

AMONG THE CAVES OF GREECE

Dana Davis

The sun crept over the distant hills of Greece as Medusa made her way across the field toward her home. She looked back toward the city and sighed.

"Damn you, Athena," she mumbled and flipped one of the snakes she now had for hair over her shoulder. She hadn't known that Poseidon would choose the goddess' temple to show his passion for her. The god had convinced her, lied to her, she knew that now. "I hate you, Poseidon."

She passed a small puddle and turned her head away from the reflection. Regret filled her, for she had once been a beautiful woman. She had tried to explain things to Athena and apologize for what she'd done but the goddess refused to listen. Medusa had incurred Athena's wrath, and now her face was so hideous that she couldn't stand to look at her own reflection.

She plucked a new, white flower from her path and held it to her nose. The sweet scent filled her nostrils and she smiled for the first time in days. Her pleasure ended when a voice rang out across the field. Medusa quickly pulled her cloak hood up to hide her ugliness.

"Not again," she uttered, and she ran toward the caverns. But the stranger was quick and reached her before she could hide.

"Wait, please," a young, male voice pleaded. "I'm lost and I have nothing to eat."

"Go away," Medusa told the young man, keeping her back to him.

"I won't harm you. Please, I'm hungry."

"Just go away." She clutched the flower to her chest.

The stranger seized Medusa by the shoulders and forced her around. "Just a little food."

Her hands grabbed at the cloak hood in a vain attempt to keep it in place, but it fell to her back. The young man gave her a horrified look and quickly melted into stone, his face frozen in an eternal scream.

"Stupid boy," she said softly, her eyes filling with tears. "Why didn't you leave me alone?" She slipped off her cloak, covered the human statue with it and placed the flower with the white petals at his feet. "I'm sorry."

Medusa held her head down as she walked past two other draped figures and disappeared into her cavern home.

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