

Heart of Stone

By:
The Blue Ridge Players

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Cast of Characters

MEDUSA..... a gorgon, early twenties
PERSEUS..... a hero, early twenties
EURYALE..... Medusa's sister, a gorgon
STHENO..... Medusa's sister, a gorgon
ATHENA..... a goddess, Perseus's sister
ZEUS..... a god, Perseus's father
HADES..... a god, Perseus's uncle
HERMES..... a god, Perseus's brother
SOLDIERS..... men who fight alongside Perseus

TIME: Daytime -- mid-year in Ancient Greece

SETTING: Upstage area suggests the first scene is set on Mount Olympus. A large throne is in the middle of the stage. Downstage does not have any additional items for the first scene.

SCENE ONE

(AT RISE, ZEUS is sitting upon his throne
on Olympus fixing his Lightning Bolt.
SOPHIA is upstage right as a statue box, KATHERINE is downstage
right box, ELI is upstage left statue box, MARIKO is downstage
left box.
ENTER ATHENA stage right.)

ATHENA

Father you are King of the gods, the god of Thunder and
Lightning, the almighty Zeus... I have but a humble request to
make.

ZEUS

Athena, what is it you desire?

ATHENA

It seems I have made a terrible mistake, one that cannot be
reversed...

ZEUS

What blunder have you made?

ATHENA

A priestess in my temple, Medusa-

ZEUS

Ah yes, you turned her into a gorgon because she laid beside
Poseidon.

ATHENA

I did not know the act was forced upon her. Though I should have
sensed ill-intent when I received word that Poseidon was
involved. If I were to repeal her punishment, it would make me
look... foolish.

ZEUS

Then she must perish.

ATHENA

Yes, however the other gorgons would come to her aid. Medusa was
not the only one who received my punishment, in my immense
anger... I punished her sisters as well.

ZEUS

I cannot risk your guidance being taken from me. You are required to be here on Olympus. Send someone in your stead.

ATHENA

I have heard rumors of King Polydectes sending his finest warrior into her lair. Perseus, the great demigod hero. The king has requested Medusa's head in order to restore Perseus's honor.

ZEUS

Then allow Perseus to prove his worth, a true son of mine should be able to succeed on this simple quest.

ATHENA

(scoffs)

Perseus is pathetic. What strength he has is not enough to destroy the Monster of Stone, for he lacks weapons... and confidence. In my rage, I convinced Perseus the one he loved had been slain by the Monster. Unbeknownst to him, his true love and the Monster are one in the same.

ZEUS

(sighs)

What is it that you require of me?

ATHENA

Father.

(smiles sweetly)

Lord of all the gods, and of the skies. Your great power is known to all. Oh merciful Zeus, I pray you will aid me in correcting a simple mistake.

ZEUS

(slams his lightning bolt on the ground)

Get to the point. What is it you lack?

ATHENA

Perseus requires the gifts of the gods in order to win this battle...

ZEUS

Am I to be rewarded for my generosity?

ATHENA

Besides the glowing admiration and respect of your favorite daughter? Do you recall the present you made to appease Demeter? I believe the Greeks call it a horse. I have made an object that allows these creatures to be ridden. I will aid you in hiding your failed conquest as you assist me in eliminating my blunder.

ZEUS

I suppose I can provide a sword Hephaestus made for me. It is made from the finest metal in all of Olympus.

ATHENA

Father, I know I ask much of you, however Perseus will require more than that.

ZEUS

I suppose I can get your brother Hermes to hand over his precious sandals.

ATHENA

Hermes?

ZEUS

Your obedient brother will do anything I ask of him.

ATHENA

Hades has a helm that conceals those who wear it. Perseus will need an item to shield him from Medusa's stony gaze.

ZEUS

Hades cares for his family, but more than anything he desires to become an Olympian. I will ensure his participation. Come daughter, we have work to do.

(ATHENA bows to ZEUS, BOTH exit stage right)

SCENE TWO

(AT RISE MEDUSA is alone in the cave she calls home. ENTER EURYALE and STHENO stage right)

STHENO

Is this the cavern where the Monster of Stone dwells?

MEDUSA

Who dares call upon my name?

EURYALE

Medusa, is... is that you?

MEDUSA

(gets up and steps off throne, facing towards the entrance)
Euryale? Stheno? Is it truly the two sisters I lost?

(MEDUSA steps forward and hugs EURYALE)

STHENO

You know better than I that we are not the lost ones, for it is you that abandoned us for that pitiful demigod you claimed to love.

