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Buckskin Stallion Blues

Townes Van Zandt

B E B
I heard her sing in tongues of silver

E B
I heard her cry on a summer storm

E B
I loved her, but she did not know it

F# B
So I don't think about her anymore

E B
Now she's gone, and I can't believe it

F# B
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

D/A G

I'm goin' out to Denver

D/A A13 D7/A

See if I can't find

G

I'm goin' out to Denver

D/A A13 D/A

See if I can't find

A6 Gmaj7

D/A A13 D/A

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

Delta Momma Blues

Townes Van Zandt

D G
Come away with me, my little delta boy

A D A
I wanna be your delta mama for a while

D G
If you stay, you'll see that I can bring you lots of joy
A D A
I can turn those little teardrops to a smile

If you're blue don't cry, just wander right downtown
You can find your delta mama waitin' there
Well, I thought you knew that I would never let you down
I can ease your mind and take away your cares

If the grass goes brown, don't you hang your head too low
There ain't no need for you to sit and pine
And if you'll just ask around, I'm sure someone will know
What it takes to get you back to feeling fine

Come away with me, my little delta boy
I wanna be your delta mama for awhile
If you stay, you'll see that I can bring you lots of joy
I can turn those little teardrops to a smile

Dollar Bill Blues

Townes Van Zandt

C#m F#m

If I had a dollar bill

C#m

Yes, I believe I surely will

G#m

Go to town and drink my fill

C#m

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

Whiskey'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

C

If I needed you, would you come to me

F/C G/B C

Would you come to me and ease my pain

C

If you needed me, I would come to you

F/C G/B C

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

Kathleen

Townes Van Zandt

C#m

C#m F#m
It's plain to see, the sun won't shine today
C#m F#m
But I ain't in the mood for sunshine anyway
G#m F#m
Maybe I'll go insane,
A E C#m
I got to stop the pain.
F#m A G#m B C#m
Or maybe I'll go down to see Kathleen

A swallow comes and tells me of her dreams
She says she'd like to know just what they mean
I feel like I could die
As I watch her flying by
Ride the north wind down to see Kathleen

Stars hang high above, the oceans roar
The moon is come to lead me to her door
There's crystal across the sand
And the waves, they take my hand
Soon I'm gonna see my sweet Kathleen
Soon I'm gonna see my sweet Kathleen

Nothin'

Townes Van Zandt

Dm

Hey mama, when you leave

Dm

Don't leave a thing behind

A# Dm

I don't want nothin'

Am Dm

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

D G D
Ride the blue wind high and free

 G D
She'll lead you down through misery

 G D
Leave you low, come time to go

 G D
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

B E

When the wind don't blow in Amarillo

B E

And the moon along the Gunnison don't rise

A E

Shall I cast my dreams upon your love, babe

B E

And lie beneath the laughter of your eyes?

A E

Snowin' on Raton

B E

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 F

The name she bore was Caroline

C

Daughter of a miner

F

And her ways were free

C Am

And it seemed to me

G F C

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

C#m **G#m**
Sometimes I don't know the reason why

C#m
I guess I'll keep on rambling

I guess I'll keep on rambling
F#m
Lots of booze and lots of gambling

Lots of booze and lots of gambling
C#m **G#m** **C#m**
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