

THE RENAISSANCE

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FADE IN:

EXT. RIVER OF THE NYMPHS- NIGHT

Casting should make a point to include varied ethnicities

A luscious river leading up to a waterfall. It's GLISTENING. Fifty Naiad NYMPHS float around in the water humming a SLOW EERIE TUNE in harmony. They bathe and dance.

A mysterious noise BRUSTLES in the trees. They stop.

The nymphs duck down, only their EYES above the water. They're ready to attack. They move forward slowly, rising up out the riverbed like an army.

Two girls creep from the water rhythmically, CHRYSANTHE, a dark woman who dances with the world, and DIONNE, golden, with opinions as piercing as the sun, 40s.

Through the trees, Chrysanthe and Dionne creep animalistically, playfully, sensuously and they peer from behind a trunk in suspension it's... a BABY.

Chrysanthe runs up to it.

DIONNE

What is that?

CHRYSANTHE

A child!

DIONNE

A child?! What must it be? A boy or a girl??

Chrysanthe holds the baby up. Her baby BUTT to the camera.

CHRYSANTHE

It's a girl!

DIONNE

(distaste)

Really?? A girl?

CHRYSANTHE

Yes. Oh, she must be from the gods!

DIONNE

The gods? They've never sent a girl before. What hero could she be?

Chrysanthe begins running and dancing back to the river, twirling the baby above her head. Dionne follows.

CHRYSANTHE

Dionne! This baby was meant for us,
she is our truth! We MUST take her in!

DIONNE

This isn't fate! It's only coincidence
that we've found this child!

CHRYSANTHE

This is a sign!

DIONNE

This isn't a sign. She isn't a god,
nor a hero, nor a man... Why must we
take in this baby? She's nothing but a
GIRL!

CHRYSANTHE

We shouldn't question what we are to
do!

(beat)

It must be chosen. And followed
through with confidence! She is a
gift. And there is absolutely NO
choice in the matter!

They come upon the river, and the nymphs await the news.

NYMPH 1

What's this?

CHRYSANTHE

A baby! A baby sent from the god's for
us to raise!

The nymphs rejoice. They erupt into DANCE and LYRE MUSIC,
pulling Chrysanthe into the water. The baby FLIES UP INTO THE
AIR and Dionne catches it. She holds it away from her,
uncomfortable.

The baby SPITS UP and GIGGLES. *She just may grow to like it.*
We sink beneath the glowing water.

MATCH CUT:

EXT. RIVER OF THE NYMPHS - SLEEPING QUARTERS- NIGHT

The water glows, we pull back to reveal SNORING nymphs who
sleep curled in tree-trunk holes, splayed over rocks, and
flung in trees. They have glowing HALOS on their heads.

Time has passed. The baby has now grown into a young child. YOUNG PETRA (8), black, passionate and mischievous, sits among a display of ANCIENT MAPS and cosmic CHARTS.

She's the only one awake, plotting her growth with the planetary orbits. THEOPHILIA , 18, her teacher sleeps nearby.

Petra stares at Theophilia as she sleeps. She speaks to her:

YOUNG PETRA (8)
Theophilia? Are you awake?

THEOPHILIA
No.

YOUNG PETRA (8)
...Doesn't it feel like we should be talking now?

Theophilia ignores her. Petra GIGGLES.

YOUNG PETRA (8)
Remember the other day during our lesson, when you were teaching me about the planets?
(beat)
Well I think you were wrong.

Theophilia begins to wake up. She looks at her.

THEOPHILIA
Petra. Are you trying to correct my teachings? Those lessons have been around for decades. You're questioning renowned scholarly men, polymaths.

Young Petra (8) get's excited that she's woken her up. She shows her a chart.

YOUNG PETRA (8) (CONT'D)
I grow taller about every 16 hours. It seems to be in line with some sort of celestial body. But I can't seem to figure out which one.

Young Petra (8) walks to a nearby tree and marks her height.

YOUNG PETRA (8) (CONT'D)
I've been watching every planet, in accordance with men's calculations!
(beat)
But these orbits are being influenced by something else.

Young Petra (8) lays back pointing to particular STAR in the sky.

YOUNG PETRA (8)(CONT'D)

That one there's an anomaly.

(beat)

The astronomer Hipparchus, says it's just a "normal star" like all the rest,

(beat)

but what do men know?!...

THEOPHILIA

Petra-

YOUNG PETRA (8)(CONT'D)

-I believe it's actually another planet...one as blue as the sea. I can feel it. A planet far away, that's disturbing all these other orbits! And I think it's the source of my growth.

(beat)

Either that, or I may just be the fucking center of the universe.

Theophilia looks at her strangely then lays back down. CLOUDS up in the sky move to cover the STAR and Petra can't see it anymore.

YOUNG ALTHEA (8)

(to star)

Where did you go?

She looks through a lense and it's FOGGY. She gets up and begins running through the trees to try and find it again.

EXT. SACRIFICE ALTAR - DAWN

The loud continuous HACKING of a knife. A bull CRIES. A NYMPH CHILD, 11, pulls the knife back up over her head. The BLOODY CARCASS lays dead on the altar.

Petra's mothers, Chrysanthé and Dionne, watch calmly and perform sacrificial rituals.

CHRYSANTHE

She's just barely born. She knows not of life nor of it's sensations. Let alone how to... seduce a man to do her bidding.

DIONNE

I saw her Chrysanthé. I watched her

lure a boy from the water. They were practically romantic until she got him to tend to all of her duties.

A beat.

DIONNE

She isn't like any *normal* child I've ever seen.

(beat)

There's something wrong with her.

CHRYSANTHE

Maybe so. But, in a good way. We seduce men everyday, it's in our nature. She's profound. Way ahead of her peers.

DIONNE

Believe what you'd like. Every mother thinks highly of their own child. That's a life full of pain and disappointment.

CHRYSANTHE

You speak much too quickly. No need to worry anyone, everything will fall into place.

DIONNE

Well I am worried. And rightfully so.

CHRYSANTHE

You think *they're* punishing us?....
With the child??

Young Petra (8) runs looking up at the sky in the background.

DIONNE

We're long overdue. We have to get the gods on our side.

(beat)

I'm sure they've been expecting these gifts. And I have no desire to suffer in the river styx for all eternity.

Young Petra (8) carelessly runs up onto the chopping block, almost getting hacked by the knife. The nymph child SCREAMS.

DIONNE (CONT'D)

(sarcastic)

Oh good. She's just in time for the ceremony.

They pull Young Petra (8) up off the altar. She's now covered in blood, and smiles at them.

CHRYSANTHE

Petra! Won't you watch where you're going?!

YOUNG PETRA (8)

I was charting my growth mommy. I'm going to be about fourteen in a few short months.

CHRYSANTHE

Is that so?

YOUNG PETRA (8)

Yes, and then I'll have breasts, and I'll be able to marry a nymph just like you.

DIONNE

Nonsense. If you keep that up you'll have to settle to marry a man.

YOUNG PETRA (8)

NO!

CHRYSANTHE

Quiet down now we're in the middle of something.

YOUNG PETRA (8)

But-

CHRYSANTHE

Not now.

Libations are poured on the carcass. The women begin to HUMM CREEPILY and drop to their knees in a trance. A beat.

CHRYSANTHE

Goddess Athena. We pray that you watch over this precious child, fill her with wisdom and strength and we ask the oracle to bless upon her future.

DIONNE

And we ask Rhea to guide us through a pleasant motherhood... And that she grows to bear a prosperous and heroic son.

Chrysanthe eyes Dionne. The women CRY out loudly, as the ritual entails, but it is clearly fake.

YOUNG PETRA (8)
Why do you cry mother?

DIONNE
Sh! I don't know, we're supposed to.

CUT TO:

A huge FLAME rises up, the women throw the bones into the fire.

EXT. RIVER OF THE NYMPHS - DAWN

They walk back from the altar as the day awakes, carrying the bull on a plank. Nymphs gather in the river. Some tend animals, chat, kiss passionately, and braid hair. It's hedonistic and free-spirited.

CHRYSANTHE
Petra you have to be more careful, you could've gotten injured. Or wandered off too far.

YOUNG PETRA (8)
But mother it was one of the only nights I'd get to see my favorite wandering star... And I have no fear of injury.

DIONNE
Do you know what happens to little girls who don't obey their mothers? They're banished. To the dark side of the island.

YOUNG PETRA (8)
The dark side of the island?... What is that?

DIONNE
Where all the monsters live. Careful or you'll be there too. They might even eat you alive.

They hand the carcass to some nymphs who are preparing to cook and eat it.

YOUNG PETRA (8)
You always tell me stuff, blah, blah, blah.
(beat)
But you never tell me the things I actually want to know!

CHRYSANTHE

What now?

YOUNG PETRA (8)

My father. You never tell me who he is, or anything about him.

DIONNE

My darling bastard. We've got no idea who he is, but you've got us! What more could you ever need??

YOUNG PETRA (8)

But it takes a man and a woman Dionne! Don't you know?

DIONNE

Lies!

CHRYSANTHE

Petra! Who on earth told you that?! Dionne and I sprang from our lily pad, and the nymphs were all born of this very river.

Chrysanthe picks her up and Young Petra (8) resists and then makes herself LIMP. Her mothers carry her over to a throne rock formation, and place her on their lap.

Young Petra (8) drinks ambrosia and nectar from the horns of a GOAT, as she speaks in between sips.

YOUNG PETRA (8)

But I just know he's real handsome, and got some real good swimmers too!

CHRYSANTHE

Yes I'm sure your "father" was very talented, in and out of the sea.

YOUNG PETRA (8)

No! *Swimmers*. I was faster than all the other sperms, Chrysanthe...Of all the men they could've turned out to be. But no. It was me.

CHRYSANTHE

That's nice.

YOUNG PETRA (8)

And my mother?

A beat.

DIONNE

WE are your mothers Petra. And we love

you very much.

YOUNG PETRA (8)

I know!... But it would be nice to know something about her. So I know what I will become.

CHRYSANTHE

What do you have to fear? Just sit back and see what the world has coming for you.

YOUNG PETRA (8)

But why wait for the world?! I'm not so sure I belong.

DIONNE

I won't lie, you're rather strange, but you're the best thing we've ever scavenged from the trees!

(beat)

But enough of these charts, and maps and philosophical things. You're a child. Why don't you act like one.

They gently push her away, to a group of nymph CHILDREN who chase each other and play. She's hesitant, leading into:

MONTAGE- PETRA GROWING TO DISCOVER HER CURSE...

Intense violin/piano MUSIC.

Very fast, rapid shots that accelerate with the music progression.

EXT. NYMPH FOREST - DAY

Young Petra (8), joins the children who run into the forest, they chase SQUIRRELS and grab them by the TAILS leading into:

INT. PETRA'S CAVE - NIGHT

Dionne brushes Young Petra (8)'s hair as she stares *enigmatic* in the mirror. She sits regally and nymphs decorate her in flowers.

EXT. RIVER OF THE NYMPHS - DAY

The nymphs, holding hands, dance gaily in circles in the SHIMMERY light. Young Petra (8) in the center, is paraded up in the air like a prize.

BACK TO:

EXT. NYMPH FOREST - DAY

Young Petra (8) and the children. They now balance on logs, and playfully push each other around. Young Petra (8) gets pushed off hard and falls to the ground.

The kids giggle and pull her hair. She brushes the mud off herself, angry.

INT. PETRA'S CAVE - NIGHT

Young Petra (8) intensely drawing markings on her planetary maps, *confused and desperate*.

BACK TO:

EXT. NYMPH FOREST - DAY

The MUSIC turns eerie and horrific. Young Petra (8) and the children on the logs. She circles in on them, threatening. They back away hauntingly and scared.

INSERT SPFX: The children crystallize to stone.

EXT. DARKNESS - NIGHT

Series of quick CLOSE-UPS:

- She grabs a coil of her hair, it's a single SNAKE.
- Her traumatized FACE.
- Nails clawing into her thighs in anger.

End CLOSE-UPS.

EXT. RIVER OF THE NYMPHS - DUSK

The nymphs, dancing in circles. YOUNG PETRA (13) throws a temper tantrum in the center. The nymphs dance scared and cautious around her.

INSERT SPFX: We see glimpses of her monster form (akin to Medusa) as she spazzes out.

INT. PETRA'S CAVE - NIGHT

Young PETRA (13), sits in the same composition as when she was 8. Dionne brushes her hair, but this time:

INSERT SPFX: STATUES FADE IN, multiplying around them until they fill the room like a museum.

EXT. NYMPH FOREST- NIGHT

The nymphs, holding hands, dancing in circles around PETRA, now 22 who stands in the middle stoic and daunting. She has grown moody and mercurial, but struggles to hide it beneath an understated exterior.

INSERT SPFX: Nymphs BLUR around Petra, and one by one freeze to stone.

INT. PETRA'S CAVE - NIGHT

Petra, stares seductively in the same composition as before. She gets up and begins violently smashing all the statues to the floor and they shatter like pottery in CAKES OF DUST.

EXT. NYMPH FOREST - NIGHT

Petra, scared and confused, paces and runs like she's mad.

INSERT SPFX: She begins to transform into a monster, her CURLS turning into SNAKES for hair, and piercing GREEN EYES the first time we see what she is fully.

EXT. RIVER COVE - NIGHT

Petra drags herself up to the river and looks at her hazy REFLECTION. She cries, reaching into the dark emerald water. She fears what she's become, confused, hopeless, distraught.

Music ends.

END MONTAGE.**EXT. RIVER OF THE NYMPHS - DAY**

There is tension among the nymphs who sit around WHISPERING about the elephant in the room, Petra. Theophilia leads the dissent.

NYMPH 1

She's a beast pretending to be a girl.

NYMPH 3

I don't know how to behave around her.
I never know who she's going to be.

NYMPH 4

It all began so suddenly. One moment
she was a sweet young child-

NYMPH 3

Yes, the next she's violent in full

rage.

NYMPH 1

And to grow so quickly? Of all the men we've raised, I've never seen anything quite like it.

NYMPH 2

I have. But only in the blood of a god!

THEOPHILIA

How dare you compare her to the heavens?! She's a *monster*.

NYMPH 3

A woman in masquerade.

THEOPHILIA

Something must be done. I say we kill her.

NYMPH 2

No. She was a gift. We must not betray her, nor the gods!

THEOPHILIA

Not every gift should be trusted!

Pull back to reveal Dionne and Chrysanthe eavesdropping behind a tree.

NYMPH 3

Her time has come.

NYMPH 2

(to Theophilia)

She's one of us. You should know that more than anyone.

THEOPHILIA

No. And she never was. We must kill her before she comes after us first.

EXT. RIVER COVE - DAY

Petra lays in the same composition where the montage ended. She's on the ground asleep by the river, like a drunkard. Her mothers Chrysanthe and Dionne approach, and she awakes to their presence.

CHRYSANTHE

Can we speak.

Petra gets up and follows her mothers to the side. She listens, waking up and groggy beneath the vines.

CHRYSANTHE (CONT'D)

Petra. When I was younger, I planted a pomegranate tree inside a vase. I adored that tree very much, and tended to it every day. But after a while the tree kept growing and growing. It became too much for me to handle. And I had to plant it somewhere else to set it free.

PETRA

Where did you plant it Chrysanthe? Might we find it and eat some of it's delicious fruits?

DIONNE

There comes a time when you must let things go. What mother's trying to say is that, that tree might've spread its roots and caused great destruction.

PETRA

Yes. I'm not sure I care about the puberty of a tree-

CHRYSANTHE

Petra. We think it's time that you move on.

PETRA

...Mothers. Are you banishing me?

They look at her afraid.

PETRA (CONT'D)

No.

CHRYSANTHE

No?

PETRA (CONT'D)

I'm not leaving. There's nothing you can do about it. This is my home. This is me.

DIONNE

We don't know who you are anymore.

PETRA

And you think I'm privileged enough

to know who I am? What I've become? I don't know.

CHRYSANTHE

These are our lives. Our people. And you've KILLED them.

PETRA

...But can't you see there's more to me than this madness?!

CHRYSANTHE

You're our precious gift. You are our fate. But you're hurting us.

(beat)

And you've *completely* lost sight of what that means.

A beat.

PETRA

I can't handle this... I don't know why, I don't want to be this way.

(beat)

I don't want to hurt you!

DIONNE

Petra. You're a *monster*.

Petra tears up.

INSERT SPFX: She turns into a monster for a quick second and turns away from her mothers quickly to not hurt them. Then she settles back to human.

PETRA (CONT'D)

I am not a monster!

(beat)

But it feels like I'm trying to keep the magma of the earth dormant inside me!

CHRYSANTHE

We want to please the gods. But we can't do this anymore.

PETRA

I swear to you! It's taking over me! I WANT IT OUT! I promise I won't hurt you again.

DIONNE

These are just words to me. It means

nothing if you can't live up to them.

PETRA
I promise...

