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## Buckskin Stallion Blues

# Townes Van Zandt

Capo: 2

**A** **D** **A**  
I heard her sing in tongues of silver

I heard her cry on a summer storm

I loved her, but she did not know it

E A  
So I don't think about her anymore

**D** Now she's gone, and I can't believe it

So I don't think about her anymore

If three and four were seven only  
Where would that leave one and two?  
If love can be and still be lonely  
Where does that leave me and you?  
Time there was, and time there will be  
Where does that leave me and you?

If I had a buckskin stallion  
I'd tame him down and ride away  
And if I had a flyin' schooner  
I'd sail into the light of day  
If I had your love forever  
Sail into the light of day

Pretty songs and pretty places  
Places that I've never seen  
Pretty songs and pretty faces  
Tell me what their laughter means  
Some look like they'll cry forever  
Tell me what their laughter means

Well if I had a buckskin stallion  
I'd tame him down and ride away  
And if I had a golden galleon  
I'd sail into the light of day  
If I had your love forever  
Sail into the light of day

# Colorado Girl

Townes Van Zandt

Capo: 2

**C/G** **F**  
I'm goin' out to Denver  
**C/G G13 C7/G**  
See if I can't find  
**F**  
I'm goin' out to Denver  
**C/G G13 C/G**  
See if I can't find  
**G6 Fmaj7 C/G G13 C/G**  
That lovin' Colorado girl of mine

The promise in her smile  
Shames the mountains tall  
The promise in her smile  
Shames the mountains tall  
She brings the sun to shining  
Tells the rain to fall

And it's been a long time, mama,  
Since I heard you call my name  
And it's been a long time, mama,  
Since I heard you call my name  
I got to see my Colorado girl again

Just be there tomorrow  
Mama, don't you cry  
Just be there tomorrow  
Now, mama, don't you cry  
I got to kiss these lonesome  
Texas blues good-bye

# Dollar Bill Blues

Townes Van Zandt

Capo: 4

**Am**                      **Dm**  
If I had a dollar bill

**Am**  
Yes, I believe I surely will

**Em**  
Go to town and drink my fill

**Am**  
Early in the morning

Little darling, she's a red-haired thing  
Man, she makes my legs to sing  
Gonna buy her a diamond ring  
Early in the morning

It's a long way down the road  
Busted back and a heavy load  
Won't get through to save my soul  
Early in the morning

Always been a gambling man  
Rolled 'em dice with either hand  
Seven is the promised land  
Early in the morning

Wiskey'd be my dying bed  
Tell me where to lay my head  
Not with me is all she said  
Early in the morning

Well, if I had a dollar bill  
Yes, I believe I surely will  
Go to town and drink my fill  
Early in the morning

# If I Needed You

Townes Van Zandt

Capo: 5

**G**

If I needed you, would you come to me

**C/G D/F# G**

Would you come to me and ease my pain

**G**

If you needed me, I would come to you

**C/G D/F# G**

I'd swim the seas for to ease your pain

In the night forlorn, the morning's born  
And the morning shines with the lights of love  
You will miss sunrise if you close your eyes  
That would break my heart in two

Lady's with me now since I showed her how  
To lay her lily hand in mine  
Loop and Lil agree, she's a sight to see  
And a treasure for the poor to find

If I needed you, would you come to me  
Would you come to me and ease my pain

# Nothin'

Townes Van Zandt

Capo: 5

**Am**

Hey mama, when you leave

**Am**

Don't leave a thing behind

**F**                      **Am**

I don't want nothin'

**Em**                      **Am**

I can't use nothin'

Take care into the hall

And if you see my friends

Tell them I'm fine

Not using nothin'

Almost burned out my eyes

Threw my ears down to the floor

I didn't see nothin'

I didn't hear nothin'

I stood there like a block of stone

Knowin' all I had to know

And nothin' more

Man, that's nothin'

As brothers our troubles are

Locked in each others arms

And you better pray

They never find you

Your back ain't strong enough

For burdens doublefold

They'd crush you down

Down into nothin'

Sorrow and solitude

These are the precious things

And the only words

That are worth rememberin'



# Pancho and Lefty

Townes Van Zandt

**C**  
Living on the road, my friend  
**G**  
Is gonna keep you free and clean  
**F**  
Now you wear your skin like iron  
          **C**                          **G**  
And your breath's as hard as kerosene  
**F**  
You weren't your mama's only boy  
          **C**                          **F**  
But her favorite one, it seems  
          **Am**                          **G**  
She began to cry when you said goodbye  
          **F**                          **Am**  
And sank into your dreams

Pancho was a bandit, boys  
His horse was fast as polished steel  
Wore his gun outside his pants  
For all the honest world to feel  
Pancho met his match, you know  
In the deserts down in Mexico  
Nobody heard his dying words  
Well, that's the way it goes

**F**  
And all the federales say  
**C**  
They could have had him any day  
          **Am**                          **G**  
They just let him hang around  
          **F**                          **Am**  
Out of kindness, I suppose

