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Medusa

By Andrea Nicki

Sleeping peacefully alongside her sisters,

all with serpents for hair magnificently coiled and intertwined,

espied by jealous Athene spurring on Perseus to make bloody his hands.

His eyes paralyzed with fear, seeing only his victim's reflection,

swings his blade with full force through all things impenetrable,

decapitating the lover of Poseidon, the mother of Chrysador and Pegasus.

The slow-dying hiss of her fury causes men who come near to choke on their hearts,

empty their minds of thoughts.