CHRYSANTHE
You aren't the victim, Petra.
(beat)
You're just a tragedy.

Her mothers walk away from her melancholic. Petra's left upset and alone. She hesitates to follow them but doesn't.

EXT. NYMPH FOREST - DUSK

Petra peers from the trees at the nymphs outside enjoying themselves in their daily life. *She knows she doesn't belong.* Theophilia looks over at her from a distance.

EXT. SARPEDON ISLAND- OUTSKIRTS - DUSK

Petra runs away, BREATHING HEAVY, through the scenery. She gets faster, running through twisted MUSCULAR TREES. From a distance, Theophilia follows her.

EXT. THE DARK SIDE OF THE ISLAND - DUSK

From a distance, we see her run over the ROCK BRIDGE to "the dark side of the island". Theophilia follows suit.

EXT. THE DARK SIDE OF THE ISLAND - VOLCANO - DUSK

Petra runs through the FOG and luscious PLANTS leading up to a BREWING VOLCANO.

EXT. VOLCANO- GORGON CAVE - NIGHT

Petra comes upon a CAVE at the bottom of the volcano. She stumbles against the wall and cries. She CLAWS at herself and sits ROCKING, and panicked.

INSERT SPFX: She sporadically turns to a monster as she cries outside the volcanic cave.

PETRA
(to self, echoing)
What's wrong with me...
(beat)
I'm a monster.

Two womanly SILHOUETTES appear. It's the SHADOWS of STHENO and EURAYLE, 40s, two wise gorgon women.

STHENO
What's the matter dear?

PETRA
GET AWAY...Get away from me!

EURAYLE
I've never been one to run.

PETRA
What do you want?! WHO ARE YOU??

STHENO
Come inside with us.

PETRA
No!

EURAYLE
It's in your best interest my girl.

PETRA
I c-can't. I don't want to hurt you.

A beat. She breaks into self-confession:

PETRA (CONT'D)
I've been losing myself...

Petra looks at their feet.

PETRA (CONT'D)
When I get angry I-I feel myself
change. I become *something else*. I
don't know who I am anymore...

Petra finally looks up at them. She recognizes them in herself and is terrified. She backs away.

PETRA (CONT'D)
(to self)
Why can't I escape this?!

STHENO
Wait, wait! Don't be afraid... we must
show you something.

INT. VOLCANO - GORGON CAVE - NIGHT

Painted on the wall are some beautiful FRESCO paintings portraying the myth of Medusa, beginning with the gorgons' birth. Petra looks at them tearful and brushes her hand on the wall.

STHENO

A long time ago. In Libya, three
sisters were born of the depths of the
sea. Two of them immortal,
(beat)
but one was destined to death.

EURAYLE

We were known as the Gorgon sisters. I
Eurayle, my sister Stheno-

PETRA

And the other of you??

EURAYLE

...Her name was Medusa.

The paintings animate and come alive to fill the screen.

MEDUSA'S BIRTH- (PAINTING)

Painting of Medusa and her sisters, 22, in glowing vignette,
they are youthful and dreamy.

STHENO (V.O.)

We had all been beautiful once, but
Medusa was a sensation. One look at
her and you were in LOVE.

PETRA (V.O.)

(tearful)
What happened to her?

GODESS ATHENA - (PAINTING)

Painting of ATHENA emerging from Zeus' head.

EURAYLE (V.O.)

She was a priestess. Of the Goddess
Athena.

STHENO (V.O.)

Who was a jealous little bitch.

EURAYLE (V.O.)

The goddess of wisdom, favorite child
of Zeus. Born of his very head.

STHENO (V.O.)

And as Athena's priestess, Medusa was
sworn to celibacy.

THE GOD POSEIDON - (PAINTING)

POSEIDON emerges from the sea in a mountain-like wave, holding up his trident. He's riding his chariot of snow white HORSES. His NERIED NYMPHS surround him.

STHENO (V.O.)

But on one wretched day, Medusa was lured by Poseidon, God of the sea. A moody and violent God.

MEDUSA & POSEIDON'S AFFAIR - (PAINTING)

Medusa running cautiously into the TEMPLE OF ATHENA slowly moves to a dark sensual painting of Medusa and Poseidon.

STHENO (CONT'D)

He seduced her into Athena's temple... and..

PETRA (V.O.)

And??

EURAYLE (V.O.)

... and they had an intimate affair.

ATHENA'S PUNISHMENT - (PAINTING)

Athena ANGRY on her golden throne, moves to painting of Medusa slowly transitioning into a MONSTER.

STHENO (V.O.)

Athena became furious. As Medusa had broken her vows. So she cursed her. Turning our sister into a hideous monster, with writhing snakes for hair, and a face so terrible, one look could turn man to stone.

EURAYLE (V.O.)

All of us banished, here to this island, far out at sea. No one even knows where.

BACK TO:

INT. VOLCANO - GORGON CAVE - NIGHT

Petra and the gorgon sisters. *She's fearful, things are starting to make sense.*

STHENO

But not long ago. The hero, Perseus-

EURAYLE

Hero? No. A sad excuse for a man.

STHENO

Yes. Well, Perseus was sent to find and kill Medusa and bring back her head.

PETRA

With what defense? Couldn't she freeze him to stone?

PERSEUS & MEDUSA'S DEATH - (PAINTING)

PERSEUS with his shield and sword up in the air holding the HEAD OF MEDUSA.

STHENO (V.O.)

Perseus had the gods on his side. Athena lent him her shield, polished as bright as a mirror and Hermes lent him his sword.

EURAYLE (V.O.)

And quickly he had found us. Swooped down from the sky, looking into the mirror and cut off her head. And just like that, she was gone.

BACK TO:

INT. VOLCANIC CAVE- NIGHT

Petra in the cave. She's become tense.

STHENO

We did everything we could! We went after him. But he'd already vanished.

PETRA

But... what happened then? Is she really just dead??

PEGASUS & CHRYSLOR - (PAINTING)

PEGASUS emerging from Medusa's falling body, CHRYSAOR, the giant weilding a sword springs to life too.

EURAYLE (V.O.)

Out from Medusa's body sprang a beautiful winged horse, Pegasus, and a giant wielding a golden sword.

MEDUSA'S HEAD- (PAINTING)

Perseus has Medusa's head in his hands and defeats a Sea Monster. PUSH IN to Athena with Medusa's head on her breastplate.

STHENO (V.O.)

Medusa's death was only the beginning of her power. Defending mankind from monsters all around. And eventually given to Athena and placed upon her shield.

BACK TO:

INT. VOLCANO - GORGON CAVE - NIGHT

Petra and the gorgons. Petra is shocked and confused by the revelations. She stares blankly.

STHENO

And that's where you come in my dear.

EURAYLE

What no one knew is that while on the island, Medusa had borne a daughter that she kept hidden. A creation of Poseidon and curse of Athena.

STHENO

We had to give you up. To protect your identity.

PETRA

My mother. Medusa was my mother.

(beat)

So what am I? A demi-god? Or a monster??

STHENO

Half god. Half woman. Half curse. And thus, you are never one nor the other, but riding the line between all three.

A beat.

PETRA

(to self)

It's why I change so suddenly.

(to Gorgon Sisters)

If I'm half god, shouldn't I be able to control this??

EURAYLE

You CAN control it. But your power reflects what's within you.

PETRA

I don't have it in me. It's too much.
I don't want any of it!

(beat)

Curse the gods! Curse Athena! Fuck the heavens and the earth! I want to meet my father. Poseidon will help me.

EURAYLE

Poseidon doesn't know of you!

STHENO

Who cares about Poseidon?! Think of all the trouble this curse has caused us. Look at what it's done to you.

EURAYLE

None of this is our fault. Why must we be the one's to suffer?!

Petra thinks about everything she's been through.

PETRA

Yes. What I need is revenge.

STHENO

REVENGE. A sweet melody to my ear.

EURAYLE

Splendid idea.

PETRA

No, I don't know. Medusa was my mother. But she was the most vile of creatures. Just like I have become.

EURAYLE

Is that really what you believe??

STHENO

Doesn't this make you angry?!

EURAYLE

Perseus killed your mother! If there's any monster out there it's him.

PETRA

You're right. If they think I'm the monster so be it. Maybe that's who I

am.

(beat)

But I'd rather be dead than live
another day without my revenge.

EURAYLE

This is what you were born to do.

PETRA

How must I go about it then?

(beat)

Oh. I'll go after Athena. She's the
one who created this chaos. She's
responsible for my mother's death.

STHENO

You must be careful dear. No one will
understand you. And it's foolish to
think you can interfere in the affairs
of the gods.

EURAYLE

Think deeper Petra. You know what you
must do.

PETRA

Perseus? Perseus is who I need to
kill.

STHENO

No, no, no. He's old and nearly
fallen. What good would that do?

EURAYLE

We say you go after his most prized
possession. The thing he loves most in
the world to carry his legacy. His
heir.

STHENO

Let him feel the the pain of living
without his precious son, like you've
lived without your mother.

(beat)

Death would be much too kind.

Petra smiles. She embraces her monster self.

PETRA

Yes. I'm going to kill the heir of
Perseus...Whoever could he be?!

EURAYLE
Vernados of Mycenae.

PETRA
Vernados of Mycenae! That's who I'm
going to kill!

EURAYLE
But you must be a wolf disguised in
sheep's clothing. Or they'll come
after you too.

PETRA (CONT'D)
I see how I'm going to have to play
this.
(beat)
If they think I'm a monster so be it!
It's all I have left of me.
(beat)
I will get back this life that's been
so brutally stolen.
(beat)
I'll do it for my mother.

*The Gorgons become hopeful. Petra has a change of mindset
from confusion and distressed damsel, to bad bitch.*

EXT. VOLCANO- GORGON CAVE - NIGHT

Theophilia finishes eavesdropping from outside.

EXT. NYMPH FOREST - DAY

The dissenting nymphs congregate preparing a poisonous dinner
for Petra. Spread over a table, is a VOLUPTUOUS FEAST
resembling a still life painting.

NYMPH 1
Theophilia. Has the deed been done?

THEOPHILIA
(smiling)
Shall I say. Swans of hemlock. Hares
of Ivy, and fruits laced with arsenic.

Some nymphs GIGGLE.

NYMPH 3
Shh! She'll be coming any minute now!

Petra enters gaily. HUMMING with the whimsy of a Disney
princess.

THEOPHILIA

Petra! We're so glad you're back!

PETRA

You are?

THEOPHILIA

YES. How have you been my sweet?

PETRA

Wonderful Theophilia, thank you.

Petra hangs her peplos and the nymphs wait eagerly.

PETRA (CONT'D)

...I see my supper is ready.

NYMPH 1

Yes, sit, sit! We spent all day preparing!

PETRA

All day?...What for?

NYMPH 3

For you of course! Our gracious daffodil!

They fondle her around and push Petra onto the bench, pushing a plate of food before her swiftly.

PETRA

Oh.

They all crouch around leaning in, waiting, desperate for her to eat. Their arrangement resembles *The Last Supper* (Mural by Leonardo da Vinci).

Petra sits down and breathes tired from her day.

PETRA (CONT'D)

God, I am starving. Choosing to be evil does makes one quite ravenous wouldn't you say?

The nymphs are quiet and look at her.

PETRA (CONT'D)

Must you all watch me like that?

NYMPH 1

Sorry. This is the best of what we've foraged. It is tempting.

PETRA

Oh. I wouldn't mean to tempt you. Go ahead, darling. Take a bite.

The nymphs look at each other, annoyed that Nymph 1 blew it.

PETRA (CONT'D)

...I've gained suspicion that one of you might betray me tonight.

NYMPHS

No, no.

NYMPH 3

Why would you think that dear?

PETRA (CONT'D)

Well. I've decided I'm going to begin a fast.

THEOPHILIA

We don't fast until the winter. You must eat now, while the food is pure.

Petra slams her FISTS.

PETRA

NO! I don't want to eat it!

(beat)

MOTHERS!

Petra tries to get up, they pin her down. Chrysanthe and Dionne rush in.

CHRYSANTHE

What is going on here?!

PETRA

They're demented.

NYMPH 2

They're trying to poison her!

THEOPHILIA

(to Nymph 2)

Traitor!

The nymphs explode bickering. Then they break into fight attacking each other violently:

NYMPHS

- She's a sin!

- She's a monster!
- She's a gift!

CHRYSANTHE
ENOUGH.

DIONNE
Tell me. What's with all the
disagreement?!

THEOPHILIA
Have you not heard the news? She's
Medusa's daughter. And we want to
please Athena.

Theophilia looks at Petra, who is stoic upset. Pouting.

THEOPHILIA (CONT'D)
She's better off dead. The goddess
wouldn't want her alive anyway.

NYMPH 1
If Athena finds out, we'll be punished
far worse than anything she could ever
do.

PETRA
Athena is nothing! Poseidon's my
father. And I know he would want to
protect me. If you're wise you'd do
the same.

NYMPH 3
I don't believe in the words of the
wicked.

PETRA
You're delusional.
(beat)
Right? Mothers? They're delusional.

The mothers grab Petra in false protection. The dynamic has
changed. Fear underneath the surface, only complying so she
won't cause harm.

CHRYSANTHE
Anyone have anything else that must be
said? Because I don't care for it.
Petra is upset and I think we should
all settle down before we make any
rash decisions.

Petra smiles. She loves the control. Nymph 2 stands with half the nymphs who shy forward from the mob.

NYMPH 2

On the contrary. We're in favor of Poseidon. And we will do anything to protect his offspring.

NYMPH 5

She is our sister. We wouldn't want that blood on our hands.

THEOPHILIA

You're only speaking out of fear!

PETRA

Fear? What does anyone have to fear?! I've vowed to never hurt a soul! Don't you believe me?

THEOPHILIA

You're a vicious liar. And you grow more evil everyday. I've never believed in you.

At first Petra almost tears up. Then she clenches in, *she feels how powerful she is. She embraces the feeling:*

PETRA

Insult me more. Call me crazy, I don't care. You're nothing against me, and this is my life. If you can't be loyal to me then-

THEOPHILIA

Then?!

INSERT SPFX: Turning into a monster, Petra freezes the dissenting nymphs to stone, and they form a DRAMATIC STATUE, with moss and trickling water.

PETRA

(nonchalant)

...It was an accident.

The nymphs comfort each other in horror. Chrysanthé and Dionne keep composure but are ashamed of her. Petra walks up close and grabs their arms, speaking only to them.

PETRA

(smiling cheekily)

Thank you.

THE SEDUCTIVE BEAT OF DRUMS begins.

MATCH CUT:

EXT. RIVER OF THE NYMPHS - DUSK

These DRUMS are heard by IAKOVOS, 35, a young king, arrogant and insecure. He's searching direction, walking through the trees.

From his POV: he sees the dissenting nymph STATUES on the other side of the river among the trees. He get's confused, and walks closer to see what it is.

He notices Petra standing on the riverbed among them. The composition arranged like "*The Birth of Venus*" (Sandro Botticelli painting).

Petra smiles at him and FLIPS HIM OFF before joining the nymphs who appear in fear and clothe her. He sees this and emboldens.

CUT TO:

Petra's POV: Her and the nymphs see a man walking towards them and their river.

NYMPH 2
(to Petra)
He's looking at you.

PETRA
What else would he be looking at?!

After she snaps she slightly feels bad.

PETRA (CONT'D)
...What should I do?

The nymphs look at each other afraid to answer.

NYMPH 5
Act natural?

PETRA
No. I am worth more than nature. I
will play him like the strings of a
lyre.
(beat)
Positions.

Iakovos walks closer and approaches the nymphs.

The nymphs surround Petra and become defensive. They seduce Iakovos from the water, the staging alluding to "*Hylas and the Nymphs*" (John William Waterhouse painting). He announces:

IAKOVOS

I! Am King Iakovos of Tiryns! Sent on a quest to acquire the hide of the Nemean Lion, the eyes of the fallen Sphinx, and Harmonia's necklace from Delphi. And I have so been successful!

The nymphs stealthily rise up from the river. Everything slows. They stare at him, touch him, seduce and surround him, creepily...

NYMPH 2

You think we care who you are?

IAKOVOS

Well, I am-

CHRYSANTHE

What brings you to Sarpedon?!

IAKOVOS

Sarpedon?

DIONNE

This island. Our land, why must you soil our waters?!

Iakovos walks closer to Petra. The nymphs cling onto him. He bends to his knee.

IAKOVOS

I've gotten lost. On the way back to Tiryns. But I think it was the fates that led me to this marvelous creature of a woman. She'd be a ravishing delight for my royal throne.

PETRA

(grossed out)

Oh.

He motions toward Petra.

PETRA (CONT'D)

You think you deserve all of this?

Iakovos hesitates.

PETRA (CONT'D)

He mustn't go back. I want to keep the boy.

IAKOVOS

Boy?

CHRYSANTHE

Well of course, he's yours now. I can think of plenty for him to do.

They pull him in.

