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# Weird Tales

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# A Ship Is Sailing

By KATHERINE VAN DER VEER

Autumn comes with steady tread, wild winds blowing;  
 Up and down the garden walk dahlias are in bloom.  
 It's little that I care today for all their gaudy showing:  
 A most disturbing letter has come into my room.

For there's a ship that's sailing to lands I've never seen,  
 To lonely lava islands with beaches white as snow,  
 Where slender gold-brown women dress in turquoise, henna, green,  
 Where creaming waves come rolling in, and palms and orchids grow.

All along the garden walk, leaves will soon be dancing,  
 Flowers will tremble, limp and black—what is that to me?  
 Out across the ocean's rim a great ship will be glancing,  
 Veering gulls will follow her as far as eye can see.

Bali, with her carven shrines, tree-fern fronds uncoiling,  
 Dancers clad in gleaming silk, with trays of fruit and flowers,  
 Carabaos, wrinkled crones, youth and beauty foiling,  
 Mellow gongs of burnished bronze to beat away the hours.

Singapore and Java, names of lure and glamor!  
 Life must hold me tethered here. Can anybody say  
 How to keep a dream-sick heart from a sudden tremor  
 When a magic ship goes out, sailing down the bay?