Lefty, he can't sing the blues  
All night long like he used to  
The dust that Pancho bit down south  
Ended up in Lefty's mouth  
The day they laid poor Pancho low  
Lefty split for Ohio  
Where he got the bread to go  
There ain't nobody knows

And all the federales say  
They could have had him any day  
They only let him slip away  
Out of kindness, I suppose

Poets tell how Pancho fell  
Lefty's living in a cheap hotel  
The desert's quiet, Cleveland's cold  
So the story ends, we're told  
Pancho needs your prayers, it's true  
But save a few for Lefty, too  
He just did what he had to do  
And now he's growing old

And all the federales say  
They could have had him any day  
They only let him slip away  
Out of kindness, I suppose  
And a few gray federales say  
They could have had him any day  
They only let him go so wrong  
Out of kindness, I suppose

# Rex's Blues

Townes Van Zandt

Capo: 2

**C**                      **F**              **C**  
Ride the blue wind high and free  
                                 **F**              **C**  
She'll lead you down through misery  
                                 **F**              **C**  
Leave you low, come time to go  
                 **F**                      **C**  
Alone and low as low can be

If I had a nickel I'd find a game  
If I won a dollar I'd make it rain  
If it rained an ocean I'd drink it dry  
And lay me down dissatisfied

Legs to walk and thoughts to fly  
Eyes to laugh and lips to cry  
A restless tongue to classify  
All born to grow and grown to die

So tell my baby I said so long  
Tell my mother I did no wrong  
Tell my brother to watch his own  
And tell my friends to mourn me none

I'm chained upon the face of time  
Feelin' full of foolish rhyme  
There ain't no dark till something shines  
I'm bound to leave this dark behind

Ride the blue wind high and free  
She'll lead you down through misery  
Leave you low, come time to go  
Alone and low as low can be

# Snowin' On Raton

Townes Van Zandt

Capo: 2

When the wind don't blow in Amarillo  
And the moon along the Gunnison don't rise  
Shall I cast my dreams upon your love, babe  
And lie beneath the laughter of your eyes?  
Snowin' on Raton  
Come mornin' I'll be through them hills and gone

Our mother thinks the road is long and lonely  
Little brother thinks the road is straight and fine  
Little darling thinks the road is soft and lovely  
And I'm grateful that old road's a friend of mine  
Snowin' on Raton  
Come mornin' I'll be through them hills and gone

I'll bid the years goodbye, you cannot still them  
You cannot turn the circles of the sun  
And you cannot count the miles until you feel them  
And you cannot hold a lover that has gone  
Snowin' on Raton  
Come mornin' I'll be through them hills and gone

Tomorrow the mountains will be sleeping  
Silent 'neath a blanket, green and blue  
All that I shall hear, the silence they are keeping  
And I'll bring all their promises to you  
Snowin' on Raton  
Come mornin' I'll be through them hills and gone  
Snowin' on Raton  
Come mornin' I'll be through them hills and gone

# Tecumseh Valley

# Townes Van Zandt

**C** The name she bore was Caroline      **F**

**c**  
Daughter of a miner

**F**  
And her ways were free

**C** **Am**  
And it seemed to me

That sunshine walked beside her

She came from Spencer  
Across the hills  
Her pa had sent her  
Cause the coal was low  
And soon the snow  
Would turn the skies to winter

She said she'd come  
To look for work  
She wasn't seeking favors  
And for a dime a day  
And a place to stay  
She'd turn those hands to labor

But times were hard, Lord  
And jobs were few  
All through Tecumseh valley  
But she'd ask around  
And a job she found  
Tending bar at Gypsy Sally's

She saved enough to get back home  
When spring replaced the winter  
But her dreams were denied  
Her pa had died  
The word came from Spencer

She turned to whorin' out on the streets  
With all her lust inside her  
And many a man  
Returned again  
To lay himself beside her

They found her down beneath the stairs  
That led to Gypsy Sally's  
And in her hand when she died  
A note that cried  
Fare thee well  
Tecumseh valley

# Waiting Around To Die

Townes Van Zandt

Capo: 4

**Am** **Dm**  
Sometimes I don't know where this dirty road is taking me  
**Am** **Em**  
Sometimes I don't know the reason why  
**Am**  
I guess I'll keep on rambling  
**Dm**  
Lots of booze and lots of gambling  
**Am** **Em** **Am**  
It's easier than just waiting around to die

Once I had a ma, once I had a pa  
He beat her with a belt because she cried  
Told him take care of me  
Headed down to Tennessee  
It was easier than just waiting around to die

I came of age, met a girl in a Tuscaloosa bar  
She cleaned me out and hit it on the sly  
I tried to kill the pain, bought some wine  
And hopped a train  
Seemed easier than just waiting around to die

A friend said he knew, where some easy money was  
We robbed a man, and brother did we fly  
Police caught up with me  
Drug me back to Muskogee  
Now it's two long years of waiting around to die

Now I'm out of prison, I got me a friend at last  
He don't drink or steal or cheat or lie  
His name is Codine  
He's the finest thing I've ever seen  
And together we're gonna wait around and die  
And together we're gonna wait around and die