

## 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.