

The Silver Ships Of Andilar
Townes Van Zandt

Em

Of those that sailed the silver ships

A **Bflat** **D** **Em**

from Andilar I am the last

G

The deeds that rang our youthful dreams

D **Em**

it seems shall go undone

North for the shores of Valinor

Am **Bflat** **D** **Em**

our bows and crimson sails were made

G

Our captains were strong, our lances long

D **Em**

and our liege the holy king

The hills did turn from green to blue

and vanish as on the decks we watched

But every thought in that noble company

was forward bound

To the lifeless plains of Valinor

where reigns the dark and frozen one

And with tongues afire and glorious eyes

we pledged our mission be

The clime from mild to bitter ran

the wind from fair to fierce did blow

Oath and prayer did turn to thoughts

of homes left far behind

Longed every man for some glimpse of land

and the host that did await us there

But each new day brought only a sea

and sky of ice and gray

Thanks give no word can drag you through

those endless weeks our ships did roll

Thanks give you cannot see those sails

and faces bleach and draw

Ice we drank and leather did chew

for the oceans are unwholesome there

The dead that slid into the seas

did freeze before our eyes

Then a wind did fling the ships apart

each one to go her separate way

The sky did howl, the hull did groan

for how long I do not know

And what men were left when the winds had ceased
grew dull and low of countenance
For soldiers denied their battle plain
on comrades soon must turn

So one by one we died alone
some by hunger, some by steel
Bodies froze where they did fall
their souls unsanctified
Until only another and I were left
then just before his flame did fail
We shone ourselves brothers-in-arms
to serve the holy king

Perhaps this shall reach Andilar
although I know not how it can
For once again he s hurled his wind
upon the silver prow
But if it should my words are these
arise young men fine ships to build
And set them north for Valinor
neath standards proud as fire

#-----#