

Coward of the County

recorded by Kenny Rogers

C F C
Everyone considered him the coward of the county
G7
He never stood one single time to prove the county wrong
C F C
His mama named him Tommy but folks just called him yellow
G7 C
Something always told me they were reading Tommy wrong

C F C
He was only ten years old when his daddy died in prison
C G7
I looked after Tommy cause he was my brother's son
C F C
I still recall the final words my brother said to Tommy
G7 C
Son my life is over but yours is just begun

CHORUS

C F C
Promise me son not to do the things I've done
F C G7
Walk away from trouble if you can
C F C
Now it don't mean you're weak if you turn the other cheek
F G7
I hope you're old enough to understand
F G7 C
You don't have to fight to be a man

(KEY CHANGE TO D)

D G D
There's someone for everyone and Tommy's love was Becky
A7
In her arms he didn't have to prove he was a man
D G D
One day while he was working the Gatlin Boys came calling
A7 D
They took turns at Becky there were three of them
D G D
Tommy opened up the door and saw his Becky crying
A7
The torn dress the shattered look was more than he could stand
D G D
He reached above the fireplace and took down his daddy's picture

Coward of the County

recorded by Kenny Rogers

As his tears fell on his daddy's face he heard these words again

CHORUS

D G D
Promise me son not to do the things I've done
G D A7
Walk away from trouble if you can
D G D
Now it don't mean you're weak if you turn the other cheek
G A7
I hope you're old enough to understand
G A7 D
You don't have to fight to be a man

D G D
The Gatlin boys just laughed at him when he walked into the barroom
A7
One of the got up and hit him halfway cross the floor
D G D
Tommy turned around they said hey look ole Yellow's leaving
A7 D
But you coulda heard a pin drop when Tommy stopped and locked the door

G D
Twenty years of crawling was bottled up inside him
A7
He wasn't holding nothing back he let 'em have it all
D G D
When Tommy left the bar room not a Gatlin boy was standing
A7 D
He said this one's for Becky as he watched the last one fall

(Spoken) And I heard him say

D G D
I promised you Dad not to do the things you've done
G D A7
I'll walk away from trouble if I can
D G D
Now Please don't think I'm weak I couldn't turn the other cheek
A7
Papa I sure hope you understand
G A7 D
Sometimes you gotta fight when you're a man
G D
Everyone considered him the coward of the county