IAKOVOS

What?! No! That's not what I-

PETRA

NO??

DIONNE

What is 'No'?!

The nymphs SNICKER.

NYMPH 2

I've never heard such a ridiculous phrase.

IAKOVOS

It's a state of denial and disagreement! 'No' means you can't have what you so desire!

PETRA

You're in my land now Iakovos. You will play by my rules.

The nymphs look at each other afraid, for him.

EXT. NYMPH FOREST- NIGHT

CLOSE UP: THE DILATED PUPILS of Iakovos.

END CLOSE UP.

The nymphs have possessed him. *He suffers from nympholepsy* and worships them, bowing at their knees, fanning them, showering them with gifts and fruits.

The nymphs surround him, dancing in circles in fear. Petra speaks with Chrysanthe and Dionne.

PETRA

Nympholepsy. I'm going to miss that.

CHRYSANTHE

Yes. So enjoy it while it lasts.

DIONNE

Miss it? Why would you miss it?

PETRA

Mothers? Did you hear? He's headed towards Mycenae.

Iakovos leaps gracefully.

IAKOVOS

Tiryns actually. A short ways East.

PETRA

Mmh.

IAKOVOS

Please accompany me. You nymphs are the epitome of IRRESISTIBLE delight.

(to Petra)

And you are my favorite. You will be my queen.

PETRA

Never would I settle for queen. I don't wish to marry. Not you.

IAKOVOS

What does it matter what you wish. I chose you. That's an honor. It's you that I want.

PETRA

I'd never go with you. Not even if the oracle declared you'd be the only one to ever love me. I'd rather die alone.

IAKOVOS

You're only making me want you more.

Petra pulls her mothers away to the side.

PETRA

(to Mothers, calmly)

I bet it's nice in Mycenae. I think I'd be happy there.

DIONNE

You should go with him.

CHRYSANTHE

I feel that the world is calling you.

PETRA

Yes. It is.

DIONNE

Petra. What are you plotting now?

PETRA

I have a plan, I do. But I mustn't tell him that. I'm merely taunting his desires.

CHRYSANTHE

What do you mean?

PETRA

Iakovos. He's my way off the island, and into the phallic world of royalty! I'm going to get my revenge.

DIONNE

Revenge?! What revenge? On who?

PETRA

I'm going after the heir of the man who killed my mother...But first, I must be queen. Iakovos will be my chauffeur.

CHRYSANTHE

(cold)

Is this what you stand for?

A beat.

PETRA

I'm going to go with him. I just wanted you to know.

Petra slowly approaches Chrysanthé and Dionne pulling them in close and holding them. Saying her goodbyes. Her mothers wince in fear, Petra notices and under the surface it hurts.

EXT. NYMPH FOREST - NIGHT

The nymphs all sleep. Petra sneaks up to a tree and unfastens the ROPES that have Iakovos tied around it.

Iakovos falls to the ground and awakens. *He's dazed and confused from the nympholepsy that has now worn off.* He gets up to leave.

Petra WATCHES his every move. Then she stealthily runs up before him and "faints" in his pathway, pretending to sleep.

She hopes that he'll kidnap her, knowing that men love to go against what they're told, and she's been so resistant.

Iakovos comes up to her, and SIGHS. He pulls out a sack, throws her inside and kidnaps her leaving the island.

EXT. TIRYNS - IAKOVOS' PALACE- FACADE- NIGHT

We jump to a short time later. The end of the marriage procession, between Iakovos and Petra.

Petra is brought on a CHARIOT driven by Iakovos, down a path lit by TORCHES. A crowd of CITY-FOLK follows them. Petra is girdled, decked in JEWELRY, ornaments, and WEDDING ATTIRE.

The chariot stops in front the palace near a HEARTH and the couple is showered in dried fruits and nuts by the crowd who plays MUSIC and CHEERS in celebration. *Iakovos victorious, Petra repressed.*

INT. IAKOVOS' PALACE- BRIDAL CHAMBER- NIGHT

We jump to Iakovos alone, BLIND-FOLDED and guided by servants into a dimly lit bedroom. The servants place him on his throne, then leave him in silence to await his new bride.

BACK TO

EXT. IAKOVOS' PALACE- FACADE- NIGHT

Back outside, the crowd surrounds the palace silently. Petra now sits in a LITTER being prepared by servants MELANTHA and OPHIRA motherly and accepting of their position, 30s.

They deck Petra in gold and lavish jewelry. Everything except her becomes BLURRY, sultry. Servants lift her up and carry her up the front STAIRCASE of the palace and inside.

INT. IAKOVOS' PALACE- CORRIDORS- NIGHT

Slowly. Petra is carried on the litter through the palace interior, across balconies, halls, and up to the bridal chamber. *She's dead faced, seductive.*

INT. IAKOVOS' PALACE- BRIDAL CHAMBER- NIGHT

Petra is brought in and placed on the bed. Iakovos' blind-fold is removed. The servants leave discretely.

Iakovos stands from his throne. He walks over to Petra, looking at her up and down. He's delighted scared. He KNEELS.

IAKOVOS

My bride. I've travelled the world,
explored the great depths of the seas
from Egypt to Asia Minor. But I've
never known anything quite like you.

She watches him, manipulative. He takes a long beat in the silence.

IAKOVOS (CONT'D)

So many quests, *suffering*, to be
heroic. *Fearing* where the fates will
lead. So much left up for me to
discover.

(beat)

But tonight-

PETRA

-Tonight,

(beat)

You can choose your own adventure.

He smirks dauntingly, and removes her VEIL. Petra sits passively silent staring at him, as he comes onto her.

IAKOVOS (CONT'D)

(whispering)

You my darling, are the beauty of the
earth, the heavens, and the
underworld. A herald of the cosmos
themselves... And now

(beat)

you are mine.

PETRA

And now I am yours.

Iakovos undresses her slowly, each ITEM falling to the floor one by one. He kisses her passionately and as he caresses her he becomes aggressive, pinning her down. *Petra remains passive on the outside, but inwardly she's rebellious.*

The scene is modest. He pulls her hips and forces her shoulders still. Petra isn't enjoying it. She then flips him over, becoming dominant. She kisses him with supremacy.

She stops. Smiles at him and laughs a little.

INSERT SPFX: She turns into the monster she is, the snakes
HISSING at him.

Iakovos SHRIEKS. She doesn't look him in the eyes yet, but
kisses his neck.

IAKOVOS
WHAT??? No... no, no, please...

PETRA
No??

IAKOVOS
Get away from me... WHAT ARE YOU??

She trails her fingers on his face. Looks him in the eyes,
and as he lays vulnerable and afraid:

INSERT SPFX: Iakovos begins to crystallize to stone.

MATCH CUT:

EXT. IAKOVOS' GARDEN- DAY

The stone STATUE OF IAKOVOS stands in the garden as her first
victim in the hunt for Perseus' heir, Vernados. We pull back
to reveal Petra standing on a BALCONY looking at the statue
with pleasure. She then walks back inside.

INT. PETRA'S PALACE - VARIOUS ROOMS - DAY

Petra jumps, twirls, and runs through the palace taking all
of Iakovos' things and the palace for herself.

She KICKS vases she doesn't like, SMASHES trinkets and
collected treasures of the former king, PUNCHES holes in the
paintings on the walls, and THROWS things out the window.

She swings through the columns and rejoices gleefully falling
down onto the ground. Servants Melantha and Ophira find her
on the floor and run over concerned.

MELANTHA
Oi!

OPHIRA
Miss?! Are you alright??

They check her pulse and hold her face to see if she's
breathing. Petra plays dead for a minute, then gets up and
barges away from them galloping down the hall.

INT. PETRA'S PALACE- BRIDAL CHAMBER- DAY

Petra walks into the bedroom and over to the MIRROR and admires herself sensually.

She turns away, positioned in reference to the *Mona Lisa* (painting by Leonardo da Vinci). She smirks.

INSERT SPFX: She slowly switches between monster and woman, trying to learn how to control her curse.

Servants Melantha and Ophira walk in on her shortly after. They enter shyly, and luckily in that moment Petra is in woman form, but expressing her sexuality, caressing herself. Petra isn't surprised or alarmed.

PETRA

Ophira. Dress me won't you?

OPHIRA

Yes Miss Petra.

Ophira drapes and ties her chiton. Melantha brings a pendant and places it around her neck.

OPHIRA

You're smiling. I hope you don't mind me saying but, I wasn't sure you could smile Miss.

MELANTHA

What did you two get up to last night?

PETRA

(haughty)

There are certain things a bride must do on her wedding night, Melantha.

OPHIRA

Your first night with the King! How exciting!... I heard the shrills of pleasure from the bed chamber!

Melantha grabs Ophira as if to warn her to stop talking.

PETRA

Pleasure...pain...

(beat)

What's the difference?

MELANTHA

The king's got such a great figure. Was it wonderful my lady?

PETRA

For me.

Melantha and Ophira GIGGLE. Petra begins applying makeup.

OPHIRA

Where is he anyway? I haven't seen him all morning.

PETRA

Here and there. On a quest to save the world from his, insignificance.

Another servant (1) peeks into the room.

SERVANT 1

Guests will be arriving shortly. To bring the gifts. The royal couple is set to appear in about ten minutes.

Servant 1 pops out. Petra SIGHS.

PETRA

Ten minutes. The amount of things you can fulfill in ten minutes! It took me ten minutes to learn to read and write. Ten to stop sucking my thumb. Ten minutes to take down a man.

Petra takes a long beat. She walks up to the servants hugging them and stroking them flirtatiously.

MELANTHA

It's getting late. Would you summon the King? I've got a new himation for him to wear before he goes out.

PETRA

Melantha, you're focused on all the wrong things.

OPHIRA

Where is he?

PETRA

Ugh. No...I'm afraid no one will be able to see the king. Not today.

OPHIRA

Why is that?

MELANTHA

What's the matter?

Petra takes a long beat. As if she didn't hear the question.

PETRA
(snorting)
Because he's dead. Haha. HAHAAAAHA.

She bunches up her dress and shimmies in front the mirror.

OPHIRA
Hahaha. You're hilarious, but where is
he really?

PETRA
I killed him.

MELANTHA
You're joking.

PETRA
I'm not joking. I'm your king now. And
right now you're not treating me as
such.

Petra smiles. The servants back away. They take off running
to the door, Petra jumps before them and SLAMS it shut.

PETRA
Why that makes me so sad...You're
hurting my feelings girls.

OPHIRA
WE'LL DO ANYTHING. Please.
Please...anything you want...

PETRA
Mmmmm. You couldn't imagine the amount
of joy you've just inspired in me.
(beat)
The city awaits, and first I must make
amends. But when I return you'll be
here waiting for me yes?

SERVANTS
Y-Yes.

PETRA
Yes. You will. And I just might have a
proposition. We can all play fair.
(beat)
But if you decide you can't bare to
serve me as your queen...I'll come
after you next.

EXT. PETRA'S PALACE - FACADE BALCONY - DAY

Petra walks out onto the main balcony that overlooks the city, where her and Iakovos were supposed to be presented to the town. The SUNLIGHT blinding and casting silhouettes.

She is convincingly upset and somber. She speaks to the CROWD below.

PETRA

I know you all came here today in celebration. With joyous gifts and wishes for the king and I, our marriage. And for the prosperity the future would bring.

(beat)

But...I'm afraid I have some terrible news... last night, after the king and I finished our rituals, our city suffered a great loss. The king had immanent heart failure that descended him from a man, into nothing but a memory...

Petra tears up, feigning sorrow while keeping some composure.

PETRA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I'm-...It's just... I'm extremely heartbroken to say the least... When you've been through all of that, it's hard not to be.

She clears her throat.

PETRA (CONT'D)

The king was a marvelous husband, ruler, scholar... and adventurer. He'll always have a special place in my heart... but we must go on. As a nation, there seems to be an air of uncertainty. So suddenly, we have no current children, no male heir, no one to carry the family name.

She humbles herself for what she must say next.

PETRA (CONT'D)

I as a woman, am *clearly* unfit to rule. But I am soon to bear a child and soon to re-marry.

Petra holds her stomach as if to protect a baby.

PETRA (CONT'D)

I have been in the likings of prominent men who will replace the king's duties and help sort through his estate. As a city, we will return victorious and more prosperous with the right connections.

Petra pauses in misery. Meanwhile the three servants signal to each other in silence, holding DAGGERS behind their backs.

PETRA

And so I kindly ask that you give your majesty a leave of readjustment. As I believe that one must first be selfish to be truly selfless, if you hope to outweigh political intervention. Thank you.

She bows. The crowd chatters in saddened respect and approval, some weep and they COLLECTIVELY BOW to Petra.

INT. PETRA'S PALACE - DAY

Petra walks back inside nonchalant. Melantha, Ophira, and Servant 1 grab her and pin her down as she struggles.

INSERT SPFX: Petra turns into a monster sporadically, as she tries to claw away from them.

The servants fall back quickly scared, realizing she's more terrible than they thought. They duck and cover their faces as if there is a bomb.

PETRA

You're making me insecure. If you don't look at me right now I won't hesitate to show you who I really am! I've learned that's something no one wants to see.

Petra is genuinely upset by their response to her form, her HEARTBEAT begins to pound and grows throughout the scene.

The servants hesitate and are afraid to look. Slowly the servants stand and Ophira takes off running, the others follow suit. Petra then chases after them too.

Petra chases them through the halls and rooms. The servants SCREAM and struggle each time she gets nearer.

Petra grabs Melantha's leg and pulls her to the ground. Pinning her down, Melantha hits her with a chair and runs.

Petra grabs Servant 1 and begins choking him. Ophira pushes her off of him.

PETRA (CONT'D)
I'm not going to kill you!

Petra then grabs onto Ophira's hips and is dragged like a child.

PETRA (CONT'D)
I need your help!

Petra lets go and falls to the ground where she begins to cry.

PETRA (CONT'D)
(upset)
LISTEN TO ME!

The servants scared by her unpredictability, listen to her.

PETRA (CONT'D)
This palace of mine, this is just the surface. This very moment's been anticipated long before you could ever know. And you've just ruined it.
(beat)
You may think me callous but this is what I must do. If you were in my position you'd do the same.

She collects herself.

PETRA (CONT'D)
I'm looking for someone. A man.

MELANTHA
Why? So you can kill him too?

Petra smiles slyly through her tears.

OPHIRA
You want us to court for you?

PETRA
Not court. Conquer.

OPHIRA
King Iakovos was your husband. He worshiped you! You were meant to satisfy him and bear his fruit. You're a disgrace.

PETRA

You're still talking about that entitled little man?! I want to make this clear. He was my pawn into royalty. And now that I'm royal, I have the means to go after what I really need.

MELANTHA

You manipulative. Whore.

PETRA

I want what I want.

MELANTHA

You can't always get what you want!
You're a woman.

Petra grabs Melantha abruptly around the NECK, pulling her in seductively.

PETRA

Sometimes you have to grab life around the neck and make it your bitch!

SERVANT 1

Why. Why all of this?! What is it that you want?!

PETRA

Vernados.

OPHIRA

Vernados Electryon?? Prince Of Mycenae?

SERVANT 1

Why that's Perseus' heir!
What do you want with him??

PETRA

Perseus killed my mother!
And I will kill his son.

MELANTHA

If only Athena knew of you. You wouldn't dare be so bold.

Petra takes a breath.

OPHIRA

How do you expect us to do that??

Petra walks away and they follow her.

MELANTHA

All of our duties?

PETRA

Duties?

OPHIRA

Cooking, cleaning, helping you bathe
and dress.

PETRA

Why would you have to do any of that?!
I'm not an imbecile. If you help me,
you can do whatever you please.

They head into:

INT. PETRA'S PALACE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

The group moves into the throne room and Petra takes her
place on a set, as PAINTERS begin diligently working on
MURALS of her on the walls, as she sits positioned.

The conversation continues:

MELANTHA

Whatever we please?

PETRA

Yes.

*The servants silently fight about whether Petra understands
their position, and whether to tell her the truth.*

OPHIRA

My queen. We aren't just servants.
We're slaves.

PETRA

Slaves?

MELANTHA

Your property.

PETRA

Property?....Why would you tell me
that?

OPHIRA

W-We're yours...

PETRA

The only thing that's mine are my
actions.

(beat)

Once Vernados lays dead. I will give

you your freedom. You have my word.

The servants try to process this.

PETRA (CONT'D)

Now. How will we find him?

MELANTHA

It'll be quite difficult my lady.

OPHIRA

Prince Vernados doesn't see any guests. Unless approved by his advisory of course. But chances are slim.

MELANTHA

No one's seen him in years. I couldn't even tell you what he looks like.

Petra shoots an annoyed look.

PETRA

Tell me more.

OPHIRA

After he was crowned. The people were used to things being run a certain way. Perseus' way. They expected it. Vernados didn't know how to be that.

Petra drops her position, and thinks about this. She smiles.