MEDUSA

Perseus had nothing to do with this curse. It is true, he was my love, but it was Athena who brought this dreadful curse upon me.

STHENO

Only it did not affect just you! We were known as the most beautiful women throughout the land, and now we are treated worse than the lepers!

MEDUSA

You must understand! Poseidon wronged me in Athena's temple! She discovered his treachery and found no fault in him, turning her wrath upon me! I did not intend for either of you to be punished due to the gods' revenge.

EURYALE

We spent many years searching for a sign that you were still with us. Tell me you have not spent all your recent years in this old cave?

MEDUSA

Alas, I have. I was forced here by Athena herself, chained, that I may die alone and unloved.

EURYALE

If she left you here to perish, then how did you break free?

MEDUSA

A weary young traveler stumbled into this cave in search of a place to rest his head.

(MEDUSA turns towards stage left, where a statue of a man stands, turning from her sister and thinks back to the man who released her from her chains.)

When he woke I managed to convince him to release me from the chains. Though when I went to thank him, our gaze met, and he turned to stone before my very eyes.

EURYALE

The hardships you've had to endure... You look quite famished, I shall fetch you some of the food from our journey.

(EURYALE turns and exits stage right)

STHENO

(scoffs, mocking MEDUSA)

And where is your beloved hero? Did he too turn to stone when you gazed lovingly into his eyes?

MEDUSA

(turns away from STHENO)

I do not know where Perseus is. In my monstrous form, he left me to suffer alone.

STHENO

Did I not warn you? He was only attracted to your immense beauty. Young men are all the same when it comes to love.

MEDUSA

In my blindness I believed him to be my true love, but after all this time, I do not know if he even remembers me.

STHENO

You're the one who decided to entertain Perseus's plans, you vowed to leave the temple as you traveled all of Greece with him. You have only ever thought of your own happiness, paying no attention to your sisters. If you truly loved us, you would have gotten rid of this curse.

MEDUSA

I have no control over this magic. If I did, I would have rid us of it long ago!

STHENO

I have not traveled across the land listening to Euryale go on about the joy of family, simply for you to disregard us and utter a pathetic excuse! This was your fault! Find a way to release us from this affliction!

MEDUSA

Stheno there is no-

STHENO

If we have not returned to our former state by the rise of the next full moon, say goodbye to your precious demigod.

(ENTER EURYALE stage right)

EURYALE

What is the meaning of this?

MEDUSA

Leave Perseus out of this!

STHENO

Why? You would be a fool to believe he could still care for you when you look like this.

(gestures to her form)

EURYALE

Sisters please-

MEDUSA

I must believe that his love for me is still as strong as it once was.

STHENO

As I have said, Perseus only desired your beauty, Medusa. Men want one thing and is he truly the hero you-

EURYALE

(pushes STHENO away from MEDUSA)

That is quite enough!

MEDUSA

You know nothing of the relationship Perseus and I had!

STHENO

Even the best men can become monsters, my dear Medusa.

EURYALE

Are you still troubling our sister over Perseus?

STHENO

The pitiful thing still believes that he loves her.

EURYALE

I have reason to believe he does.

STHENO

(rolls her eyes)

Not you as well...

EURYALE

I witnessed Perseus's reaction to your death. He hardly ate for weeks and he distanced himself from everyone. The poor boy spent most nights wallowing in his own sorrow.

MEDUSA

How do you know this?

EURYALE

I ensured of his well-being after Athena informed him you had been slain by the Monster of Stone.

STHENO

Find an end to this curse Medusa, or all that you have ever cared for shall lay in ruins.

(STHENO exits stage right)

EURYALE

You must not pay attention to our sister, for she lost any compassion she once had when Athena carried out her punishment on us.

MEDUSA

I never meant for this-

EURYALE

(places a hand on MEDUSA's shoulder)

I know.

MEDUSA

Why do you have no ill-will towards me? You suffer from this curse as well.

EURYALE

I have my sisters and that is all I ever needed. I did not require a man's heart, nor "friends." I am simply content that I was able to reunite my family.

(EURYALE pulls MEDUSA into a hug)

Part of me had feared that you truly were dead.

SCENE THREE

(ENTER PERSEUS and SOLDIER 1 stage right where half of the stage is set to look like a training room. The other half is still set to look like MEDUSA's cave. Both PERSEUS and SOLDIER 1 have swords in their right hands, prepared to duel.)

SOLDIER 1

You have truly become a talented swordsman Perseus, although you still cannot best me.

