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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 **A**

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'

G **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