MELANTHA

He's ruled the city in secret. Which has made him all the more powerful. All the more *feared*.

PETRA

(excited)

Feared?

OPHIRA

Rumor has it, he roams the streets everyday, as if ordinary. Pick a fight with a beggar and you wouldn't even recognize him as prince.

PETRA

How will I get my victory?

MELANTHA

You could request a meeting, but it'll

likely fall through.

A beat.

PETRA

Well he will be no stranger to me...find men from here to Mycenae. Bourgeoisie. Nobility. Speak to the beggars and gather intel along the roads. Ask around to the fisherman the farmers, the slaves. Figure out who this *prince* is.

(beat)

Send any suspects my way.

SERVANT 1

What are we supposed to say?? You think they'd come so willingly?

PETRA

It's me we're talking about.

The servants look at each other and WHISPER deciding whether to tell her they disagree.

PETRA (CONT'D)

Any grievances?

The servants are hesitant to speak.

PETRA

Listen closely, I'm not paid to be a teacher. But if there's one thing I know I know men.

(beat)

First. You tell them I'm misguided. Alone. No heir to take the throne. The decisions of Tiryns are on their hands...a kiss to Narcissus.

(beat)

Second. A persuasion of love... I will surrender to one man, and one only, but the possibility alone should be enough.

The servants begin to leave. Petra speaks and they stop:

PETRA

But you mustn't ever tell them the truth...no one believes in reality anyway.

EXT. PETRA'S PALACE - ENTRYWAY - DAY

TRUMPETS play.

A series of shots:

The multitude of men who Petra lured into her palace. They bow and kiss her feet, bring gifts, perfumes, and jewelry, which Petra looks at picky, accepting the one's she likes.

EXT. PETRA'S GARDEN - DAY

Series of shots:

The various men are taken into her garden. Petra is playful with them, flattering them as they play with her.

INT. PETRA'S PALACE - NIGHT

A series of shots:

The various men Petra has "booty called" into her palace. Secretive and discreet, they run through corridors and nooks of the palace, she taunts them with quick touches, leans into kiss but doesn't do it, never giving into what they desire.

EXT. PETRA'S GARDEN - NIGHT

Series of shots:

They run through her garden at night and she tickles and hides from them like a child, playing hide and go seek.

end TRUMPETS.

EXT. PETRA'S GARDEN - DAY

View from above as Petra runs through her garden MAZE now full of MALE STATUES.

A series of shots:

- scared STONE FACES
- stone MALE STATUES in terror

A young man chases her. His name's SOLARIS, 25, and he's clean-cut handsome. She's giggling and holding up her chiton.

PETRA
I don't think you can catch me!

SOLARIS

I don't know, I think the games in Olympia would say otherwise.

PETRA

How vigorous of you Solaris! You're playing easy on me then?

Petra grabs his arm, leading him through a tunnel of flowers up to the statue of Iakovos.

SOLARIS

All of these statues and such a lonely maiden among them.

PETRA

Who's to say that I'm lonely?

SOLARIS

Well you're alone aren't you? A husband deceased. An empty palace. No one here to keep you any company.

PETRA

Why, I've got a whole garden full of friends.

SOLARIS

Where did you get these from anyway... might I ask?

PETRA

I made them all myself.

She rubs her hands in his hair like a pet.

SOLARIS

All of them? That's some excellent craftsmanship.

PETRA

Yes. It is.

SOLARIS

Which one is in your favor?

PETRA

This one I suppose.

SOLARIS

Who is it of?

PETRA

My father. I was so young when he died. I miss him.

Petra looks sorrowful.

SOLARIS

I'm sorry. That's troubling.

PETRA

Yes. There was barely any time to say goodbye. And as he died, I looked him right in the eyes and told him how much I loved him. He just froze.

(beat)

Out of happiness! HAHA.

Solaris get's an eerie feeling he tries to pull away.

PETRA (CONT'D)

(snickering)

I'm just kidding. It's my ex-husband. What was his name again... King Ia- Ia-kovos, of Tiryns?

A voracious smile.

SOLARIS

You're a monster!

PETRA

I'm a lady.

SOLARIS

What's the difference?!

She pulls him to her and they kiss.

PETRA

(whisper)

But you're special Solaris. I'd never do that to you...

SOLARIS

MEDUSA?!

PETRA

Nope. Try again.

SOLARIS

Whatever I did! Don't hurt me. PLEASE DON'T HURT ME. It doesn't have to be like this.

PETRA
 (whispers)
 It's not going to hurt.

She begins licking him, biting at his neck. He squirms and fights to run away but she grabs him. HE SQUEEZES HIS EYES SHUT.

PETRA (CONT'D)
 (whispers)
 Open your eyes.

He keeps his eyes closed and hesitates.

PETRA
 Open your eyes Solaris. I can give you everything you've been missing.

She brushes his eyes open, and he slowly tries to look.

INSERT SPFX: SNAKES HISS. Petra turns him to stone, and giggles. She admires her work, then jaunts away.

PETRA
 Melantha, Ophira! Clean up on isle four.

Melantha and Ophira come and struggle to lift the statue up and carry it away.

EXT. PETRA'S GARDEN - GAZEBO - DAY

After her kill just a few meters away, Petra is scheduled to meet with her fellow aristocratic MAIDEN friends who she has practically brainwashed.

They sit beneath a GAZEBO framed with flowers, just around the corner from Petra's kill. She walks up to them pouting.

MAIDEN 1
 No luck?

PETRA
 Nope.

She falls into the maidens' arms and they comfort her.

MAIDEN 2
 There has to be a man nearby who knows where the clitoris is.

PETRA
 I've practically seen almost every

one. They're all as clueless as they are gullible.

MAIDEN 3

Inviting all these men, to find the perfect satisfaction? You've almost seen every man in all of Greece!

(beat)

I think you just may have to fake it.

PETRA

And why would I settle for fiction when I've got all the cards in front of me. My entire mind!

(beat)

I'm going to take matters into my own hands.

MAIDEN 2

Yes. If you want something done right do it yourself.

PETRA

I'm going to throw a festival. A banquet. Surely anyone in the right mind will attend. It will be the biggest spectacle of the season.

MAIDEN 1

Yes, and that way you can invite all the nearby royalty! They have endless duties but they wouldn't be so barbaric as to miss a festival.

PETRA

Excellent idea!

MAIDEN 2

Invite lucky townsfolk too, like a lottery! Just in case.

MAIDEN 3

Good. It's the desperate ones that'll work endlessly to please you. Surely you'll find someone suitable.

MAIDEN 2

And how will you know who's the one? One might navigate the earth and the seas, but will make a woman question her anatomy.

PETRA

I just have a feeling girls. This man is the source of all my misery, but he's soon to be my greatest pleasure.

MAIDEN 1

So you have a particular man in mind??

They stare at Petra who looks off into the distance.

MAIDEN 2

Who are you searching for, my queen?

PETRA

This man, though I haven't met him yet. We have a history.

(beat)

He makes me *feel* things, the good and the bad. He practically converted me into evil.

MAIDEN 3

(giggly)

You're not evil.

PETRA

No. You're right. I'm not. I'm fighting for what's right. And I know exactly who I'm looking for.

Petra WHISTLES and a flock of PIGEONS fly to her as if she's *Cinderella*.

CUT TO:

The women have attached INVITATIONS to the pigeons and set them free.

Petra pulls a MESSENGER MAN aside.

PETRA

(whisper, stern)

Every prince must get one. This is for Mycenae.

She slips him a special note. The messenger nods and she shoo's him away.

INT. MEN'S BATH HOUSE- DAY

It's a beautiful Grecian bathhouse filled with sculpted men lounging around, some with a LEAF over their privates. CATO, 35, a strong brunette struts confidently through the halls,

greeting and smiling at everyone.

MEN

- Cato!
- Good day!
- A pleasure to see you.

He continues walking and comes upon a crowd of sycophant men bathing who CHEER and APPLAUD him as he stops to SHOW OFF HIS MUSCLES. Then Cato continues along.

Cato finally comes upon his friend group. The composition arranged resembling *The School of Athens* (painting by Raphael). They perform their bathing rituals.

The conversation is between Cato and his two FRIENDS, 30s.

FRIEND 1

Cato. Nice to see you.

CATO

I know.

FRIEND 2

Why're you so delighted?

CATO

Delighted?! I'm not delighted.

FRIEND 2

(to Friend 1)

I bet he's seeing a new woman.

FRIEND 1

If he could actually get a woman.

CATO

Women are just a deformity of mankind!

FRIEND 2

Women were borne of revenge. Fire stolen from the heavens.

CATO

And I can so get one! I've chosen to marry the lovely Eirene in two weeks.

FRIEND 2

Eirene, that old hag! She's nearly fourteen!

CATO

Much younger than that erômenos of yours! How long have you been "mentoring" him?

FRIEND 2

Don't speak of him like that! It's *networking*.

CATO

You're making a woman of yourself Paskalis.

FRIEND 1

Cato. What is with you today?

CATO

Fine. I admit I am in sour mood. But I have good reason.

Everyone sits around purposefully ignoring Cato, they could care less.

CATO (CONT'D)

I said. I HAVE GOOD REASON...

FRIEND 2

Cato, what ever could it be?

Cato tears up.

CATO

(melodramatic)

It's my brother, Solaris. He's disappeared.

FRIEND 1

Again?

FRIEND 2

Hasn't he run away from you before?

CATO

Yes, but he'd usually be running back by now for my guidance.

Cato slashes his arm like a sword.

CATO (CONT'D)

I made him a eunuch! In hopes of the family inheritance.

FRIEND 2

Well then where do you think he could be this time?

CATO

Foolish of you to think I wouldn't know.

FRIEND 1

Do you?

CATO

He's inside the palace of Iakovos.

FRIEND 2

Hahah alright. That bastard died a long time ago.

CATO

Solaris went in there to meet with the queen. Petra, and-

FRIEND 1

And what? She killed him? I don't think so.

FRIEND 2

She couldn't be capable. She may be the queen but she's only a woman.

FRIEND 2

She's just a tragedy waiting to happen!

CATO

I believe she's hysterical. In fact I demand that she is.

FRIEND 1

Whatever. As long as that bitch keeps the city alive I could care less for her sanity.

Cato pounds his fists.

CATO

AGGGH! I SAW HIM GO IN THERE! AND HE HASN'T RETURNED!

Cato begins to POUT and TANTRUM like a winey toddler, grabbing everyone's attention as more men gather around. The men comfort him as he curls up like a baby.

MAN 1

Hold on. My friend went in there too.
And I haven't heard from him in
months.

MAN 2

And my professor!

MAN 3

And my uncle.

The men begin to MURMUR and cause a ruckus. More men SHOUT
out in agreement.

FRIEND 2

WHY are all these men disappearing?!

MAN 2

We should bombard the queen! Force her
to give us the truth!

CATO

There's NO reason why US highly
educated and scholarly men shouldn't
be able to figure this out OURSELVES!

FRIEND 2

What if the king isn't actually dead.
Just hiding in there, taking all of
the men from our city. For an army.

FRIEND 1

It could be some sort of hideous
monster!

An OLD MAN hobbles out from the crowd.

OLD MAN

I've seen it. Went over there to paint
a mural for the queen. According to my
calculations she's got 332.

FRIEND 1

332 what?

OLD MAN

332.. cold, petrified, frozen for all
eternity.

FRIEND 1

Give us a clue as to what you're
talking about.

OLD MAN

Men.

FRIEND 2

You think she could have killed the king? Stuffed and propped him up in the lawn.

OLD MAN

My theory. Medusa.

CATO

MEDUSA? That's ridiculous.

FRIEND 1

Medusa's dead.

CATO

Yes! Slain by the brave and glorious Perseus!

FRIEND 1

Let's think about this rationally. When Medusa was FUCKED, it was by the wonderful god Poseidon. Yes?

FRIEND 2

Yes but she never bore a child!

FRIEND 1

And how would you know?! Where you down between the legs of the villain??

OLD MAN

I painted the queen. I know every inch of her body. That woman's got secrets.

CATO

(jealous)

She revealed herself to you?!

OLD MAN

Well no... but I could imagine it. I believe she has secrets. How dare you question me!

FRIEND 1

She must have some sort of mutation. The ability to change at will.

CATO

Some sort of woman monster hybrid?!

FRIEND 1

Seems to be.

CATO

See, I told you! I told you all! I believe her to be a descendant of Medusa! In fact I demand that she is!

Cato struts away through the bath with his chin in the air spreading the newfound news to everyone with his big mouth. His friends follow.

CATO

The queen is the bloodline of Medusa! We have a *monster* as our queen!

FRIEND 1

Careful Cato. Do you have any proof to give?

CATO

How dare you insult me. What proof do I need? If she isn't a monster, she's a monster to me.

FRIEND 1

You could talk yourself to ruin.

CATO

I'm the most lauded fisherman Tiryns has ever seen. And I won't be vexed by whatever untamed waters she's trying to stir.

(beat)

I'll prove it to you.

EXT. PETRA'S PALACE - FACADE- DUSK

It's the day of the festival. The remaining KINGS from nearby lands have arrived in riches and glory. Lucky townsfolk crowd in excitement to get a sweet taste of aristocracy.

INT. PETRA'S PALACE - FESTIVAL/BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

Petra is approached by multiple suitors who she chats with charmingly as people pour into the palace and fill the festival hall.

A series of shots:

- A group of women and their lavish attire.
- A crown placed on Petra's head. Framed like *Portrait of a*

Young Woman (Painting by Botticelli).

- Aristocratic people conversing and laughing.
- People lounging amidst a bounty of food and wine.

CUT TO:

Petra stands on the balcony at the top of the stairs that overlooks the entire room. Melantha and Ophira are with her.

PETRA

Are you blind? I can make that possible.

MELANTHA

We're looking. We haven't seen him yet. Have you eaten?

PETRA

Yes. I'm full of hatred and conspiracy. I'm desperate to get this over with.

OPHIRA

You're nervous.

PETRA

I am not!

MELANTHA

Yes you are.

OPHIRA

Having second thoughts?

PETRA

No. It isn't I who's mistaken.

(beat)

When you question me it just makes me want to kill him all the more!

OPHIRA

Sure.

MELANTHA

You're all worked up and he isn't even in the room.

PETRA

I can't help it Melantha. I feel this is what I was born to do. And I won't be free until he's dead.

Petra grabs the rail, speaking more to herself than to them.

PETRA (CONT'D)

This is everything I've ever wanted.

OPHIRA

Revenge?

PETRA

Being able to act in the world. Rather than being fated to react to it.

Petra takes a nice sip of wine. The chatter of the room quiets down when a man and his servants enter.

This man is more lavish than the rest yet something about him is down to earth, humbling. It's VERNADOS, 25, charismatic.

Petra immediately takes sight of him from above, *a pit in her stomach, maybe even tears in her eyes.*

Melantha and Ophira watch Vernados in awe. Petra disappears quietly. The chatter of the room picks up again until a gust of WIND knocks all the lanterns out and the room is DARK. People GASP.

SPARKLERS appear in the darkness and move down the festival hall stairs and onto the main floor. A GIANT VASE has appeared, and servants shimmer PEACOCK FEATHERS affront it.

SUSPENSEFUL MUSIC begins, and a giant PENDULUM is released from the ceiling. The pendulum swings back and forth as the crowd gasps waiting for it to hit the vase.

After a few tense swings, the pendulum hits the vase SHATTERING it to the floor and revealing queen Petra from inside. She sits regally and composed among the wreckage.

The crowd applauds in admiration and the MUSIC becomes seductive as everyone begins to dance. The crowd CLAPS rhythmically. Petra then flaunts before Vernados. He's mesmerized but tries to repress this as she approaches.

Petra grabs him by the arm, pulling him harshly into her embrace. Vernados is intrigued by her boldness.

They begin to dance among the crowd. The APOLLONIAN DANCE, slow and controlled, accompanied by lyres, lutes and a cithara. As they dance the tension builds up.

VERNADOS

You think it's wise to approach a stranger like that.

(beat)
Your beauty is the only protection
against me.

PETRA
I'd say it's a threat.
(beat)
I'm not always so beautiful.

He stares at her and she doesn't break eye contact.

VERNADOS
Petra.

PETRA
You know of me?

VERNADOS
No. I've heard rumors.

PETRA
It's all fiction. None of it's true.

VERNADOS
Fiction can never be so fake.

Then suddenly, the dance transitions to the DIONYSIAN DANCE,
passion, panic, and desire, orgasmic.

PETRA
And you. I won't pretend not to know.

VERNADOS
So you've heard of me.

PETRA
Vernados. Son of Perseus. Prince of
Mycenae.

VERNADOS
My god. You've made me a million
things with no witnesses.

PETRA
Isn't that how the story goes?

VERNADOS
Maybe. But that isn't how I choose to
tell it.

PETRA
You think you're special?

VERNADOS

Just my father. Nothing I could ever
live up to.

