

Medusa Takes Care of You for the Night

[Greek Mythology] [Child Listener] [Comfort] [Heartbeat] [Stomach Sounds] [Lore Dump] [Wholesome]

Synopsis:

You are a sick and blind child who's traveling with a caravan. When the caravan stops for the night, your companions get turned into stone by the fearsome Medusa! However, when she discovers your blindness as well as your pitiful state, she offers to watch over you for the night...

SFX: Sounds of nighttime are in the air. All is peaceful and quiet until you hear multiple snakes hissing in the distance. The hissing gradually gets closer and closer until...

MEDUSA

(gasps)

A child?!

...

Never mind who I am! Just don't look at me!

...

You can't look at anything?

...

You're blind?

...

I'm sorry. I didn't realize. The gods must hate you too, huh?

...

You think it was because of what your parents did?

...

Oh...You're an orphan. I'm...very sorry to hear that. I'm afraid I might have...indisposed your guardians, so to speak.

...

Yes...You see, I...turned them into stone.

...

Yes, child. I *am* the fearsome Medusa. But know this: I will never hurt the young and blind. You are both, so you are safe from my wrath. I could use a companion like you in my lair. It gets terribly lonely there at times.

...

(alarmed)

What's the matter? Why are you coughing?

...

(having pity for the child)

Oh, forgive me. I did not realize you were so ill.

...

They said you might not make it if you didn't receive proper care soon? How unfortunate!

...

Well, you cannot stay in this wagon all by yourself! And I cannot remain here for fear of more passersby finding me. I will take you to my lair to rest there. I will also take whatever is needed to nurse you back to health. If or when you become strong enough to move again, I will leave you by the crossroads so you'll be noticed by a traveler who can take you to where you need to go. Come on, then...

SFX: Medusa goes to pick up the child and the rustling fade out with the footsteps...

SFX: The ambience of an abandoned stone temple fades in. A small fire also roars to life.

MEDUSA

I'm afraid the fire isn't much, but I hope it will help.

SFX: Water splashes as Medusa dunks a cloth into a bowlful of water

MEDUSA

Here...A wet cloth for your fever.

...

Would it help if I told you a story?

...

(surprised)

The story of how I ended up in this place?

...

(sighs with a tone of bittersweetness)

All right, though I can't promise it'll be a happy one. You see, I was born to the primordial sea deities Phorcys and Ceto, descended from Gaia herself. I also had two sisters named Stheno and Euryale, who were gorgons like myself. But I was different from them: I was the only one who could take on human form. And in that form, I was considered the most beautiful woman in all of Greece. I could experience the mortal world without drawing fear and ire from all who saw me. I never felt alone.

(sighs)

Then...I grew unhappy with the corruption and cruelty that became entrenched in human society. The only beacon of purity and sacredness in the mortal world was in Athena's temple, so I became a priestess for her. I was safe from all who would use me, and my beauty was hidden away from the world like a priceless treasure. Or so I thought. One day, Poseidon appeared before me, drawn to my beauty. I should've refused. I should've kept the holy vows I made to Athena. But having known the freedoms of life outside of priesthood, how could I say "no" to the advances of a god smitten with me? It wasn't long before Athena discovered our tryst. She punished me by banishing me here and stripping me of my ability to shapeshift.

...

No, I cannot return home. I have been disgraced. Not just by my acceptance to have relations with a god, but also by defiling the only sanctuary left in the mortal world. That's what I'm most ashamed of.

SFX: Medusa sniffles and her tears plop on the child's face

MEDUSA

Oh! Forgive me! I didn't mean to wet you with my tears. I do hope they help bring down the fever, though. Say, I've got an idea. If your illness doesn't take you by morning, I'll enchant my tears and leave them with you at the crossroads. That way, you'll always have something to remember me by. I hope *you'll* give me something to remember you by, too.

SFX: Medusa's stomach growls loudly.

MEDUSA

Oh, sorry! I have not eaten yet. That's why I came near your caravan in the first place and inadvertently petrified your companions. Don't worry, I don't eat humans. They'll turn to stone before that happens. And I certainly won't eat you. You are safe here.

SFX: Her stomach growls again, but this time, a muffled kicking sound accompanies it.

MEDUSA

Oh!

(chuckles)

I suppose there's one more thing I haven't told you about my tryst: I became pregnant. I may be having more than one child because I can feel more than one pair of legs within me. I do not know when or how they'll be born. A god's offspring is always unpredictable.

...

(chuckles)

You'd like to listen while I eat some of the rations? Of course!

SFX: Rustling before the child puts their ear on Medusa's belly. As Medusa eats, the gurgles and churning of her stomach can be heard. A few instances of muffled kicking can also be heard intermittently. The child continues hearing the gorgon's grumbling belly for about a minute or two until Medusa speaks again.

MEDUSA

I've noticed you're shaking less now. Perhaps the warmth of my body is helping you. Here. I've got a more comfortable spot than my tummy.

SFX: Rustling as Medusa lays the child on her chest. Her heartbeat can now be heard.

MEDUSA

(warmly)

There. Is that better? Now you won't have to worry about my children kicking you awake.

(chuckles)

Rest now, little one. And hope that you'll be well enough in the morning to make the journey to the next town. Sleep...Sleep...

SFX: The sounds of her soothing and her heartbeat are heard for another minute before the video fades out...