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Punished

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Punished

OIL PAINTING BY MADELINE LYTLE

Was she a monster? Perhaps.

A killer? Absolutely.

But before anything, Medusa was a victim. The beautiful ancient Greek priestess was raped by the god Poseidon in the temple of Athena, who took great offense and transformed her into a hideous creature. She was disfigured and later killed for something she did not want and had no control over. Raped for her beauty and murdered for her ugliness.

Her story was a disgusting and horrible tragedy, yet it is still not over. How many women have faced not comfort or security after being assaulted but shame, ridicule, and consequence? Why do we still turn victims into monsters?