Then slow again. The two dance styles shift back and forth in
a tension that matches that of the couple.

PETRA

Good. I don't think much of Perseus as
a man.

VERNADOS

Blood is thick and contagious. But it
often lies.

PETRA

How can you prove it?

She turns quickly so that her back is close against his body.
She slides down, rebelling against the traditional dance
choreography of the crowd.

VERNADOS

I don't think that's appropriate.

PETRA

I don't think that I care.

VERNADOS

Do you always just do what you wish?

PETRA

Don't you?

They dance quickly again.

VERNADOS

I rule my kingdom with honor and
integrity.

PETRA

How honorable can you be if you brag
about it?

VERNADOS

I always think of others, my people, I
do what pleases them.

PETRA

And who's to say what pleases them?
You're living in a different world.

VERNADOS

I see us as one and the same.

The pace slows. She wraps her leg around him.

PETRA

But you're not.

VERNADOS

We're all human.

PETRA

Not everyone's seen that way.

He leans her back over his arm quickly.

PETRA (CONT'D)

Was that a line from your father?

VERNADOS

It might've been a humbling tactic of a sort.

PETRA

I believe you can be your own man.

VERNADOS

I am.

PETRA

I don't see it. And I do get bored quite easily.

Petra looks at him mockingly. She then abruptly leaves him and runs wildly to find Melantha and Ophira. The dance ends and the CROWD shouts and claps.

CROWD

Opa!

People begin to chat and eat while a POET reads lines from Protagoras.

POET

Of all things the measure is Man, of
the things that are, that they are,
and of the things that are not, that
they are not.

Petra walks over to the servant women. Coming up behind their backs.

PETRA

Poets. They try so hard to confuse me.

Melantha and Ophira shriek in surprise.

PETRA (CONT'D)

Did you see me??

OPHIRA

Yes miss, you looked delightful.

PETRA

He's PERFECT.

MELANTHA

When do you plan to take your hit?

PETRA

After the readings. I must find a space where we can be alone.

Petra SHRIEKS like a young girl.

OPHIRA

What's the matter?

PETRA (CONT'D)

Temptation. I want to do more than just turn him to stone! To haunt me for all eternity.

MELANTHA

No one likes greed. You shall take what you can get.

PETRA

I thrive off the feeling! I want to watch him suffer as much as this curse has caused me and the life of my mother. For all of this bloodshed.

OPHIRA

What are you thinking now?

PETRA

Liquid mercury. In poison of my courtesy! CHOKe him to death over wine.

Vernados approaches the women by surprise.

VERNADOS

May we speak?... I must be going.

Petra holds a finger up to him, finishing her conversation.
Vernados leans against a column with a desire to sit.

OPHIRA

But what would you do with the body??

Petra looks at Vernados, sizing him up.

PETRA

(to Melantha & Ophira)

I do have a collection of vases now.
One of those shall do perfectly. Now
go away. I do have a headache.

The servants leave.

VERNADOS

I'm sorry, I must be going.

Petra motions for him to stand straight, he mustn't sit in
her presence. He stands up.

PETRA

Well alright.

(beat)

Then be gone.

VERNADOS

No, no. I must see you again! It's
only city matters to attend to.

She smiles.

PETRA

Well if you must. I wouldn't want to
leave a man alone with desire.

VERNADOS

Tomorrow. We will meet again.

PETRA

I suppose. You will come for me then?

VERNADOS

I'll come for you and I'll plan
something grand.

PETRA

What will it be??

VERNADOS

A surprise. I won't tell.

PETRA

Alright... It's good to know you like surprises.

Vernados leaves with his crew and Petra tackles Melantha and Ophira joyfully, kissing them on the cheek in gratitude.

INT. PETRA'S PALACE - PRIVATE BATH - NIGHT

After the festival Petra retires to the palace. Cato follows her from the fading crowd, with a SWORD. She enters her bath and he watches from a peephole outside.

It's steamy and mossy. Petra strips down to a sheer undergarment in the moonlight, and gets in the water. Cato watches. Moving to get closer. He runs his fingers over the knife blade.

INSERT SPFX: She then dips beneath the water and rises up in monster form. Her eyes above the water.

The snakes notice him and HISS. Petra whips around.

Cato GASPS, surprised. He lowers the grip on his sword and turns away quick, offended and threatened. Petra crawls out the water to him, but doesn't see him there.

EXT. SACRIFICE ALTAR - NIGHT

Cato reaches out to Poseidon and shares his news. A group of MAIDEN BASKET CARRIERS are in attendance. The rituals have already finished. He kneels:

CATO

...Poseidon my god. You've blessed the waters with bounty and my pockets with riches. More than this young fisherman could ever dream.

(beat)

And for that I hope you favor these gifts of gratitude.

He tucks his head, showing a subordination that's out of character for himself.

CATO (CONT'D)

But I've come to express my concerns. There's been a woman. She's wrecked havoc on our men and our city... It's a massacre. She's taken my brother...Solaris... I believe her to be a descendant of Medusa.

(beat)

And thus. I'm afraid to say... you
have a daughter. One who needs to be
stopped. For the sake of men.

(beat)

I BEG TO YOU!

Cato SCREAMS animalistically, throwing himself onto the
altar.

CATO (CONT'D)

HELP RESTORE THE BASIC LAWS OF MAN.

(beat)

And while I know that she's your
child. It's all the more reason that
you must bring forth her death. She's
made a mockery of your name. And I
can't bare the sight of such,
treacherous castration.

He carves a TRIDENT into the animal's skin and SOBS to
himself before throwing the knife at the maiden's who SCREAM
and scatter away.

INT. PETRA'S PALACE - BRIDAL CHAMBER - NIGHT

Petra sits at a desk surrounded by DRAWINGS and WRITTEN
INSTRUCTIONS, plotting Vernados' death.

CLOSE UP: she hand draws instructions showing herself using
the brazen bull with Vernados inside and her SIGNATURE at the
bottom.

End CLOSE UP.

She GIGGLES at the finished product. Then she looks at it
endearingly. PIANO MUSIC begins.

She begins to have flashbacks. A series of shots:

- Vernados' hand on Petra's waste.
- Their feet dancing in harmony, in synch with each other.
- Petra in the cave with Stheno and Eurayle.
- Vernados' breath on her neck.
- Young Petra (8) marking on her planetary maps.
- Petra from the beginning montage, dragging herself up to
the river and looking at her REFLECTION.
- Vernados looking at her in the eyes.

PETRA (V.O.)
 Vernados. Son of Perseus. Prince of
 Mycenae.

VERNADOS (V.O.)
 My god. You've made me a million
 things with no witnesses.

PETRA (V.O.)
 Isn't that how the story goes?

The flashbacks turn into murder fantasies:

- Petra stabs Vernados violently, blood everywhere.
- Petra cuts off his head. Then stabs herself.
- Vernados' scared, betrayed FACE, tearful, BLOOD from his eye.
- Vernados clutched inside the Brazen Bull, catching on fire.
- INSERT SPFX: Petra looks Vernados in the eye and turns him to stone. But he turns very slowly, the stone taking over his body as Petra, regretful, tries to grasp his fading flesh and make it stop.

VERNADOS (V.O.)
 Just my father.

PETRA (V.O.)
 My mother. Medusa was my mother.

EURAYLE (V.O.)
 You must be a wolf disguised in
 sheep's clothing.

PETRA (V.O.)
 That's who I'm going to kill!

VERNADOS (V.O.)
 Nothing I could ever live up to.

PETRA (V.O.)
 If they think I'm a monster so be it!
 It's all I have left of me.

EURAYLE (V.O.)
 You CAN control it. But your power
 reflects what's within you.

The flashbacks and fantasies end. Petra gets up overwhelmed, she paces then crawls beneath the bed with legs sticking out.

EXT. TIRYNS CITY STREETS - MOVING - DAY

Petra and Vernados ride horses through the town and the beautiful architecture: STOAS, STREETS, etc. They ride in silence for a long beat, neither wanting to be the one to speak first, a game of power.

PETRA

Why is it that you wanted to see me again? Is it just my-

VERNADOS

Your beauty. It's just a bonus.
(beat)
You astound me...

PETRA

I astound me too.

VERANDOS

And when we danced it was like...the anecdote to my miseries... You don't address me as if I'm royal.

PETRA

Why would I? You've done nothing to deserve it.

VERNADOS

(playful)
You're right I haven't.

PETRA

Are you so conceited to think that I am yours?

They ride in silence for a moment.

VERNADOS (CONT'D)

I can't stop thinking about you. Your smile is the zenith of my happiness. You live indefinitely in my head.

(beat)

And I just keep wondering who you are, what you're thinking, and what you have to say... I want to know what you have to say.

PETRA

I don't quite know what to say.

(beat)

That's the highest compliment you could ever give me.

An awkward beat. She shies away.

PETRA (CONT'D)
Tell me what I'm supposed to say!

VERNADOS
(playful)
You don't have to say anything. I
won't say anything. I'll stop talking
now.

PETRA
...Take it back.

VERNADOS
I'm sorry?

PETRA
(coldly)
Take it back.

VERNADOS
Why? I'm not going to take it back.

PETRA
It's too generous.

VERNADOS
(proud)
I know.

PETRA
It makes me think that you're lying.

VERNADOS
You don't trust that nature might
create something so brilliant. As
brilliant as you.

PETRA
No. That's unnatural. The more
brilliant you are, you only realize
that you're really quite foolish.

They continue riding in awkward romance. Petra smiles.

PETRA (CONT'D)
You're foolish.

VERNADOS
Always have been. You're just the
first to recognize it.

PETRA (CONT'D)
What was it like in your youth,
Vernados? A generation of *heroes*.

VERNADOS
Only in imagination. That's not how it
really was.

PETRA
What do you mean??

VERNADOS
There was luxury, yes. I had
everything I could ever dream,

Petra looks at him with comfort.

VERNADOS (CONT'D)
...It was plagued with expectation.
The events of my father affected me
deeply. His successes... And his
faults.

PETRA
Really? Tell me.

VERNADOS
As I've grown, I've come to find
myself quite... *insufficient*.
(beat)
I could never be who he wanted me to
be. And soon I replaced my feelings
with performance.

PETRA
As if you were a puppet on strings.

VERNADOS
The wild card hidden among the deck.

PETRA
Or a quarter moon trying to escape the
darkness.

They look at each other and smile in the warmth of each
others understanding. Petra uncomfortable, in getting so
close to the victim.

VERNADOS
Sometimes I wish he were dead.

PETRA
You shouldn't say that.

VERNADOS

There are times when you must be bad
to be good. And I often do more wrong.
Especially when I think I'm doing
right.

PETRA

Hm.

They ride some more in silence. The horses NEIGH.

VERNADOS

And where did you come from?

PETRA

You say that as if I'm some sort of
animal.

VERNADOS

I just mean, this is quite a city
you've got. How did a woman like
yourself come to claim such an
inheritance?

PETRA

I was born into chaos. And it's always
been instilled in me...I never met my
mother, nor my father.

VERNADOS

Your father. What's he like?

PETRA

He's doesn't know I exist. But I've
always had a profound love for him.

A beat.

VERNADOS

Your mother...did you love her?

PETRA

She was miscarried at the prime of a
woman. I feel that I owe her my life.
(beat)
But it was the nymphs who raised me.
They're my mothers too.

VERNADOS

(smiling)
It takes a village.

PETRA
And the child who is not embraced by
the village. Will burn it down to feel
it's warmth.

Petra looks at him coldly.

VERNADOS
African Proverbs...

Petra nods once.

PETRA
Might we go somewhere private? Where
we can share in pleasures, independent
of this place.

VERNADOS
I'll race you back to the palace.

Vernados takes a head start, riding off. Petra follows
leisurely.

PETRA
(to self)
Why race when I've already won.

INT. PETRA'S PALACE - CORRIDOR - DAY

Petra and Vernados walk through the halls. Headed toward the
bridal chamber, and up to the door.

VERNADOS
Where are we headed?

PETRA
You'll see in a matters time.

VERNADOS
It was I who was to plan the evening.

PETRA
Don't you trust me?

VERNADOS
Do you paint?

PETRA
Don't you trust me?

Vernados says nothing. Petra turns around to look at him.

PETRA (CONT'D)

When I said we should be alone. I meant the bedroom.

VERNADOS

That isn't my intention. Can't we take some time for the arts?

PETRA

It is an art.

VERNADOS

Please. I'm desperate to know you.

PETRA

You can know me. In the bedroom.

VERNADOS

I want to see the palace!

PETRA

This is the best part!

VERNAODS

The rest of the palace... can't we stop for a moment of leisure? Let me understand you.

She looks at him and he looks so *respectful*. She gives in.

PETRA

(haughty)

...Alright.

Petra then walks in the other direction hesitant and unsure of her decision. Vernados follows.

INT. PETRA'S PALACE - BRIDAL CHAMBER - DAY

The servants had prepared a torture chamber waiting in the bedroom for Vernados' death which isn't occurring as planned. There is a TORTURE RACK, and BRAZEN BULL. *The servants look at each other impatiently, wondering where Petra is.* Her INSTRUCTIONS and DRAWINGS scattered around the room.

INT. PETRA'S PALACE - ART STUDIO - DAY

A gorgeous, earthy, art studio with paintings and pottery scattered around it, messy and hard to walk through. Vernados waits for her to enter the room first, like a gentleman. Petra eyes him with suspicion.

PETRA

No you.

He enters before her. They pause, trying to figure out the best way to move through the room.

VERNADOS

Paint much?

PETRA

The king did.

VERNADOS

How are we supposed to get through this?

PETRA

Like this.

Petra steps limberly over and around the art, brushing it carelessly out the way with her foot. It SCREECHES, annoyingly, like nails on a chalk board. Vernados follows behind.

Vernados struggles and then among the awkward silence he TRIPS, in an embarrassing way.

Petra tries not to laugh she covers her mouth. She looks at Vernados on the floor, her laughter building.

VERNADOS

You have permission to laugh.

Petra bursts out LAUGHING uncontrollably, and SNORTING.

PETRA

(laughing)

Of course I can laugh! I was only trying to be courteous!

VERNADOS

You aren't intimidated by me?

PETRA

(laughing)

Stop it! I can't breathe!

She continues laughing, losing control of her body. Vernados gets lured into laughing too. Then Petra TRIPS over a vase.

VERNADOS

(laughing)

I am so intimidating! People fear me.

PETRA
(laughing)
In your mind maybe.

They both start laughing harder and harder on the floor and then their laughter dies down.

VERNADOS
(playful)
You're a disgrace. Tell that to the common man and they'd pick a fight with you.

PETRA
Well I'd be used to it.

VERNADOS
I can tell that about you. You don't make any effort to be agreeable.

PETRA
You're no different. You don't treat me like all these other men here treat their queen.

VERNADOS
As merely a figurehead. No.
(beat)
You're real to me... you give me the courage to let go.

A beat of longing stares.

CUT TO

Petra and Vernados paint on easels passionately in comfortable silence.

PETRA
You know why I like painting?

VERNADOS
Why?

PETRA
It's like I'm living in pure saturation! Showered in every alluring thought until I'm bathed in a...a dramatic canvas. Splattered in every last dot of my desires... Without modesty!

VERNADOS
I'd love to see that.

They paint in silence for a beat.

VERNADOS (CONT'D)
It listened to me. When no one else
would.

PETRA
(giggling)
What?!

VERNADOS
Painting. It's a way to immortalize
yourself... Live in a thousand minds
at once. You can make people truly see
you.

PETRA
I promise you I make myself seen.

VERNADOS
Seen how you want to be seen. So you
don't die in the truths of another.

PETRA
It's all about control isn't it. Every
stroke, you can guide it wherever you
want it to go.

VERNADOS
Exactly.

He pushes her arm playfully so that she messes up her stroke.

PETRA
Hey!

He looks at her deeply, watching in adoration. Petra gets
uncomfortable then returns to painting enthusiastically. From
over her shoulder we see her painting something gruesome.

Vernados continues fiddling around in the paint, Petra STARES
at him. The REFLECTION OF SNAKES in her eyes. She desperately
wants to do it. He looks up and sees her.

VERNADOS
How's it going?

PETRA
It's going.

VERNADOS

Can I see it?

PETRA

No.

VERNADOS

Why?

PETRA

It isn't very good.

Vernados comes closer and it makes Petra uncomfortable, she clutches a KNIFE beneath her chiton drapery.

VERNADOS

No, no! Let me see! It can't be that bad.

Petra rolls her eyes and turns the painting toward him, looking away.

CLOSE UP: An amazingly painted picture of a woman chopping off a man's head.

end CLOSE UP.

VERANDOS

Why that's amazing!

PETRA

No it's not. It's not right.

VERNADOS

What? I'm sure you can fix it. Why don't you paint over it then?

PETRA

I'm a bit lazy.

VERNADOS

You can still change your mind.

PETRA

I don't know where I messed up...It's like trying to paint your own face! Where the mystery of the wrong is so unclear.

