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TTTO "Under the Gripping Beast" by Cat Faber

Am G Am E  
Five thousand years or more ago, a craftsman worked in hide  
Am G C E  
As gleaming-soft and human as the day the young man died.  
C G F E  
The feathered wax had crumbled, and the father had to look.  
Em G Am G Am  
He wept and gathered up the bones, and bound them in a book.

G F Am  
Under the gripping beast is genius twined with grief  
G F E  
For you cannot write of feelings if you have not known their chief.  
Am G F E  
I bear no curse but knowledge of the pain that hearts must bear,  
Em G Am G Am  
The blunders they've committed and the wild joys they share.

Am G Am E  
The craftsman wrote within me, told his tales in his own hand  
Am G C E  
And every artist after him has spun another strand.  
C G F E  
I carry now the stories of the human race entire  
Em G Am G Am  
And anyone who looks within finds madness touched with fire.

G F Am  
Under the gripping beast is genius twined with grief  
G F E  
For you cannot write of feelings if you have not known their chief.  
Am G F E  
I bear no curse but knowledge of the pain that hearts must bear,  
Em G Am G Am  
The blunders they've committed and the wild joys they share.

Am G Am E  
I hold the verse of Sappho written just before she leapt;  
Am G C E  
The weeping voice of Mozart and of countless more who wept  
C G F E  
The starry night that Vincent saw was painted on my page  
Em C Am G Am  
The graphs of the astronomers, the lessons of the sage.

G F Am  
Under the gripping beast is genius twined with grief  
G F E  
For you cannot write of feelings if you have not known their chief.  
Am G F E  
I bear no curse but knowledge of the pain that hearts must bear,  
Em G Am G Am  
The blunders they've committed and the wild joys they share.

Am G Am E  
So you who hold me in your hands, be careful what you learn  
Am G C E  
I do not wish to harm you, but your mind's own fire can burn.  
Am G F E  
Imagination's glories and its tortures lie within  
Em G Am G Am  
A journal bound in leather fine, as soft as human skin.