

Blue Wing
Dave Alvin

BLUE WING

Written by Tom Russell

(as heard on the album, KING OF CALIFORNIA by Dave Alvin)

Tabbed by Brad Mahugh

[Verse 1]

D

He had a blue wing tattooed on his shoulder

D

Em

Well, it might have been a bluebird, I don t know

Em

but he d get stone drunk and talk about Alaska

A

D

and the salmon boats and 45 below

D

well he got that blue wing in jail at Walla Walla

D

Em

and his cellmate there was Little Willie John

Em

Willie, he was once a great blues singer

A

D

so Wing & Willie wrote em up a song

[Chorus]

N.C.

D

G

said, it s dark in here, can t see the sky

D

A

but I look at this blue wing and I close my eyes

D

G

and I fly away, beyond these walls

D

A

up above the clouds, where the rain don t fall

D

G A

on a poor man s dreams

[Verse 2]

D

well they paroled blue wing in August of 1963

D

Em

and he moved north picking apples to the town of Wenatchee

Em

winter finally caught him in a rundown trailer park

A

D

on the south side of Seattle where the days grow grey and dark

D

and he drank and he dreamt a vision of when the salmon still ran free

D **Em**
and his father s fathers crossed that wide old Bering sea

Em
and the land belonged to everyone, and there were old songs yet to sing

A **D**
now, it s narrowed broken down to a cheap hotel and a tattooed prison wing

[Chorus]

N.C. **D** **G**
said, it s dark in here, can t see the sky

D **A**
but I look at this blue wing and I close my eyes

D **G**
and I fly away, beyond these walls

D **A**
up above the clouds, where the rain don t fall

D G A
on a poor man s dreams

[Verse 3]

D
well he drank his way to LA and that s where he died

D **Em**
and no one knew his Christian name, and there was no one there to cry

Em
but I dreamt that there was a service, a preacher and an old pine box

A **D**
and halfway through the service, blue wing began to talk

[Chorus]

N.C. **D** **G**
he said, it s dark in here, can t see the sky

D **A**
but I look at this blue wing and I close my eyes

D **G**
and I fly away, beyond these walls

D **A**
up above the clouds, where the rain don t fall

D G A
on a poor man s dreams