VERNADOS

I find it intriguing.

PETRA
Show me yours!

VERNADOS
If I'm being honest I haven't painted
anything at all.

PETRA
What have you been doing all this time
then?!

VERNADOS
Thinking about you. Listening to
you... I don't know.

They laugh awkwardly.

PETRA
Stop it. I'll help you. Why don't you
close your eyes,

Petra stands up and walks behind him, brushing his eyes
closed.

PETRA (CONT'D)
And conjure an image from your mind.
Something abstract maybe.

She waits for him to think, then holds a KNIFE up to his
neck.

PETRA (CONT'D)
Anything?

VERNADOS
No...

Petra brings the knife closer, about to cut into his skin.

PETRA
How about now?

VERNADOS (CONT'D)
...I CAN'T DO IT!

Vernados opens his eyes and stammers up.

PETRA
WHY NOT?!

VERNADOS
You're my greatest fantasy.

He walks closer to her. He grabs her hands.

VERNADOS (CONT'D)
Would you be my muse?

Tension and silence. She walks around him to comply.

PETRA
Shall I undress?

VERNADOS
No.

PETRA
No??

VERNADOS
If you were naked you'd be neutral.
The curved lines where you're defined.
But if I'm painting you, you shouldn't
be nude.
(beat)
A few strokes to be made glamorous and
you wouldn't be yourself.

Petra looks at him in surprise, offended by his equality. She tries to hide her expression.

PETRA
(mocking)
"A few strokes to be made glamorous
and you wouldn't be yourself." Ugh.
You're as coy as Eros himself.

They LAUGH together. Petra suspicious. Is he trying to overpower her?

Playful MUSIC begins.

MATCH CUT:

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Playful MUSIC. Petra and Vernados practice archery. Vernados shows her how to set up her BOW AND ARROW. He then shoots and hits a tree. She hits a BIRD perfectly.

He walks up to look at the bird impressed. She aims to shoot him but he notices and she re-angles to a DEER.

EXT. FIELD/STADIUM - DAY

Petra and Vernados have a foot race. Petra wins.

VERNADOS
I want a rematch!

PETRA
No. Get over it I won.

CUT TO:

They go again and Petra wins, crossing over the line in the gravel.

VERNADOS
What?! You're cheating!

PETRA
I am not!

VERNADOS
Let me see your feet!

PETRA
What?!

Vernados swoops her up placing her on a railing and examines her FEET. Petra GIGGLES as he tickles her.

EXT. TEMPLE - NIGHT

Petra sits showing him her planetary MAPS and CHARTS. He looks at them pointing to things and making markings of his own. They look up at the stars and sky with LENSES and ancient ASTRONOMICAL DEVICES. Vernados points showing her new things.

End MUSIC.

INT. PETRA'S PALACE - BRIDAL CHAMBER - DAY

Petra awakens to Melantha and Ophira staring at her. MORNING LIGHT peers through the windows.

PETRA
Good morning.

MELANTHA
You're late.

PETRA
I'm early somewhere.

MELANTHA
Let's be serious now.

OPHIRA
Where were you yesterday?

PETRA
Um.

OPHIRA
Have you abandoned your motives so quickly?!

She sits up from the bed with serious bed head.

PETRA
...Why would you ask me that?

MELANTHA
We were waiting in here for hours.

OPHIRA
We had everything ready exactly how you planned!

MELANTHA
The daggers,

And you made such a fuss
about every detail.

OPHIRA
The fire beneath the bull,

You said you'd lure him into
the bedroom before dusk.

You're ridiculous!

Do you adore him?!

PETRA
ALRIGHT. JUST BE QUIET FOR A SECOND.
Let me think.

OPHIRA
Think?! What is there to think about!
This should be long done.

PETRA
You're asking me things I do not care
to answer.

MELANTHA
Why haven't you killed him yet?!

Petra hesitates to speak.

OPHIRA
Are you giving up?

PETRA
NO.

Petra stands up out the bed.

INSERT SPFX: She turns into monster form and shows affection to the SNAKES. She heads to the vanity and feeds them RATS.

PETRA (CONT'D)

Why do you care so much anyway?? This isn't what you wanted.

OPHIRA

We promised we'd help you. We made an agreement. We don't want anything to change!

PETRA

Change?

MELANTHA

We've come this far are you going to back out on us?

PETRA

I'm not backing out.

OPHIRA

Then what is it?!

PETRA

I can't even look him in the eyes!

OPHIRA

That's pathetic.

MELANTHA

Because he's a man?

PETRA

No! Because he's...he isn't who I thought he was going to be. He's...

OPHIRA

You can't surrender to the sympathy for your victim.

PETRA

But he's....

She can't explain it.

OPHIRA

What are you if you can't even stand up for what you believe?!

(beat)

You must do it... tonight.

EXT. GREEK THEATRE ARENA - DUSK

Petra and Vernados attend a theatre performance of *Oedipus Rex* (*Sophocles*) which is being performed on stage. They sit in throne-like seats at the front.

The AUDIENCE sits surrounding the couple in hillside seats. On stage the actors perform.

TIRESIAS ACTOR

You're blind to the corruption of your life, to the house you live in, those you live with- who are your parents? Do you know?

(beat)

All unknowing you are the scourge of your own flesh and blood,

CUT TO:

Petra and Vernados.

PETRA

(whisper)

Do you really think Tiresias can see the truth, even if he's a prophet that's blind?

VERNADOS

(whispering)

I don't know. But I think Oedipus is gravely mistaken.

PETRA

(whispering)

Does that make him so evil?

VERNADOS

He's both hero and villain. I think his biggest evil is himself.

(beat)

I just wonder how hot it must be in those costumes. He's sweating up a storm.

Petra and Vernados SNICKER.

CUT TO:

The chorus is on stage, addressing the audience/camera, breaking the fourth wall.

CHORUS

That man who left no trace/ after him,
 hunt him down with all our strength!/
 Now under bristling timber/ up through
 ricks and caves he stalks/

CUT TO:

PETRA

What's he running from?

VERNADOS

His fate.

PETRA

In cothurnus boots? Interesting
 fashion choice....

CHORUS (O.S.)

But he cannot outrace the dread voices
 of Delphi,

Petra and Vernados watch quietly and intensely.

CUT TO:

CHORUS

Can such a man, so desperate, still
 boast/ he can save his life from the
 flashing bolts of god?/If all such
 violence goes with honor now/ why join
 the sacred dance?

CUT TO:

From among the crowd, a man wearing a MASK, as if he's one of
 the actors, comes down the theatre steps from the background.

OEDIPUS ACTOR

Cursed in my birth, cursed in
 marriage, cursed in the lives I cut
 down with these hands!

As people in the crowd MURMER in terror and GASP at the
 tragedy on stage, enjoying the theatre, the man keeps getting
 closer, and closer to Petra.

CHORUS (O.S.)

O the generations of men/ the dying
 generations- adding the total of all
 your lives I find they come to
 nothing... does there exist, is there
 a man on earth who seizes more joy

than just a dream, a vision?

As the chorus speaks, the masked man pulls out a dagger and is about to stab Petra from behind.

Suddenly one of Petra's maiden friends, Maiden 2, jumps before her instead, *as if it is her duty*.

Maiden 2 SCREAMS as the knife stabs into her and falls to the ground. Petra and Vernados are completely shocked, along with the crowd who GASPS and is frightened.

Vernados looks at Petra, then at the woman, as if he's suspicious of what has occurred. A pool of BLOOD leaks onto the ground.

EXT. CITY WALLS - NIGHT

They sit on a plateau atop the city walls that are constructed like Cyclopean masonry. Looking out at the skyline. A beat.

PETRA

That was fun, I've decided I enjoy the theatre.

VERNADOS

Yes, I hadn't seen a play in the longest of times.

PETRA

You've seen one before?

VERNADOS

Of course! Hasn't everyone?

PETRA

It was my first time.

(beat)

Is it usually so, vivid??

VERNADOS

What do you mean?

PETRA

The woman. She was stabbed right before me! The audience participation was phenomenal!

Vernados looks at her confused.

VERNADOS

...That wasn't supposed to happen.

PETRA

What?

VERNADOS

The woman. She wasn't supposed to be killed. It wasn't pretend.

Now Petra really is in shock. She tries to hide her reaction.

PETRA

What do you think happened tonight??

VERNADOS

I don't know... I do know I was frightened. And I feel sorry for that maiden. Did you know her?

PETRA

Yes. But not very well. Her name is...was, Thalia.

A beat.

PETRA (CONT'D)

Vernados. Do you think she saved me?

VERNADOS

It was an accident. You shouldn't worry about it much.

PETRA

But who was that man?

(beat)

This isn't how it was supposed to go?

VERNADOS

How what was supposed to go?

PETRA

Life. It wasn't supposed to be like this.

Petra begins CRYING. She tries to hide her tears but Vernados moves her hands and pulls her close to him.

PETRA

It's my fault...I CAN'T DO IT!

VERNADOS

Do what??

PETRA

I wanted to be heroic.

(beat)
But I'm just not invincible.

Petra rests in his lap. Vernados doesn't know what she's talking about but just comforts her.

VERNADOS
Sh. Just look up at the sky... and it feels as if you could be anyone anywhere...A precursor, blank of identity...and all problems might seem to melt away.

Petra looks up at the sky.

VERNADOS (CONT'D)
And if you watch long enough, you'll see everything start to change.
(beat)
It's almost as if you can start new.

PETRA
I think it's a bit late for that. I've been searching for myself beneath this madness. I'm not so sure there's anything there to find.

Petra sits up and looks at him eerily.

VERNADOS (CONT'D)
What did you mean earlier? When you asked if that woman saved you...Saved you from what?

A beat.

PETRA
I can't even tell when I'm evil and when I am not.

VERNADOS
You're only human.

PETRA
No one sees me that way.

VERNADOS
Why are you so afraid to show it?

Petra doesn't answer but looks enigmatically.

PETRA
You make me see the good in the world

Vernados, and brave enough to embrace
the bad.

A long beat.

PETRA (CONT'D)
Can I kiss you?

VERNADOS
...Absolutely.

They kiss sweetly and sensually, they can't get enough of each other and it's passionate and delicate. He lays her down and they continue.

The romance is ruined when Vernados is blinded by some LIGHTS in the distance, along the skyline. The lights are slowly moving closer toward them.

He sits up and looks out at them. Petra is confused then sits up after him and looks out at the lights too.

PETRA
What is it?

They are TORCHES in the distance, kind of like a MOB.

VERNADOS
(concerned)
I don't know.
(beat)
Maybe we should go. Make sure you get
home before late.

They kiss again, and speak in between.

PETRA
You mustn't walk me back?

VERNADOS
You sure?

PETRA
(stern)
It's alright.

EXT. TIRYNS CITY STREETS - NIGHT

Petra walks through the empty streets at night, alone. The city seems almost abandoned, only her BREATH in the cold.

A DARK SILHOUETTE appears behind her in the distance, it follows her. She gets a strange feeling. The SHADOW follows

her. As it get's closer we realize it's a man.

She hears the FOOTSTEPS of the man behind her and looks back over her shoulder. She begins to walk faster, almost running. The man picks up his speed, then charges at her.

He chases her through courtyards, over tunnels, bridges, and structures and through the empty streets.

As he gets closer to her wielding a sword, she GROANS and stumbles away, barely missing him and dodging, rolling against the ground.

Petra keeps running and has come upon a ROOFTOP. She launches off of it catching onto the roof of another building. She then runs inside the building down the SPIRAL STAIRS and the man follows her.

She gets down to the ground floor of the building, which is a bridge that crosses over a moat. Underneath the building are a couple prison-like cells which the MOAT surrounds.

Petra jumps of the bridge into the moat. She hides behind a nook in the wall and when the man comes down after her, she traps him inside the cell, pulling down the GATE.

They stare at each other for a beat.

PETRA

Who are you? What do you want from me?

MAN

It is my duty to restore order, for the sake of the gods and sake of men.

She realizes the man's in a hypnotic state, standing still and dark in the corner.

PETRA

What? Who sent you?

MAN

Penetrate your heart and return with those venomous locks.

PETRA

Who sent you?!

MAN

The pleasure of your head upon my shoulders. To put an end to this atrocity.

PETRA

How do you know who I am?!

She clutches the bars. The man MUMBLES something.

MAN

I've come to kill you. It is my duty
to restore order, for the sake of the
gods and sake of men.

PETRA

For the sake of the gods...

(beat)

It was a god who sent you??

MAN

It is my duty.

PETRA

Was it Athena??

MAN

I've come to kill you.

PETRA

Please! Why are you doing this??

MAN

What's sent you on a gruesome tirade
against mankind and it's orders?

PETRA

Tell me!

MAN

You've overstepped your place and
threatened the limits that have
preceded.

(beat)

An endless battle forever changing
with the push and pull of the tides.

PETRA (CONT'D)

How does Athena even know of me?! How
do I escape this? Where's my father?!

PETRA

Where is he?! He loves me!
He loves me. I need help.

MAN

I've come to kill you. It is
my duty to restore order,
for the sake of the gods and
sake of men.

Petra paces in distress, falling to the ground.

MAN

I must kill you. And I wasn't
successful.

The man then takes a knife and stabs himself in the eyes, as he was told by Poseidon to do if he failed his task.

INT. MYCENAE - VERNADOS' PALACE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

There's white, red, gold, and marble. Vernados speaks with his father PERSEUS, 70, who views each grey hair as another badge of honor. Perseus sits next to his wife ANDROMEDA, whose aged like fine wine.

Four proper CHILDREN, 11-15, boys, stand silent single-file next to the throne. Three SERVANTS stand by as well, 40s. All of whom add pressure to the situation.

Vernados walks into the room.

PERSEUS

Son. Welcome home.

ANDROMEDA

It's nice to have you back Vernados.
We've been missing you for a while.

Vernados enters feigning pride, but something's bothering him.

PERSEUS

AND I'm afraid it's not so joyous my
sweet.

(to Vernados)

Have you returned with good news?

Vernados struggles to try and keep his dignity. Perseus SIGHS and stares at Vernados in smiling disappointment.

PERSEUS (CONT'D)

...You know how I can tell.

(beat)

It's that face you've made ever since
you were a child.

(beat)

The first time I took you fishing. And
you caught nothing more than the kelp.

Perseus shakes his head.

PERSEUS (CONT'D)

See Andromeda, our boy here has failed
to bring me one final thing.

Vernados stands in guilt.

PERSEUS

The city! WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING?

VERNADOS

I've almost got it! I just need a bit more time! I swa-

PERSEUS

I want to die in victory! Knowing that Tiryns is still in my legacy.

(beat)

Each day my bones scream louder and the beats of my heart grow weaker. And I have no fears of death, but only once I can trust that you can sustain this family and our diplomatic needs!

(beat)

Can I not believe in you son?

VERNADOS

NO. NO. FATHER, you can believe.

PERSEUS

And what do you have to prove.

VERNADOS

PERSEUS

I-

It isn't a question.

PERSEUS

What is getting in the way?!

(a beat)

Come here.

Vernados tries not to look his father in the eyes, he looks down at Perseus' feet, and walks up to him.

PERSEUS (CONT'D)

You are one of the greatest trophies I could ever attain, Vernados.

(beat)

But as I get older. As my thoughts, and dreams, and triumphs are no longer. As *I become nothing*, I need to be recognized. I don't want to die in spirit.

(beat)

I need you to fight for me. And I need you to be strong. As strong as the pillars holding up these walls!

(beat)

Do you have it in you?... Or must I

give it to one who's my child?

Perseus motions over to the line of children.

PERSEUS

I've been looking for your replacement. I'm considering an outside hire.

VERNADOS

I'm yours father. I'm your son.

PERSEUS

Get me that estate! And let nothing and, no one get in your way.

(beat)

No matter how beautiful. No matter how fair. She's sworn nothing without a fight.

EXT. PETRA'S PALACE - COLONNADE- NIGHT

Petra stands in a colonnade. She looks up at the SKY, the STARS, and the MOON, serene before bed. Then she walks back inside, and she stops. She gets an eerie feeling.

She walks back toward the colonnade and looks down over the railing. A MOB with TORCHES waits below surrounding the palace creepily and marching in. The same mob with torches that they saw from a distance back at the city walls.

She takes a deep BREATH, knowing what she must get into. The men begin climbing up the walls of the building, running from the roof, the halls, and the entries that all intersect in the colonnade. She's surrounded.

All of the men have MIRROR SHIELDS and form a circle around her. As if trapped in a house of mirrors. She closes her eyes.

Petra is now prepared to fight off the men who have infiltrated her palace head on. As men come for her she becomes moody and unreliable as she fights for her life.

INSERT SPFX: She turns into monster form, snakes hissing.

Men charge at her, and the weaker ones turn to stone immediately, accidentally looking from beneath their shields. The more adept men keep coming at her. She whirls out a SHIELD and SWORD.