PERSEUS

Quiet now, you are not as skillful as you might believe.
(gets a touch)

SOLDIER 1

(chuckles)

You have not seen the best of me yet. Did I not inform you that I am the god of Swordsmanship?

PERSEUS

Not too loud, or Zeus may strike the very ground you stand on!
(SOLDIER 1 and PERSEUS laugh)

SOLDIER 1

I am pleased to see that you have forgotten that young woman, was it... Medusa? What merits did she have to offer? Was she not a simple servant in Athena's temple?

(PERSEUS loses focus and SOLDIER gets a hit in)

Ha! Ha! Once again, I have beaten you!

PERSEUS

Yes, yes. Excellent work...

SOLDIER 1

(raises a brow)

Are you alright?

PERSEUS

Of course, you have simply managed to best me yet again.

SOLDIER 1

Is this still about that woman?

PERSEUS

"That woman" represented the missing part of my perfect life.
And now, with her death, everything else has turned to ruin.

EURYALE

Is there a reason you have not left this cave?

MEDUSA

Can you not see my hideous face? I would not dare go outside and
be discovered by the commoners!

EURYALE

You remain here all day and night?

MEDUSA

I am afraid so.

EURYALE

Is there nothing you do to pass the time?

MEDUSA

I spend my days crafting poetry. I have longed to write for many
years, but my duties in the temple came first. Yet now it
appears I have all the time in the world.

EURYALE

Are you willing to share?

MEDUSA

It is not for your eyes to see... I believe I require some time
alone.

EURYALE

Then I shall go find Stheno, who knows what trouble she has
caused?

(EURYALE exits)

SOLDIER 1

Apologies, perhaps another bout?

PERSEUS

I believe I should retire for the day, Cletus. You know what the
King sends us to do. I must prepare for the journey ahead.

(SOLDIER 1 nods and exits stage right.
Music starts as PERSEUS begins to put away equipment. MEDUSA
sings the poetry in her journal.)

MEDUSA

6 4 1 2©

*I wanted to believe our love was true
So I gave you my heart
Let you break it apart
In the darkness when I lie awake
My thoughts run way too far
To find out where you are*

*I thought this love was from long ago
But I was a fool and now I know*

*Chorus: I remember those lies I told myself
As I close my heart and fade away
I feel a heart that you once held
Burning into ash and flames
No one can heal no one can save
No one will hold my heart again
You left me alone and all I have left is a heart of stone*

PERSEUS

I never meant to leave your side

MEDUSA

Never thought I would lose you

PERSEUS

*And I gave you my heart
Now it's breaking apart
I never should have let my heart decide*

MEDUSA

Never thought it would choose you

PERSEUS

*And I wasn't there when I should have been
Now it's hell this life I'm livin in*

*I thought our love was from long ago
But now I'm left here all alone*

Chorus:

And no matter what lies I tell myself
Nothing can bring you back to me
I'd give up my life if I could tell
You just how much you meant to me
I couldn't heal I couldn't save
No one will hold my heart again
I'm left alone and all I have left is a heart of stone

Chorus (again)

Medusa sings her original chorus

I remember those lies I told myself
As I close my heart and fade away
I feel a heart that you once held
Burning into ash and flames
No one can heal no one can save
No one will hold my heart again
You left me alone and all I have left is a heart of stone

PERSEUS

You were the dream that
Held my heart together
You were the hope that
Made me want you but
I couldn't heal I couldn't save
No one can ever hold my heart again
I'm left alone

MEDUSA

all I have left is

BOTH

A heart of stone

PERSEUS

I will avenge you, my dear Medusa.

(MEDUSA exits stage left.)

SCENE FOUR

(AT RISE the stage is set in PERSEUS's home.
He is seen packing a bag with various items
he might need on his journey.)

PERSEUS

The King sends me to defeat this Monster of Stone with just
three lowly troops and a broken shield. He must know he is
sending me to my death, for... how am I to ever succeed?

(ENTER ZEUS stage right)

ZEUS

Perseus! Fear not, for I come bearing gifts!

PERSEUS

Father. Is there a reason you have graced me with your presence?

ZEUS

Why, to aid my son in his upcoming battle of course!

PERSEUS

Father every time you have appeared before me, you have required
something from me.

(ENTER ATHENA stage right)

ATHENA

Perseus! Great Warrior of Greece!

PERSEUS

Perhaps at one time, but no longer...

ATHENA

Come now, there is no one better to send into battle against the
monster terrorizing our land.

