

THE GAMBLER

C **F** **C**
On a warm summer's evenin' on a train bound for nowhere,
F **C** **F** **G**
I met up with the gambler; we were both too tired to sleep.
C **F** **C**
So we took turns a starin' out the window at the darkness
F **C** **G** **C**
'til boredom overtook us, and he began to speak.

C **F** **C**
He said, "Son, I've made a life out of readin' people's faces,
F **C** **F** **G**
and knowin' what their cards were by the way they held their eyes.
C **F** **C**
And if you don't mind my sayin', I can see you're out of aces.
F **C** **G** **C** **////** **////**
For a taste of your whiskey I'll give you some advice."

C **F** **C**
So I handed him my bottle and he drank down my last swallow.
F **C** **F** **G**
Then he bummed a cigarette and asked me for a light.
C **F** **C**
And the night got deathly quiet, and his face lost all expression.
F **C** **G** **C**
Said, "If you're gonna play the game, boy, ya gotta learn to play it right."

CHORUS:

C **F** **C**
You got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em,
F **C** **G**
know when to walk away and know when to run.
C **F** **C**
You never count your money when you're sittin' at the table.
F **C** **G** **C** **////** **////**
There'll be time enough for countin' when the dealin's done.

D **////** **////**

D **G** **D**
Ev'ry gambler knows that the secret to survivin'
G **D** **A**
is knowin' what to throw away and knowing what to keep.
D **G** **D**
'Cause ev'ry hand's a winner and ev'ry hand's a loser,
G **D** **A** **D**
and the best that you can hope for is to die in your sleep."

D **G** **D**
And when he'd finished speakin', he turned back towards the window,
G **D** **A**
And he crushed out his cigarette and faded off to sleep.
D **G** **D**
And somewhere in the darkness the gambler, he broke even.
G **D** **A** **D**
But in his final words I found an ace that I could keep.

CHORUS x 2