She clashes with the men, ducks, kicks, and stabs at them killing some and taunting others. The men slash at her and

push her to the ground, cutting into her side.

This only makes her angrier. The men then chase her into the main part of the palace.

INT. PETRA'S PALACE - NIGHT

They chase her through the palace and she fights more of them, they stab her and one man gets close to chopping her head until she turns him to stone.

She STUMBLES away and then she chases them like a tug of war. She then runs out onto the balcony overlooking the garden.

EXT. PETRA'S PALACE - BRIDAL CHAMBER BALCONY - NIGHT

She hurls herself off the edge of the balcony, doing a LAYOUT (backflip) and catching onto the building edge, hanging over the garden. She LETS GO and jumps down, ready to face the men in the garden.

EXT. PETRA'S GARDEN - NIGHT

She charges at them quickly putting the men on the defense. She chases them through the garden, threatening like the traditional Medusa. Freezing some men and slashing others.

Then there are THREE MEN left. One of whom is Cato.

The men chase her and she runs up to the statue of Iakovos, climbs on top of the base hugging Iakovos' statue and breaking the statue's neck, opening up an UNDERGROUND MAZE made of stone.

INT. PETRA'S GARDEN - UNDERGROUND MAZE - NIGHT

A shot of the maze from above. Within the maze, all four of them are spread out. They run stealthily looking for each other.

Petra turns a corner and her and a man see each other from opposite sides of the hall. She chases him a few turns, then the man gets to a dead end. They fight and the man slashes her arms, until Petra stabs him and continues running.

Shortly after she comes upon another man. He battles her with Pankration style fighting and stabs with his spears until she's down. He almost stabs her until she trips him.

Petra kicks around his head pivoting so that she faces his back. She grabs the man from behind and cuts off his head.

At the end of the hall has appeared Cato, the last man left.

Petra looks at him and drops the other man's head to the ground. Cato holds nothing back and charges at her.

From above we see Cato chasing her through the maze. She meets a few dead ends but she's faster and able to recover. Then we see that Petra is reaching the center of the maze, which forms a little BOX.

Cato enters the box from the other side. He walks toward her threatening:

CATO

And we meet at last.

PETRA

I don't know you.

CATO

Well I surely know of you.

PETRA

There's quite a lot of people who claim to know me... And they just keep tightening my defenses!

CATO

Don't be afraid.

PETRA

I-I'm not.

CATO

But you are. Because you know, that this has to all end with you.

Petra stumbles back.

PETRA

Why are you doing this?? My mother was cursed, she was good!

Cato begins to stab at her.

CATO

GOOD?! You're mother wasn't good. Look around you. Look at all of this. Is this good?! The amount who have suffered at your hands!

(beat)

This is her. And this is you.

PETRA

My mother was-

CATO

What. WHAT? Tell me what she was.

PETRA

NO.

CATO

Tell me what she was!

PETRA

A MONSTER! She was a monster.

CATO

Then you see where the battle lines lay. You know this is meant to be. SURRENDER!

PETRA

NO.

CATO

It is my duty to restore order, for the sake of the gods and sake of men.

He comes closer, holding the mirror shield up. Petra closes her eyes from her own face. *Petra has to calm herself to try and become human again.*

EURAYLE (V.O.)

You CAN control it. But your power reflects what's within you.

Petra turns back to human. She drops her sword. She CLOSES HER EYES, at the center of the box. Cato lunges at her and she FALLS quickly.

Her monster REFLECTION glazes across Cato's shield polished like a mirror. This shot hides the fact that she's pulled Cato down with her, grabbed his sword. She stabs him, in one quick swoop and he GASPS, spurting blood.

Petra then rests against the ground completely exhausted.

EXT. TIRYNS CITY WALLS - OUTSKIRTS - DAY

Petra sits in a CHARIOT stoic, as she drags the dead BODY of the deceased Cato around the city walls tied to the back of the vehicle. Melantha and Ophira sit behind her.

EXT. OLIVE GROVE - DAY

Vernados and two OLD WOMEN, 80s, tend olive trees, gathering the OLIVES in nets.

OLD WOMAN 1
Get the last four won't you.

VERNADOS
Yes Ma'am.

The two old women walk away leaving Vernados to the trees.

From the distance we see a RAM appear. The ram walks closer to Vernados and stops and stares at him.

VERNADOS
...Shoo!

The ram struts around him and GRUNTS, getting up in his face.

VERNADOS
Fine! Fine. You want some?

Vernados kneels to the ram, holding out his hand with olives, and petting the snout.

VERNADOS (CONT'D)
This is all you're going to get.

The ram sticks his nose up at him.

INSERT SPFX: The ram begins to speak:

RAM
It is I that must deliver you something. Some wonderful news.

VERNADOS
YOU CAN SPEAK??

RAM
Yes.

VERNADOS
Alright...
(beat)
What must you tell me?

RAM
I need your service.

VERNADOS
You need *my* service...
(beat)
Why??

RAM

A hitman. I need you to be mine. Do a little dirty work for me.

VERNADOS

Dirty work?

RAM

Not dirty work. A favor for all of men. You can be bold. YOU can be *heroic*.

Vernados looks up to him. A bit weirded out.

VERNADOS

...Nah. Find someone else.

RAM

I think you're going to want to listen to this. Vernados.

VERNADOS

Look. I don't know who you are, how you know my name. If you're real or what you want from me! But take a hint.

RAM

How dare you take such tone with me. And all of my divinity. The most revered god. Father of the sea... Sound familiar to you?

The ram stiffens up. Vernados grabs onto a branch of an olive tree.

VERNADOS

Poseidon.

(beat)

My lord.

RAM

I'm glad I've gotten your attention... I'm after a woman. I've sent a team of huntsmen after her head. But I've had little success, faced with incompetence. This isn't for any man.

VERNADOS

What makes me any different?... Can't you just do this yourself?

RAM

Mm, yes. But you see, this woman is one you've fancied for quite a while now...

(beat)

The thing is. She isn't who she presents to be. She's a two faced bitch. And so was her mother.

VERNADOS

What do you mean?

RAM

Your dear queen... Not much of a queen at all.

Vernados gathers olives from the net, trying to ignore Poseidon.

RAM (CONT'D)

I had sex with a woman in a temple. Athena's temple.

VERNADOS

Yeah Medusa. I know the story.

RAM

And did you know that Medusa had a daughter?

VERNADOS

...You mean your daughter.

RAM

Call it what you will.

(beat)

She escaped to Tiryns. Married and killed the king. Hundreds of men lured into her palace and slaughtered. Killing all of mankind, all of Greece!

Vernados looks at Poseidon, trying to hide his disgust.

VERNADOS

Petra. No. I know her.

(beat)

Sounds like daddy issues to me.

RAM

Well I guess you don't know her as well as you thought you did boy.

Vernados is stunned at the revelation of who Petra really is,

but this doesn't turn him off. He presents with indifference.

RAM (CONT'D)

You're nothing more than her next victim! And if you think otherwise, then you're not the man I thought you were. The man Perseus wanted you to be.

(beat)

You will KILL HER. Before she kills you.

VERNADOS

And how must I believe you?!

RAM

How must you question a god?! It's without harmony that you speak of yourself with so much pride.

(beat)

To go against your family's legacy. To castrate your very own father!

VERNADOS

Why must I follow in the steps of my father?! There could be more glory on a different road.

RAM

She'll be off the throne! Then you can get what you've really wanted. TIRYNS.

Vernados fed up, keeps lifting bags of olives.

RAM (CONT'D)

Small, pathetic little man. You're no match for a god, and I think you know that.

(beat)

Do it sooner rather than later. Vernados. Or I shall inflict my own, set of consequences.

Poseidon the ram, walks off with swagger. Vernados is alone.

EXT. PETRA'S PALACE - FACADE - STEPS - NIGHT

Petra sits on the steps frantic burying her hands in her face and fidgeting. She looks worn and tired, from fighting off the men. She sees Vernados walking up the steps to find her.

He has a DAGGER tucked behind him. He turns away so Petra doesn't see.

PETRA
Vernados?? Vernados!

She runs up to him.

VERNADOS
Petra.

PETRA
What's the matter with you?!

VERNADOS
What's the matter with you... You look
....exhausted.

Petra paces around.

PETRA
I know what I see, but it's making me
crazy. And from the outside I look
rather stupid!
(beat)
I need to get out of here.

VERNADOS
What's-what's this about?

She pulls him close, frantic.

PETRA
You have to go away with me. We can go
anywhere!

VERNADOS
Anywhere?

PETRA
Anywhere...TO THE SEA!

VERNADOS
Why do you want to go to the sea?

PETRA
I know this won't make sense to you...
but... Poseidon's my father! And I'm
in danger and I know that he will
protect me. I know he's on my side!

VERNADOS
Danger?! Danger from what??

Petra doesn't answer. They look at each other. Vernados
clutches the dagger. Petra spots it. *Both of them now have a*

need to kill each other, but don't want to.

PETRA

Won't you come with me??

VERNADOS

I don't know.

PETRA

How don't you know?!

(beat)

I'm sorry.

VERNADOS

What do you have to be sorry for?

PETRA

I wanted to act in the world. To make things right.

VERNADOS

You are.

PETRA

I could be...

She bounces on her toes.

VERNADOS

Petra...You don't have to pretend with me.

(beat)

I know there's a side of you I'll never be able to see.

She stops. Looks up at him in disbelief, and betrayal.

PETRA

...You don't trust me? I thought I was your dream.

VERNADOS

Dreams can soon become nightmares.

PETRA

Whatever you've heard... it isn't true! PLEASE.

VERNADOS

Petra.

PETRA

PLEASE! You can take all my words but

let me keep these,
 (beat)
 I need you to believe me! I JUST need
 you to come with me.
 (beat)
 Please... listen to what I have to
 say.

Vernados looks her in the eyes.

VERNADOS
 The sea you say?

Good. Maybe Poseidon will do the deed for him.

EXT. BOAT DOCK - NIGHT

The SILHOUETTES of the couple against the shimmery water.
 They set the SAILS and load the boat to leave.

VERNADOS
 Where are we headed?

PETRA
 The Aegean.
 (beat)
 Then into the Black Sea.

VERNDOS
 Are you insane?

PETRA
 Probably so.

VERNADOS
 That's the most dangerous of them
 all...

Petra grabs him and kisses him deeply. She GIGGLES, weirdly
 excited for a girl in so much danger.

EXT. MIDDLE OF THE SEA - DAWN - MOVING

The couple sits in a boat in the middle of the sea. They sit
 distanced, Vernados watching Petra confused as she moves
 around boisterously, a bit spastic.

PETRA
 (to self, mumbling)
 It has to all end with me... It has to
 all end with me.

He walks over to her and starts kissing her. She swats him

away.

PETRA
(giggling)
What? What are you doing?

VERNADOS
Can I not kiss you?

PETRA
No. You're kissing me with conspiracy.

VERNADOS
No. I thought it was good.

PETRA
Shh!... Maybe this is how things were
supposed to be! I thought I knew what
I wanted but...
(beat)
We can be together!

VERNADOS
You're not making any sense.

PETRA
No I am! I am! For the sake of the
gods and the sake of men I can fix
what's right in the world. He's trying
to help me!

VERNADOS
Who?

PETRA
My father!

VERNADOS
If you believe in your father, then I
believe in him too. We've been
together all this time. It can't be so
unthinkable.

He hugs Petra, holding her.

PETRA
Yes. Okay, okay.

She pulls away from him quickly.

PETRA (CONT'D)
Why are you acting so strange?!

He pulls her back to his chest.

VERNADOS

Strange?

PETRA

Yes. You're acting strange.

VERNADOS

I'm not trying to be. Maybe it's the sea, I am feeling sickly.

PETRA

I'm sorry, I'm just.

(beat)

Even if you were insane, you'd be saner than most. I trust you Vernados.

Vernados pulls the DAGGER from behind him and holds it up behind her back. He CLOSES HIS EYES. Takes a deep BREATH. He lunges the DAGGER at her, until all of a sudden he stops:

The most glamorous and MELODIC OPERATIC SINGING fills the air. The dagger falls to the ground. Vernados and Petra melt away from each other, and run over to the oars. They begin to row and row in silence.

The SINGING grows louder, and they row faster. Petra adjusts the sail and her and Vernados sit in agony, cringing, trying to cover their ears and melting in pleasure.

They run up to the boat edge, and paddle with their HANDS, sipping the sweet water between paddles.

In the distance appears a GLISTENING ISLAND, the island of the SIRENS, and giant feathered WINGS rise from the rocks.

As they approach it, Petra and Vernados JUMP overboard off the ship and swim over to the island.

EXT. ISLAND OF THE SIRENS - DAWN

The siren's LUSTROUS TUNE fills the air like a choir. The women have human bodies but ENORMOUS WINGS, resembling The *Lament for Icarus* (painting by Herbert James Draper).

The sirens stare at them seductively, SING OPERATICALLY, and FLUTTER their wings. Smiling like joyful choir students.

Petra hoists up onto the rocks and crawls up to them like a baby to a mother. Vernados does the same and they physically try to pull each other back.

Petra and Vernados begin bickering inaudibly, as the sirens SMILE WIDER, and SING LOUDER. They break into fight:

PETRA

Everyone's always trying to get in my way.

VERNADOS (CONT'D)

That rather hypocritical. Since you don't seem to care that your in mine!

PETRA

I don't know what you're looking for Vernados but it isn't here for you.

VERNADOS

Is it so bad that I want love?! Do you love me?

PETRA

I'll always look out for myself.

VERNADOS

They're singing for me! They're trying to tell me something.

PETRA

What? That you're getting in my way!

VERNADOS

That I can be my own man.

PETRA

THAT I'M GOOD. They're telling me secrets! You wouldn't understand.

VERNADOS

I want to build my own world.

PETRA

It is your world!

VERNADOS

I'm missing a piece.

PETRA

Your father??

VERNADOS

Your land. I WANT it.

The song becomes *fearful*, fueling the couples fight.

PETRA
YOU WERE FOOLING ME?!

VERNADOS
WHO ARE YOU?

PETRA
DO YOU EVEN LOVE ME?

VERNADOS
YOU'RE A LIAR.

PETRA
I DON'T KNOW WHO I AM.

The rhythm of the sirens and the tone of Petra and Vernados' fighting clashes and pulls against each other like the PUSH AND PULL OF THE TIDES.

VERNADOS
It isn't I who's mistaken it's you!

PETRA
It's us!

VERNADOS
YOU'RE TRYING TO KILL ME.

PETRA
Ridiculous. You men! Always thinking everything revolves around you.

VERNADOS
Just admit it.

PETRA
NO.

VERNADOS
Say it! Say you were trying to kill me.

A beat.

PETRA
There is nothing I want more than to see you dead!

A series of shots:

- The joyful and mocking FACES and STARES of the sirens.
- The beautiful feathered fluttering wings.

- Petra and Vernados fighting and wrestling struggling to get closer to the bird-women.

The song becomes *psychedelic* and soon the melody BURSTS into climax, tearing the whole composition apart into an inaudible melody. The entire screen erupts into a BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT.

EXT. ISLAND OF THE SIRENS - DAY

Petra and Vernados awake as if they've been delusional and get their bearings. They see that the bird-women are ASLEEP and have SILENCED. They look at each other and run, TIP-TOEING, stealthily to not wake the creatures. They tread through the shallow water and climb back into their boat.

The sirens slowly open their EYES, one by one, and begin to hiss at them, HUMMING a low creepy tune. But the couple escapes.

EXT. MIDDLE OF THE SEA - DAY- MOVING

They are out at sea again and everything has settled. Unspoken tension in the air. Petra moves to grab an oar and Vernados the sail, they keep crossing paths awkwardly trying to get around each other, but stuttering.

PETRA
Pardon me.

VERNADOS
Excuse me.

VERNADOS
Sorry.

PETRA
I'm not sorry.

VERNADOS
That doesn't surprise me.

A beat.

VERNADOS (CONT'D)
Do you want to go first or shall I?

PETRA
I won't concern myself with your...
useless bids for attention. I don't
care.

VERNADOS
I know that you care.

PETRA

(upset)

You only wanted me for my land??

VERNADOS

Don't say it like that.

PETRA

That's what it was.

VERNADOS

It was for the estate, yes, but that doesn't matter much to me anymore.

PETRA

Then what do you want from me?!

VERNADOS

I don't want anything.

PETRA

You're just like Perseus.

VERNADOS

You don't mean that.

PETRA

It's about the only thing I know to be true.

VERNADOS

I know how it seems. But... My dignity, my family, I depended on that land with every fiber of my being! I didn't have a choice. It's my blood.

PETRA

There's always a choice. You're just to scared to make it.

A beat.

VERNADOS

I didn't mean to hurt you.

PETRA

Why did you come with me?

VERNADOS

I love you.

PETRA

You don't love me.

VERNADOS

You just ruined the moment.

PETRA

Why did you come with me?

