

Medea

Sleep, my boys, sleep

Drift away slowly
In this deepening darkness
That holds you softly,
Go now and sleep tight.

--

Jason
Jason, my love
Do you remember the bed
Where your sons were conceived?
The passion consummated there
My body my sacrifice
To you
One of many

Love demands sacrifices
Blinded by love
I made them

For you, I betrayed my country
For you, I left my home
For you, I steeped my hands
In blood

You owe me my innocence
You owe me a brother
You owe me, my beloved Jason
On all counts

I would be queen/ I would be a heroine / I would be your spouse / I would be beloved /
My wealth the key to our happiness
How blind could I be?

--

I was simply
A means
Just like the Fleece

Love demands sacrifices
Blinded by love
I made them

One more or one less
What does it matter?

What is stained,
Even when washed,
Can never be clean
Blood demands blood
What started badly
Cannot be made good

No throne/ No power / The Fleece turned sour/
Time to find a girl/ to make your royal plans unfurl
Less strange / more seemly and decent/ a pearl
Quieter / well behaved/ her waistline thin/ and she also has lighter skin

You think of yourself
You think of your own fortune
You crunch numbers and collate
You add up and calculate
Rational
Purpose
In all that accounting
I am (the) surplus

And if she gives you sons
Our offspring will be
second rate
No longer useful
Just like me

--

You leave me no choice –
What else can I do
Than to continue down the path
You led me?
A path of blood
And passion?

Don't get me wrong,
My darling,
How gruesome my deed may be
It is no more than the consequence
Of your betrayal

It is not anger that drives me
It is mercy

I want to spare
my children
My cruel fate

What began with passion
Has become a bargaining chip
Found wanting
A strange currency
with no value
In this country

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Blinded by love
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For you, I betrayed my country
For you, I left my country
For you, I steeped my hands
In blood
You owe me my innocence
You owe me a brother
You owe me a home

I gave you everything
So it is my right
To take from you
And I mean
to take
It all

--

Sleep, my boys, sleep

Find peace
In this darkness
From which
You will never
wake