

THE CHAMBERLAIN'S LOVER

We weren't the best Skeksies I'll admit that
under the slightest amount of heat / We
worked hard at falling in love by not following
their rules / We skipped banquets to kiss in the
kitchen cupboards / We tied bells around our
doorframes so no one could disturb the
thunderous energy that drew us together in the
first place / Aphids mashed under copper ladles
& spooned into each other's beaks when no one
else would listen / You & your long scrolls of
poetry & me & my unfinished maps of the
oceans / We understood places the rest of the
world could never fathom: / The far thrown
islands hovering above acrid deserts & the inner
recesses of the dark humid forests of the
mind / We were already headed towards
opposite directions when you packed me in a
shiny little boat & sent me away / But I'll admit
I loved it when the Gelfling's christened me
their Captain / It was refreshing to control
something turned by a reliable tiller / So for
that I do thank you / But don't you see we were
the Skokie Sisters & that sure meant a lot to me
/ I'm sorry that you couldn't see past skekSa
THE CAPTAIN.