

The Gorgon

the woman, the gorgeous,
the mousey victim.
frail, faint, like a bloom
of a plump, rosey hue.

soft, silent, sidelined
unless used for stress.
easy on the eyes,
easy to caress,
easy to catcall.
best used as a waitress,
if she's too outspoken
to be a princess.

the woman, the temptress,
the malicious witch.
curves, curls, like a plume
of noir cigar smoke.

sleek, sweet, serpentine,
all men see is the dress.
short skirts, bare shoulders,
'she's asking for this,'
they say while slithering in.
'its romance, not distress'
cheers the society
who sees just a kiss.

the woman, the gorgon,
the monstrous villain.
stone-faced, stone-skinned,
in the snakes' reflection.

strong, scowling, furious,
speaking in the language
of men on conquest.

she's done negotiating.
her vengeful violence
is slashed asunder
as just hysterics.
Medusa's lost her head.