

## **Menelaus' Woman**

Naturally I was surprised to see her, but there she was,  
Striding toward the taxi stand at Venizelos airport,<sup>1</sup>  
Regally indifferent to the hot-blooded men  
Who gaped at her body with ineffectual lust.

I soon came to think her ubiquitous,  
For in whichever town or village I stopped,  
She somehow contrived an appearance.

I spied her in a jewelry shop on Crete.  
Luckily for me her disguise slipped away  
When she tried on a gold necklace of ancient design.  
I knew at once she was Menelaus' woman.<sup>2</sup>

I saw her dash through Athens Center with a boyfriend  
On their excited way to something—probably sex.  
Of a sudden she threw her head back with feral abandon  
And the flash of dark eyes illuminated the Greek night.  
In that electric instant I understood the Trojan War.

**Gerald J. Massey**

<sup>1</sup>Venizelos airport is the international airport of modern Athens.

<sup>2</sup>Helen of Troy was the wife of King Menelaus.