PERSEUS

There are far greater warriors than I, the King simply wants me
out of the way.

ATHENA

You may be a lousy hero now, but after we are through with you, the Greeks shall be praising your name for millennia to come.

PERSEUS

I doubt anyone will remember a dead hero.

(ENTER HERMES stage right)

HERMES

(steps forward, pushing ATHENA out of the way)

Tell me Perseus, what do you need?

PERSEUS

(holds up his sword)

My simple bronze sword will do nothing against the monster. If it is barely sharp enough to break skin, how am I to present the head of the beast to the King?

HERMES

Oh dear Perseus, we come with more than just a simple sword.

(hands over a pair of sandals that have wings on the sides)

These shall aid you in getting to the monster's lair.

PERSEUS

I... appreciate your gift, but speed will not help me escape death today.

(ATHENA steps in front of HERMES)

ATHENA

Perhaps a shield that reflects the monster's stony gaze will be more beneficial than sandals.

(ATHENA presents her shield)

HERMES

Get off your high Pegasus, Athena.

(ZEUS steps closer to PERSEUS)

ZEUS

We know what weaknesses you possess. Every great hero must have a weapon sharp enough to enter into battle with. I have brought a sword made from the finest metal found on Olympus.

(ZEUS gives him the sword by the hilt, the tip of the sword is pointing down)

PERSEUS

A shield and a sword will surely help me on this journey, but I still do not believe I can succeed.

ZEUS

Hades, what-...

(looks around for HADES)

Where is Hades?

(ENTER HADES stage right)

HADES

Why bring a useless god to aid your beloved hero? Nothing that I possess will help you on your journey, for I, the King of the Underworld, am useless in the eyes of the almighty Zeus.

ZEUS

Come now brother, you, the Lord of the Dead, knows the terror the Monster of Stone has instilled in the hearts of men. Why deny these faithful soldiers a life in service to us?

HADES

You mean deny them service to YOU, dear brother? Why would I help the almighty Zeus, the most powerful of the gods? Surely he does not need help from the lowly Lord of the Underworld.

ZEUS

Because I am the King! You must obey me!

HADES

Boasting will get you nowhere, little brother.

ZEUS

You will obey your king! I demand you lend your aid to me!

HADES

(laughs)

You sound like a petulant child who cannot have his way. You require my helm, yet I am disrespected by all the Olympians and no one has scorned me more than the almighty Zeus.

HERMES

(takes a step forward to speak into ZEUS's ear)

Father, may I suggest a trade?

HADES

Ah, dear Hermes, for once the voice of reason.

(ZEUS rolls his eyes)

ZEUS

Name what it is that you desire.

HADES

(scoffs)

What I desire....

(HADES steps toward ZEUS)

What I desire is to be seen as an Olympian, attending the Winter Solstice meeting does not satisfy me anymore. No, I want to be honored and respected as the REST of you are! No more shall I spend the rest of eternity in the Underworld. No more shall I tolerate your insolence-

(HERMES stands between HADES and ZEUS with arms stretched)

HERMES

Come now Lord Hades.

(looks at ZEUS)

Father, do we have a trade?

(ZEUS looks to ATHENA before he lowers his voice)

ZEUS

Is there no other way?

ATHENA

Perseus must succeed, or disaster will befall us both.

(ZEUS sighs)

ZEUS

When we return to Olympus, dear brother, I shall have Athena design a temple that will be built in your honor. You shall have your own seat in my throne room.

HADES

(raises a brow)

Swear it on the River Styx, the Sacred River of Oaths.

ZEUS

You are going to make me swear on the Styx?

HADES

Swear it, brother mine... or this arrangement is off.

ZEUS

Very well. I swear upon the River Styx that you shall be revered from this day forward as an Olympian.

HADES

Good.

(HADES smirks, takes off his helm, and hands it to PERSEUS)
Use it wisely.

(HADES exits stage right)

ATHENA

(steps towards PERSEUS)

Dear Perseus, I grant you a victorious battle. Remember what the Monster of Stone has done, for it killed your true love.

PERSEUS

How could I ever forget? The monster shall die by my hand before sundown.

ATHENA

Use your anger; allow it to feed your desire for revenge. For I am certain this monster does not stand a chance against the finest hero the land has ever known!

(ZEUS, HERMES, ATHENA exit stage right)

PERSEUS

With the blessing of the gods, perhaps it is possible for me to succeed! For I am the son of Zeus, and the greatest warrior our land has ever known! Although I may perish, I shall be comforted in knowing I have the power of the gods with me!

