MEDUSA

Stop! Please!

One of the Athenians grabs Medusa by the wrist. She yanks her arm free and tears off her head-wrap and veil.

MEDUSA (cont'd)

I said stop!

The mob startles at Medusa's unveiled appearance. She scans the crowd, looking each person straight in the eye. A glimmer shines in Medusa's eyes.

Andromeda watches until --

PERSEUS

Andromeda!

Perseus tackles Andromeda to the ground.

The CRACKING of STONE sounds throughout the crowd. The mob SHRIEKS and SCREAMS as everyone turns to stone.

Medusa's knees buckle. Almost falls but catches herself. Sprints past the statues and leaves the Acropolis.

Perseus and Andromeda breathe heavily as they lie on the ground between the statues.

51 EXT. OLIVE GROVE - DAY

51

Medusa hurries through the grove. Hyperventilates. Clutches her chest. Runs until she collapses at the roots of a tree.

She sniffles. Her snakes nuzzle her cheeks. She brushes them aside, and they slump with sadness.

She wallows for a moment, crying softly into her hands.

A timid voice speaks nearby.

ELPIS (O.S.)
Are you all right?

Medusa startles and looks up at ELPIS (F, 21), shyly slouched with ginger hair cascading down her dirty tunic.

Medusa looks Elpis straight in the eyes. Gasps and quickly covers her face.

ELPIS
I heard crying. I just thought I'd ask...

Medusa slowly looks back up at Elpis with confusion.

Elpis's eyes are fogged over. She stares past Medusa, the distant gaze of the blind.

Medusa wipes away her tears.

MEDUSA
I'm fine.

ELPIS
Are you sure? I heard a commotion over by the Acropolis just now. I had a vision that the gorgon was back in Athens. Thought that might have something to do with it.

MEDUSA
Vision?

ELPIS
Yeah, I'm a seer. Well, not really a seer, because I can't really see. I'm blind if you couldn't tell. What I mean is I can see your future, just not your face. Or your name.

MEDUSA
(hesitates)
Sara.

ELPIS
I'm Elpis. So Sara, did you happen to see the gorgon? Is she still nearby?

MEDUSA
No.

ELPIS

Oh, that's a shame. I was hoping I could help her.

Medusa stands.

MEDUSA

I'm sorry, but I must be going.

ELPIS

Wait! Please don't go... Since I won't be able to read the gorgon's future, I'd love to practice on you. If you don't mind?

Medusa stares at Elpis in silence for a bit too long.

ELPIS (cont'd)

Um, are you still there?

MEDUSA

Yes.

ELPIS

Here, give me your hand.

Elpis takes Medusa's palm in hers. Lightly traces Medusa's crease lines.

ELPIS (cont'd)

Oh gods, I can see you've been facing a lot of hardship lately. So much pain. Hang on, I see something in your future that should improve these conditions.

MEDUSA

What is that?

ELPIS

You're going to have a great hair day!

Medusa's snakes blush bashfully. She lets out a hollow laugh, but it quickly turns into tearful sobs.

ELPIS (cont'd)

Oh, no! I'm so sorry! Are you bald? You're bald, aren't you? I really am losing my touch. I have to speak with the Oracle about this.

MEDUSA

What Oracle?

ELPIS

The Oracle of Asclepius. She speaks
for the god of healing.

MEDUSA

Do you know where to find the
Oracle?

ELPIS

Yeah. I just stopped in Athens for
a rest, but I'm continuing on my
journey tomorrow.

An olive falls from above and bounces off of Elpis's head.

ELPIS (cont'd)

What the heck was that?

Medusa bends down to pick up the olive.

MEDUSA

It's an olive.

ELPIS

Wait, we're in an olive grove? I
thought this was the fragrant
gardens.

MEDUSA

I know this will sound rather odd,
but I'm searching for some healing
myself. May I accompany you?

ELPIS

Are you kidding? I'd love the
company and would really appreciate
it. Clearly I'm not the best
navigator. We'll meet back here
tomorrow morning, okay?

MEDUSA

Sounds perfect.

Elpis starts to leave but turns back around.

ELPIS

Actually, Sara?

MEDUSA

Yes?

Elpis extends an open hand.

ELPIS
Would you mind? I love olives!

Medusa places the olive in Elpis's palm. She pops it into her mouth. A CRUNCH as Elpis bites down. She cringes.

ELPIS (cont'd)
I remember now. It's grapes I like.
Not a fan of olives.
(swallows)
It was nice meeting you, Sara!

Elpis leaves.

Medusa lingers alone for a moment. Sits back down and reclines against the tree's trunk. Looks up to the sunny sky and smiles.

END OF SHOW