

lyrics from blue side of 10" LP *Along, Below* (1999)

Chapter one
The courses and topsails are set
The anchor swings from the bow
Ashore previous
Now embarked
Making easting
Up helm
And away
Weary
What to me
What to me indeed
Aye, aye, only sailing
Worse and worse
Ashore is now out of the question
No port
Off soundings
In unfrequented and least known portions of these seas
The mild equatorial breeze
Exchanged for cold, fierce swells
Northern voyaging
The brown planks
Silent from stem to stern
The entire western horizon
Flew through a low arch
Chapter two
Closes eyes
Faith begins to fail
For the geography
Parallels and meridians
Become emphatically what they are merely designated as being
Imaginary lines drawn round the earth's surface
At length
Doubts overtake
Competency to navigate
Must have lost way

And drifted
Thoughts thicken
Chapter three
Watch to keep all by myself
With nothing but the horizon in sight
Waved round
My life for it
Sailed over the salt
Chapter four
The sky seemed so earnest and upright
To tell the plain truth in spite of
Love
I had many misgivings as to readiness
Perches on the foremast
On the lookout
Trying best to chase away
Time to be lost
Carrying farther and farther from the parallel
Without chart or quadrant
So far out of reckoning
An indifferent lookout
Chapter five
In these seas
Without starting tack r sheet
Hardly moving the helm
Chapter six
The humming of the still sails aloft
The waves against the bow
And the deep breathing of the dreaming sailors around
Chapter seven
Good craft
Rocked so often in oak
Then broad deep
So far from home
Ship

Where sails
Planks
The drowning eddies did their work
Sunk
Sea
The blast
Storm sails set
Helm
And every sailor at post
Craft may have foundered
Chapter eight
A thousand miles from land
The night was even blacker
Night near the line
Half shrouded the stars
Aft toward the quarterdeck
Overboard
Astern of the ship
Way in the water
Overboard
Astern
Overboard
Sunk in the trough of the waves
Aye aye
Chapter nine
Shouldered
From crest to crest
As from hand to hand
Chapter ten
Going large before the wind
The jib set wing and wing with the main sail
Chapter eleven
Sheer plank
Chapter twelve
Nothing in sight
Chapter thirteen

Side by side
With the round horizon
Chapter fourteen
Water alone
Chapter fifteen
Patch upon patch
Chapter sixteen
Folding swells
Overboard for a bath
Low humming under our bow
Our boat like a bird
Overhead
Blue
Under
Blue
Chapter seventeen
To the westward
More and more
Chapter eighteen
Nearer and nearer
Chapter nineteen
The helm was left
Again swung round
Chapter twenty
When the foreyard swung round
Overboard
Chapter 21
The water thumped
Under bows
Sea to sea
Chapter 22
Side to side
Nearer and nearer
The salt between them