

**TROY WOMEN by Karen Hartman**

<https://www.playscripts.com/play/1574>

*Hecuba, a queen who lost her family and country overnight, now addresses Helen of Troy, and the Greek general Menelaus, who will decide how to punish Helen.*

HECUBA

Aphrodite wrenched you from home.

No.

I remember my son's body. His young mouth.

The way his hair curled when he sweat.

Want was your love-god.

Menelaus is a much older man.

And his palace was small  
compared to the wonder of Troy.

We sent Paris in robes of gold  
carrying bright gifts.

Taken by glint and by flash  
you wanted.

You wanted.

Force?

Who heard the screams?

Your brothers were there.

Pollux and Castor, stars now,  
were human still.

Where was the struggle?

You're a pretty girl.

Someone would have saved you if you tried.

No, you came here.

They followed.

Blood and bodies fell fast.

Strong Greeks, you told my son at night,

My Menelaus, you said,

feeding his worst days with doubt.

But in our times of glory  
you were spark and oil.  
My bronze man, you would say,  
my one.  
My hot and shining man.  
My one.

That was Helen's war.  
How to choose a winner.

What an exquisite image:  
you caught in rope  
dangling off our wall  
leaving.  
Did no one ever teach you  
how a lady uses rope  
when she is torn from her  
beloved lawful lord?  
She strings her neck and jumps.

But Troy is a nice place to relax  
Fine fabric and gold.  
Salt breeze.  
Herbs for the complexion.

While my girls were taken one by one  
you have been fixing your hair.  
And that is the only gown in the city  
untorn.  
You are glorious.  
You must bathe often.

You radiate poise, it's true.  
Even pride.  
A human being in your position  
would shave her head and crawl,  
tear the face responsible.

Did you hear, Lady Helen

that there was a war?

So, Menelaus.

Act now.

A whore should die.

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*You are welcome to perform this monologue for free! It would mean a lot to me if you would [buy this play](#), and it's a good idea for your performance too.*

*You may CUT but you may not CHANGE the words. Please introduce the monologue with title of play and author's name (this is a monologue from Leah's Train by Karen Hartman).*

*Feel free to send a video link to yourself performing the monologue through the Contact page, and let me know if I may share! Thanks and be well, KH*

[www.karenhartman.org](http://www.karenhartman.org)