

## The Quest

### CHARACTERS:

**ANDY:** A sword-swooping gal

**PERCY:** A would-be hero on a quest

### SETTING:

An island in the bayou of Louisiana

*Perseus Bayou resets the Greek myth of Perseus and the Medusa in the Louisiana Bayou right after the Civil War. In this scene, Andy (Andromeda) is a wild can do gal who dreams of adventure. Percy (Perseus) is a boy whose pride has gotten him into a dangerous quest. He must find the snake-headed monster, the Medusa, who lives deep in the swamp. Percy has just arrived on Andy's island. Andy pounces on the unsuspecting Percy.*

**ANDY:** A-YIYIIIYYIYYIII!

(ANDY steals PERCY'S sword and wrestles him to the ground, pinning him.)

**ANDY:** How dare you trespass on my land!

**PERCY:** Give me back that sword. It's mine!

**ANDY:** Surrender now, intruder!

**PERCY:** I didn't do anything.

**ANDY:** Then give. You give?

**PERCY:** (pinned) Yeah.

**ANDY:** Say, "I give."

**PERCY:** I give! I give!

**ANDY:** Woo-hoo!

(Andy jumps around victoriously, pulling the scarf off her head. Her long hair is revealed.)

**PERCY:** What the – What's a girl doing out here in the swamp?

**ANDY:** I can be anywhere I want. My daddy's the mayor of this whole island.

PERCY: Why are you all dressed up like a boy?

ANDY: Why shouldn't I be?

PERCY: 'Cause you're so... pretty.

ANDY: You sound like my momma.  
"Andromeda, you're the best-lookin' gal  
in Louisiana.

PERCY: (Dreamily.) "Andromeda..."

ANDY: (Threatening Percy with her fist.)  
Don't call me that. It's Andy, all right?  
My momma lines up one silly boy after  
another to come courting me. I don't want a boy!  
I want adventure!

PERCY: I'm on an adventure, Androme –  
(Catching himself.) Andy. See, a panther  
named Hermes gave me this sword. And now I'm  
looking for the land of the gray ghost sister so  
I can find my way to the snake-headed Medusa.

ANDY: (In awe.) Can I be you?

PERCY: (Boasting.) Then I've got to cut off  
her head.

ANDY: Why?

PERCY: 'Cause I promised I'd bring it back  
to the evil Polydectes.

ANDY: You told him you could kill the  
Snake lady?

PERCY: (Ashamed.) I told him I could do  
Anything.

ANDY: Don't you go making boasts like  
that around here. Our parish is haunted  
by some kind of evil creatures. They don't  
like it when us human folks start to bragging.  
They live out in the swamp.

PERCY: (Afraid.) This Swamp?

ANDY: You'll hear them. Growling in the  
night. Then your dog will disappear right off  
your porch. Or your whole catch of fish – (Snapping  
her fingers.) gone in the blink of an eye.

PERCY: They out here now?

ANDY: Will be, if you keep bragging like a proud peacock! Ever since my momma's been boasting about my being so pretty, three dogs – (Making a gobbling-up gesture and sound.) Gone! But I'm not scared, no matter what that Greedy monster is.

PERCY: That makes one of us.

ANDY: Let me come with you, Percy. We'll Slay that Medusa for good and all.

PERCY: You would do that really?

ANDY: Didn't I just finish saying how I was looking for an adventure?

PERCY: Yeah, but this isn't a pretend adventure.

(Andy does some impressive sword moves, imagining she's fighting the Medusa. Then she swoops in on Percy putting the sword to his throat.)

ANDY: Does it look like I'm pretending?

PERCY: (Frightened.) Ah... No.

ANDY: Great.  
(Pulling back her sword.) When do we get started?

PERCY: (Tentatively)  
There is something you should probably know about the snake lady...

ANDY: Yeah. What's that?  
(Andy moves to start packing her bag.)

PERCY: Andy, wait! You can't look at Her. If you do, you turn to stone.

ANDY: For real?

PERCY: Yes. Hermes said, lots of soldier's have gone in search of slaying the Medusa. No one has ever returned. He says the Medusa has a garden of Stone Soldiers to protect her.

ANDY: That's so Cool. So we won't look! En garde.

PERCY: You're not afraid?

ANDY: No.

(Andy swoops her sword and covers her eyes with her arm as if slicing off the head of Medusa. Percy tries to duplicate her move, but he is a real beginner.)

ANDY: That's it!

PERCY: AHHH!

(Percy spins around like a top and falls.)

ANDY: Sort of. Tell you what... what's your name?

PERCY: Percy. Perseus Bayou.

ANDY: Percy. I like that.  
I'll make you a pouch, Percy. You Got to have something to put the Medusa's Bloody head in to carry it back with you.

PERCY: I hadn't thought of that.

ANDY: You go see those gray ghost sisters, then meet me right where the bayou curls like a snake to the south. You got that?

PERCY: Where the bayou curls like a snake to the south.

ANDY: We can practice your sword moves on the way.

PERCY: That bad huh?

ANDY: I've seen worse.  
(Percy starts to go.)

ANDY: Hey Percy. (Percy turns back immediately.)  
Good luck.

PERCY: Thanks.  
(To himself.)  
I'll need it.

End of Scene