VERNADOS

How would you know whether I loved you?

PETRA

Because I know everything.

Petra GRABS Vernados arm, the one holding onto the DAGGER behind his back.

VERNADOS

...Try again.

PETRA

Show me. Show me that you love me.

She tries to pull his arm to see what he's hiding and he tightens.

VERNADOS

I-I... I can't.

PETRA

Then what?? What aren't you telling me?!...

INSERT SPFX: A huge storm appears overhead. LIGHTENING, THUNDER, MOUNTAINOUS CLOUDS. The waters turn violent and attack them, rising up over the boats rim.

The boat begins to bounce up and down sloshing against the waves. Petra and Vernados go flying up into the air and slamming back down hard against the deck. The RAIN pours.

They GROAN and SCRAMBLE.

PETRA

Vernados you take the sail.

VERNADOS

NO!

PETRA

This time it isn't a choice.

VERNADOS

There is a choice. And I'm not taking

it.

She looks at him, knowing she could kill him any second.

PETRA

UGH. Vernados just take the fucking sail.

VERNADOS

...You're just trying to control me.

PETRA

You would be the one in control!

VERNADOS

Just give me a second to think!

PETRA

We're going to get lost!

VERNADOS

We already are!

The boat tips and they go sliding around. The RAIN picks up heavier so that it's hard to differentiate anything.

Petra and Vernados begin KISSING aggressively in the rain, knocking around, the boat sliding them away from each other as they try to pull each other closer.

They KISS and MOAN. Petra grabs the DAGGER and tries to stab Vernados. He grabs her arm and flips her over, they wrestle and fight one another but the boat tosses them away against the deck.

He tries to stab her, then stops, staring her in the face for a beat, BREATHING.

Suddenly the boat BUMPS again and they fall apart, knocked out against the deck as the rain pours down.

EXT. MIDDLE OF THE SEA - DAY

The storm has settled. Vernados and Petra sit apart on the boat that floats aimlessly, not speaking. They look raggedy. Thick FOG has taken over the water's surface.

SPLASHES, SWISHES, and faint GIGGLES from the water. A herd of MERMAID WOMEN rise up onto the side of the boat and watch Petra and Vernados.

They slowly keep rising closer, their SCALES fading as they come out the water.

Petra and Vernados flinch in surprise.

MERMAID 1
Are you lost?

VERNADOS
What is this?

MERMAID 2
We can help you.

PETRA
No. We're fine. Thank you.

VERNADOS
No, we need direction. It's too foggy.
It's hard to see where we're going.

MERMAID 3
We'll lead the way.

The mermaids guide the boat drifting through the water as if possessed.

They begin to approach an island with a VOLCANO that can be seen in the distance. Suddenly the mermaids stop and duck back down into the water abruptly. Petra and Vernados look around confused.

Then quickly the mermaids pop up again, grabbing Petra and pulling her overboard. Vernados jumps into the water after her.

EXT. UNDERWATER - DUSK

The mermaids pull Petra deep down underwater as she struggles in monster form. Vernados swims down after her and gets a fuzzy glimpse of her but can't tell what she is.

The mermaids then let go of Petra once she's deep enough for drowning and swim away, grabbing Vernados and taking him with them.

Petra floats almost lifeless for a minute. Then suddenly, she shoots above the water rising up into the air in a HUGE WAVE.

EXT. MIDDLE OF THE SEA /VOLCANO ISLAND - DUSK

For a moment we think Petra has magically saved herself, but the wave throws her down against the volcano island's shore.

The water then rapidly pulls back and reconfigures rising up in a beautiful mirage and from within POSEIDON, 45, emerges,

as the sky turns dark and the water violent.

Petra looks with confusion and surprise, hopeful.

PETRA

Father??

Poseidon pulls the water in an artistic formation and throws it at Petra, it devours her, pushing her back to the shore.

PETRA

NO.

She stumbles, rolls, twists in painful ways and he repeatedly fires again while she's down. The water then coils like snakes grabbing onto her and holding her in place.

PETRA

Why??

POSEIDON

I've heard you've been looking for me.

PETRA

No. Not anymore.

POSEIDON

Causing problems. Just as your mother did.

PETRA

I thought you loved her. If you love my mother... you'd be trying to help me in my revenge for her life! To kill Vernados, to take down Athena. Won't you do something?!

POSEIDON

...You really thought I would protect you. That I would help you? that I loved you... that's hysterical.

PETRA

What?

POSEIDON

Medusa was merely a dalliance while she still had her beauty. Athena came along and took that away.

(beat)

Jealous bitch.

PETRA

How could I not see this direction?!

POSEIDON

Don't get me wrong. It was fun to watch the fight go down while it lasted. But I wouldn't challenge Athena. Not over something so... worthless.

PETRA

Worthless?!...I've been searching for revenge all this time. Looking for answers, for justice. But I've been after all the wrong things.

POSEIDON

Yes. I suppose you have. To castrate my name! To destroy all of Greece! You've defied the laws mankind's set forth.

PETRA

You started this. This is all your creation! What does that mean to you?!

POSEIDON

It means nothing.

(beat)

You should be dead like your wretched mother. For the sake of the god's and the sake of men. I've come to kill you my dear.

PETRA

This isn't my fate!

POSEIDON

And who's to say what your fate will be?! I am a god.

PETRA

I am. I am to say! Medusa, my mother, was your fault.

POSEIDON

You're nothing but a monster.

PETRA

We were never the monsters. It was you... It was no intimate affair.

(beat)

It was RAPE.

POSEIDON

WRONG. I thought you were smarter than that. Medusa was asking for it.

PETRA

It's always been you. Born of your very own darkness and brought to life!

(beat)

COWARD. COWARD. You're a coward!

POSEIDON

It's time to end this once and for all. There's nothing you can do. This is who you are, face it! Give up.

PETRA

No. This is who you are...I've been here before. And I'll go there again without fear.

Poseidon begins to unleash a series of attacks. He does some swift movements and the water moves like a kaleidoscope dragging Petra back underwater.

Pushed down by the current she GASPS for air, and a huge WHIRLPOOL forms around her trying to drown her as she struggles to swim to the surface.

The whirlpool rises up and untwists throwing her back and forth against the rocks and then dropping her to the shore. The sea-foam filling with BLOOD.

Petra get's up and looks at Poseidon, she turns to run inland but he reaches out with water projections and pulls her back suffocating her on the ground. She struggles.

Little CRABS run across the water's tension and begin covering her pinning her down. Petra tries to free herself the SNAKES hissing at them. But she can't.

Petra lays defeated and small. Poseidon prepares himself and begins spinning as the water rises up around him.

A huge TSUNAMI begins to ripple in the water's distance. Petra looks at it afraid. She lays on the ground, trying to crawl away.

POSEIDON

Helpless. Just as your mother was.

This triggers Petra. She spots the VOLCANO. She gets herself up and takes off running over the black rocks towards the volcano. This scene is paralleled to her running to Stheno

and Eurayle's volcanic cave in the beginning.

As the waves hurl after her, she climbs over each peak and trough, slipping and barely keeping up with the rush in her veins. Poseidon still firing formations of water at her.

Petra reaches the mouth and throws herself in anger at the edge of the volcano's grounds, and clutches the earth helpless, and defeated as water showers her.

There's almost nothing she can do against him. She SCREAMS and SLAMS the rock.

Then suddenly, the earth RUMBLES with her intensity. ASH and CLOUDS OF SMOKE begin to spew from from the volcano. Petra looks up realizing she's caused this.

She smiles, she closes her eyes and tries to channel the monster within her, but she's really channeling the god.

Petra stands and holds her ground as LAVA begins to spew from the volcano, she raises her arms and causes the lava to rise and she throws it at POSEIDON. As the lava hits the water it begins to deteriorate into SMOKE.

Poseidon launches water at her and they go back and forth in a huge CLASH of forces. The SMOKE soon surrounds the island separating Petra from Poseidon, and hiding her.

Poseidon GRUNTS and SCREAMS as his water configuration collapses and he begins to dissolve with it.

On the other side of the smoke, Petra walks away tired into the island's trees, she looks back. Light from the sky bursts through the clouds and shines across Petra's forehead.

EXT. VOLCANO ISLAND - NIGHT

Petra sits in a cove full of PLANTS, Vernados lays unconscious in the sand. He slowly wakes up.

VERNADOS

What happened to you??

Petra looks at him raggedy. She doesn't answer him.

PETRA

You washed up on the shore. I pulled you up here.

VERNADOS

Are you alright?

A beat.

PETRA

Just tell me the truth. It can't be worse than what's become of me.

VERNADOS

We don't have to do this now.

PETRA

Just tell me.

VERNADOS

It was never you that I wanted. I wanted to be who everyone dreamed I would be.

PETRA

(tearful)

You wanted to be heroic.

VERNADOS

But I am! Because whatever happens, I could love my fate whether or not I were to die.

PETRA

Stop.

VERANDOS

Knowing you were with me, even in memory, would be enough.

PETRA

(haughty)

I was going to kill you.

VERNADOS

I know.

PETRA

Why don't you care?!

VERNADOS

Because you're more than that.

PETRA

Why aren't you afraid?!

VERNADOS

Why won't you admit it?!

PETRA

I'm not just a pawn in your games! I was supposed to be in control.

VERNADOS

Poseidon approached me. He wanted me to kill you. I couldn't.

PETRA

You can't do anything.

VERNADOS

I can but I would never do that! I thought he would aid me in my tasks.

PETRA

Is that why you came with me?

VERNADOS

I came with you because- because...

(beat)

I could have everything. And it would be nothing, without you.

Petra abruptly gets up and RUNS into the TREES, and PLANTS, trying to distance herself from him but he follows her.

VERNADOS

Petra??

He finds her where the trees hang low casting DARKNESS. She's hugging her knees, rocking and muttering to herself, tears fighting her eyes. A beat.

PETRA

I'm a monster.

INSERT SPFX: Petra turns into a monster, turning away from Vernados.

Vernados walks up, blending with the SHADOWS. *He creeps up to her, frightened, but not of her, of himself. He doesn't want to scare her away, the shallow man he once was, and the person he used to be reminds him.*

PETRA (CONT'D)

(tearful)

Vernados?

(beat)

Why haven't you killed me??

She draws in the dirt on the ground.

PETRA (CONT'D)
 It's the wishes of your father the
 orders of Poseidon. Look at me. *Why*
haven't you killed me??

VERNADOS
 I have my own motives.

PETRA
 WHY?

He gets close to her, down on the ground.

VERANDOS
 There's something within you that
 transcends everything that I see.
 (beat)
 I love you.

A beat.

PETRA
 (crying)
 I love you too.

As she says this, she STABS him in the heart, at his peak of
 humanity and vulnerability, recognizing that weakness in
 herself. *She's surprised*, she can't believe that she did it.
 Oh no.

She begins to SOB uncontrollably.

PETRA
 WHAT DID I DO?!

EXT. UNKNOWN ISLAND - DAWN

Petra kneels on a rock in the middle of the TREES. A martyr.

PETRA (CONT'D)
 I call to Mt.Olympus, Goddess Athena.
 Help me. For I have committed the most
 vial of sins.
 (beat)
 But this was no revenge. This was
 MURDER.

PETRA (CONT'D)
 But I am. Of equally god and monster.
 (beat)
 All I wanted was to act in the world.
 And...I don't know who I am or what
 I've become. I don't understand my

mother or her sorrows.

(beat)

I don't understand what it means to be
a human being. And why I have to try
so hard to be one.

(beat)

I'm a prisoner.

She grips into the ground, and pulls her hair.

PETRA (CONT'D)

And I sacrifice myself to you. I am
the monster. A monster of unclear
origin and impure taste. And it has to
all end with me!

(beat)

Athena. I give myself to you. I give
you everything.

A beat as Petra kneels on the ground CRYING and distraught.

Then suddenly BRIGHT RAYS OF LIGHT burst from the sky and the
clouds, shining down on her. The light is Athena.

ATHENA

My girl you're gravely mistaken.

PETRA

Who's there??

ATHENA

Athena.

PETRA

Why?! I've only harmed against you.
Take me now.

ATHENA

I know you've been guided blind. But
there's goodness in your heart. Listen
to me.

PETRA

I'm too far gone.

ATHENA

But you don't believe that do you?

PETRA

I don't know what to believe!

ATHENA

Of the life you've made, to weave the

strings of the fates. It's you.

PETRA

You were watching over me??

ATHENA

I was never against you. Who do you think was protecting you?

PETRA

It was you. You helped save me from Poseidon.

(beat)

I was so foolish to believe I did that myself. I'm nothing but evil.

ATHENA

Petra, I only protected you. It was you who took down Poseidon. The volcano, the fire, and the earth. It was you.

PETRA

It was the curse. This rage, it saved me.

ATHENA

No. That wasn't the monster. That was the god.

Petra looks down at her hands.

ATHENA (CONT'D)

And Medusa. She wasn't a monster. She was a victim.

(beat)

She was taken by Poseidon against her will. The spell I cast upon her wasn't punishment. It was protection.

PETRA

Protection?

ATHENA

From Poseidon. And all the other men who might try to harm her. It was the people who made her a monster.

PETRA

What do you mean?

ATHENA

They blame her. And those who blamed,

turned her into something she was not.
They killed her before she'd even
died.

PETRA

Then I am myth!... this blame passed
onto me. How does no one know her true
fate?

ATHENA

That's how the story goes. Your mother
was never the one to tell it.

PETRA

But why did you kill her?? You gave
Perseus your shield, so she'd die at
the treacherous sight of her own face!

ATHENA

Is that what you heard? Maybe that's
what they say. I did no such thing.
It's evolved into many stories, lies,
gossip. People add on whatever they
want to believe, it's merely a
reflection of themselves more than
anything.

A beat. Petra is gracious and struggles to show it.

PETRA

I guess I shouldn't be so lost in what
I see.

(beat)

Athena. Could I ask a favor of you?

CUT TO:

INSERT SPFX: The BEAMS OF LIGHT, take over Vernados, healing
him before he reaches death. It's a slow, beautiful,
ritualistic process.

VERNADOS

Petra?

She tackles him cheerfully.

PETRA

I'm just as you see me now. Everything
might be alright.

VERNADOS

No, not for everyone. Vengeance isn't
always such a bad thing.

EXT. TIRYNS - BOAT DOCK - DAY

INSERT SPFX: Groups of WOMEN and a few MEN, band together and lean down into the water, WHISPERING their sorrows and stories into the sea. Little WHIRLPOOLS spinning out.

PETRA (V.O.)

Athena, Vernados, and I came up with a revenge of our own...All of Poseidon's many wives and victims, whispered their sorrows into the sea, until they congregated spiraling tossing the current.

(beat)

You can still see their souls today in the form of whirlpools and riptides. Disrupting his waters forever.

EXT. PETRA'S GARDEN - DAY

The male statues from the garden come alive again, no longer made of stone, they step down from their posts.

PETRA (V.O.)

As it turns out, my monstrous powers seemed to fade, once I recognized myself as more than a monster.

INT. PETRA'S PALACE - BRIDAL CHAMBER - DAY

INSERT SPFX: Petra stares in the mirror and turns to her monster form. The snakes SNAP at the screen.

PETRA (V.O.)

At least sometimes. There's still darkness. But I've definitely gotten better at controlling it.

EXT. PETRA'S PALACE - FACADE - DAY

It's Petra and Vernados' wedding. Groups of WOMEN and some men, surround the palace in cheer, strong and resilient together. Melantha and Ophira throw PETALS from the couple's balcony.

Petra and Vernados KISS.

Petra WAVES at the NYMPHS in the crowd, making amends. Chrysanthe and Dionne hug each other in proudness.

PETRA (V.O.)

As for Vernados and I. We got married! Not everyone was so happy about it.

Which made us want to do it all the more.

Brooding and jealous MEN from the bath house, watch in displeasure and throw their last TANTRUMS the kingdom will come to see.

EXT. THE SEA - DAY

Poseidon in the water, annoyed and infuriated with the multitude of RIPTIDES and WHIRLPOOLS surrounding him.

PETRA (V.O.)
Poseidon became so infuriated with the whirlpools that wouldn't calm down for a small second, so that he could have a selfish moment of peace to rule his waters.

INT. MOUNT OLYMPUS - THRONES - DAY

We pull back to reveal MOUNT OLYMPUS where we see all twelve of the GODS on their golden glistening THRONES.

ATHENA, 48, wise, brilliant, and radiant, stares coldly at Poseidon, holding her spear.

PETRA (V.O.)
And so he spent more of his time up on Mount Olympus, where Athena could keep an eye on his behavior.

CLOSE UP: Athena places THE HEAD OF MEDUSA on her SHIELD.

End CLOSE UP.

PETRA (V.O.)
As for my mother. Medusa's power only began after her death. And she's come to defend against monsters throughout time. Bringing justice for generations to come.
(beat)
As long as you believe her of course.

FADE TO BLACK.