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Dm Am
 The lady, she walks your city walls
 Dm Am
 A few scant feet from the foe
 Am Dm Am
 Recentering every brick that falls
 Em Am
 Where your sentries dare not go.
 Am Em Am
 Your guard has changed shift three times since dawn
 Dm Am
 But she is forever there
 F Am
 The lady you named your city for
 Dm Am
 As wise as you think her fair.

Am Dm Am
 But the way she must walk for Athens' sake
 F Am Dm
 Is wild and cold and steep
 Am Dm Am
 And when shall Athena laugh, my lords?
 Am Em Am
 And when shall Athena sleep?

Am Dm
 Atlas may hold the world on his shoulders
 Am F Dm
 But someone must show him how.
 Am Dm Em Am
 You pray to Poseidon for gentle waves
 Am Em Am
 But carve her to guide your prow.
 Am Em G Am
 Your justices swear in her name and sight
 Dm Am
 To see that the right is done
 F Dm F Am
 And your choristers dance to the flute she made
 Em F Am
 With sound like the setting sun.

Am Dm Am
 The loss and the joy her aulos sings
 F Am Dm
 Have beauty to make you weep
 Am Dm Am
 But when shall Athena laugh, my lords?
 Am Em Am
 And when shall Athena sleep?

BRIDGE:

F Am
 Grey-eyed and gold and shining,
 F G Am
 She takes what you ask in stride
 Em Am
 Watching for every weakening point
 Dm Am
 Her owls fly at her side
 F G Am
 And only they know she weakens too,
 F Am
 And dreams of a place to hide
 F Em Am
 But Athens has asked her patronage
 Dm E
 And she is the city's pride.

F G Am
 Long you have known, you land of priests
 Dm G Am
 That gods have their needs like men.
 Am Dm Am
 Your worship and love are made their feast
 Em F Am
 And smoke from the beasts you send.
 F G Am
 But you'll never know when your Lady strains
 F Dm Am
 Or fears she may fail your trust:
 F Dm Am
 For Athens that bears her heart and name
 F Em Am
 She'll find all the strength she must.

Am Dm F Am
 But oh, my lords, what a price she pays
 F Am Dm
 For guarding your ken and keep,
 Am Dm Am F
 And when may Athena laugh, my lords?
 Am Em Am
 And when may Athena sleep?
 Am G Em Am
 The weariness runs. . . so deep.