(PERSEUS holds up his sword)

SCENE FIVE

(AT RISE PERSEUS is seen sitting alone downstage. Stage right is set outside MEDUSA's cave where PERSEUS's camp is. Stage left is MEDUSA's cave. LIGHTS are up on stage right.)

PERSEUS
(polishing his sword)
(ENTER ALL SOLDIERS)

SOLDIER 2
Perseus! We await your orders.

PERSEUS
(stands up to greet his men)
Brethren, the Monster of Stone must be slain, for it has taken the lives of too many to count. The gods are on our side, and I pray Zeus will be with us as we enter the monster's lair.

SOLDIERS
Here here!

SOLDIER 1
Here here...

PERSEUS
The monster is one of great power and might. Soldiers of Greece! Only the bravest and mightiest men will survive slaying the monster. Who is with me?

SOLDIERS
(hold up swords)
AYE!

SOLDIER 1
Aye...

(PERSEUS slaps SOLDIER 1)

PERSEUS
Tread with caution, my brethren. Fight hard, for when we return home we shall be known as heroes throughout the millennia!

(SOLDIERS cheer as PERSEUS leads them into the cave, LIGHTS dim stage right)

[In the Cave]

(MEDUSA sits upon her throne,
singing and writing in a journal)

MEDUSA

*Alone I stay
Chained by the choices I never made
In dark I wait
Waiting for something that I can't explain
You were a piece of me
Told me you'd never leave
Now I wait
My heart slowly colder by the day
A heart of stone
A heart that's broken, cracked, and bruised
A heart of stone
A heart you left, and broke, and used
A love that waits, a love that dreams, a love that hopes
A love that lives, still lives in a heart of stone*

(EURYALE sneaks past the SOLDIERS and PERSEUS. ENTER EURYALE stage right)

EURYALE

Medusa, outside lays a camp of soldiers in preparation to storm your cavern! Listen! Even now, the captain is preparing his army for battle.

MEDUSA

Flee then, my dear Euryale. I shall take care of this
(she takes a deep breath)
nuisance myself.

EURYALE

But he is armed with the gifts of the gods -

MEDUSA

(cutting her off)

Then let this serve as retribution for their actions! When I am finished, all of Greece will know the true meaning of

destruction and pain. However, I must do it alone. Flee now, and take Stheno with you.

(EURYALE nods and exits stage right)

MEDUSA

The time for destruction of those corrupt and dishonorable gods is upon them! My punishment will be my greatest weapon against their pathetic quarrel with me. The statues of the greatest Greek soldiers will serve as decor for the very cave Athena abandoned me in. As for the "gifts of the gods," I shall use them to show Athena what true anguish is.

(LIGHTS come up on the entire stage. PERSEUS and the SOLDIERS enter the cave.

MEDUSA turns her head to see them)

MEDUSA

4 SOLDIERS? That's what the gods think I'm worth? Four lowly men. I shall take great pleasure in their demise.

PERSEUS

Show yourself Monster of Stone! For I have only the bravest men with me. Your only power is your stony gaze. I promise you a swift death. Onward, my brethren!

(The SOLDIERS and PERSEUS surround MEDUSA. SOLDIERS take care not to make direct eye contact. MEDUSA laughs at their confusion, SOLDIER 1 goes to attack her.

SOLDIER 1

I see it!

(SOLDIER 1 is turned to stone. The remaining soldiers look blindly around trying to figure out what just occurred)

PERSEUS

Stand your ground!

(SOLDIER 2 runs after MEDUSA. MEDUSA grabs the handle of SOLDIER 2's sword. MEDUSA takes it from SOLDIER 2 as she moves to the other side of SOLDIER 2 laughing)

PERSEUS

Stick together!

(SOLDIER 2 begins to look around, attempting to see where MEDUSA went)

(MEDUSA shoves SOLDIER 2 into SOLDIER 3. SOLDIER 2 grabs SOLDIER 3's sword and uses it to blindly slash around. SOLDIER 2 accidentally stabs SOLDIER 3. SOLDIER 3 falls to the ground)

PERSEUS

She's on the right!

(SOLDIER 2 turns left)

PERSEUS

Behind you!

SOLDIER 2

PERSEUS watch-

(SOLDIER 2 turns around and faces
MEDUSA and turns into stone.
SOLDIER 2 freezes.)

MEDUSA

(pause)

Perseus?

PERSEUS

How dare you speak my name, you foul beast!

