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## Medusa

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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.