

Sailing Away

James McMurtry

The SatNav can't get signal, and this light's forever long
Lost in the rain in this no-man's land over by the Pentagon
Wonderin' if I'm even worth the paper I'm printed on
It's a judgment call

DC Beltway in this 5:30 gloom
Openin' for Isbell in some cavernous room
I hate it when the clocks roll back, it's darker than a tomb
And they're out smokin' by the load-in, one and all

I won't forget your birthday, 'cause you don't forget the score
I won't forget that chorus like I did the night before, when I was
Tryin' to remember, did I lock the front door? And have I
Any business bein' in this business anymore? And I'm

Sailin' away
Feelin' faded, and I'm not okay
Sailin' alone
Steerin' by the stars, and I can't get home now

The light tech's friendly, and she sees me right through
She's an iron-skinned veteran of professional crew
So I don't stand half a chance, no matter what I do
But she'll light me up good for those early few

One time you told me not to push you too hard
You could drift away slowly till you drift too far
And I paid attention, and I took it to heart
But it's been so long now, I just don't know who we are, and I'm

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Dreamed I came home from a month or so out
Junk mail on the kitchen table scattered all about
I couldn't find you anywhere, I searched all through the house
I kept hopin' as I opened every door

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Steerin' by the stars, and I can't get home now