MEDUSA

Foul beast.... Perseus.. How could you say....

PERSEUS

You slaughtered Medusa! Prepare to spend your eternity in Tartarus!

(PERSEUS lunges to strike her and she moves out of his way)

MEDUSA

Perseus, cease this foolishness!

(dodges another attack)

I am your true love! I am Medusa.

PERSEUS

I am not going to fall for your tricks, beast!

MEDUSA

Can you recall the stroll through the hyacinths? Not all the flowers bloomed as you had hoped they would, but still you confessed your love for me as I reveled in the evening.

PERSEUS

What sorcery must you know to possess that knowledge?

MEDUSA

It is I, Perseus.

(PERSEUS goes to look at MEDUSA and she spins around)
You cannot look in my eyes. I do not wish to turn you to stone.

(PERSEUS drops his sword. He touches her
shoulder before hugging her from behind.

ENTER STHENO stage right)

STHENO

You vile, deceitful cretin!

(PERSEUS covers his eyes, flips MEDUSA around,
and holds up his shield. PERSEUS is now
facing STHENO with his eyes covered.)

I believe we had a deal; you were to find a way to release us from this curse, yet here you are in the arms of your savior. I suppose I must remind you of the consequences...

MEDUSA

Stheno, what is the meaning of this?

STHENO

Your happiness ends here, and it shall follow Perseus to Tartarus.

MEDUSA

No!

(MEDUSA pushes PERSEUS away upstage as STHENO goes to stab PERSEUS. PERSEUS drops his shield. STHENO stabs MEDUSA on accident. PERSEUS catches MEDUSA after she is stabbed and gently lowers her down to the ground.)

STHENO

Medusa!

(pulls back, drops the dagger on the ground and stumbles back)
You insolent girl. Why would you...

(STHENO runs out stage right)

PERSEUS

Medusa! I thought...

(gives a weak chuckle)

I thought the monster had taken your life.

MEDUSA

(the smile disappears off her face,
she closes her eyes and turns her face away)

The Monster of Stone has replaced the woman you once loved, now
only a monster remains.

PERSEUS

How did this happen? How did I not know about this?

MEDUSA

Athena fooled you.

PERSEUS

How could she do such a thing?

MEDUSA

Since I am no longer of use to her, she banished me here to
perish.

(wince)

PERSEUS

You are wounded. Rest for now. Allow me to call upon Lord
Apollo-...

(PERSEUS goes to stand up but MEDUSA reaches for him)

MEDUSA

Please, Perseus. The gods would rather watch me spend my
eternity in Tartarus before they would help me. You don't know
what I have done to survive... If you knew, you would not be
standing before me.

PERSEUS

Nonsense. We have found each other once more! Can you not see?
The gods have given us a chance to be together again!

MEDUSA

Trust me, I have waited a long time for this moment. My days have been spent writing of your great courage and bravery as you save me from this wretched curse. However...

PERSEUS

What is it?

MEDUSA

How could we be together Perseus? I am a monster. You cannot even look at me without turning to stone. What would be the purpose of a relationship if I could not gaze upon the hero who holds my heart?

PERSEUS

Medusa, you are the object of my desires. You are not the only one who suffered a loss. Can you not see that we are meant for each other?

MEDUSA

Perhaps at one time, but not any more. The gods are not so kind.

(pause)

Perseus am I truly what you desire?

PERSEUS

More than anything, Medusa.

MEDUSA

Then let me die and the curse will die with me.

PERSEUS

What is the meaning of this?! Is this a cruel joke?

MEDUSA

Perseus, you must understand what I am forced to endure. The gods have reduced me to this ghastly form and I cannot bear it another day.

PERSEUS

I could reason with Zeus-

MEDUSA

I am nothing more than a monster who cannot offer more than a lifetime of sorrow and despair. My dear Perseus if you truly love me, you will allow me to perish. Be the hero I know you were always meant to be and exact revenge upon Athena for her injustice.

PERSEUS

You ask the worst of me.

MEDUSA

Do not fret. I will be watching over you.

PERSEUS

Be at peace now, my love.

(PERSEUS kisses MEDUSA's forehead as MEDUSA closes her eyes)

PERSEUS

*And no matter what lies I tell myself
Nothing can bring you back to me
I'd give up my life if I could tell
You just how much you meant to me
I couldn't heal I couldn't save
No one will hold my heart again
I'm left alone and all I have left is a heart of stone*

(LIGHTS go out on stage)

(END PLAY)