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Medusa

Brooke S. Ohren

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Medusa

Brooke S. Ohren

Eyes followed her
as she walked,
hip silks swinging,
until that fateful day
on the steps of Athena's temple.
The Goddess of Wisdom
became the goddess
 of strategy
 of punishment
to the undeserving.

Snakes in the night,
she saves their venom—
turns it into her own.

Shedding her skin,
mountains of bone dry husks
pile around her.

Within her cocoon
she weeps,
the hissing
comfort behind her ears.

Medusa was once a beautiful maiden.