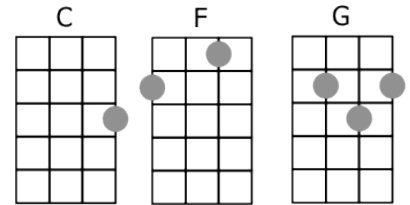


108. Coward of the County

Kenny Rogers

Don't get caught out by the **Key Changes**

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

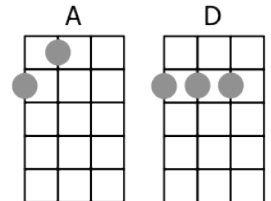


[C] He was only ten years old when his [F] daddy died in [C] prison.
[C] I looked after Tommy 'cause he was my brother's [G] son.
I [C] still recall the final words my [F] brother said to [C] Tommy:
[C] "Son, my life is over, but [G] yours is just be[C]gun".

[C] Promise me son not to [F] do the things I've [C] done
[F] Walk away from [C] trouble if you [G] can
[G] Now [C] it don't mean you're weak if you [F] turn the other [C] cheek
[C] I hope you're old e[F]nough to under[G]stand
[F] You don't have to [G] fight to be a [C] man

Key Change UP

[C] There's [D] someone for everyone and [G] Tommy's love was [D] Becky
[D] In her arms he didn't have to prove he was a [A] man
[A] One [D] day while he was workin', the [G] Gatlin Boys came [D] callin'
[D] They took turns at Becky (spoken in disgust) there [A] were three of [D] them.



[D] Tommy opened up the door and [G] saw his Becky [D] cryin'.
[D] The torn dress, the shattered look was more than he could [A] stand.
[A] He [D] reached above the fireplace and took [G] down his daddy's [D] picture.
[D] As his tears fell on his daddy's face, he [A] heard these words a[D]gain:

[D] Promise me son not to [G] do the things I've [D] done
[G] Walk away from [D] trouble if you [A] can
[A] Now [D] it don't mean you're weak if you [G] turn the other [D] cheek
[D] I hope you're old en[G]ough to under[A]stand
[G] You don't have to [A] fight to be a [D] man

Key Change DOWN

[C] The Gatlin boys just laughed at him when he [F] walked into the [C] bar room
[C] One of the got up and hit him halfway cross the [G] floor
[C] When Tommy turned around they said, "Hey, [F] look! Ol' Yeller's [C] leavin'!"
[C] [Spoken] But you coulda heard a pin drop* when Tommy [G] stopped and locked the [C] door.

[C] Twenty years of crawlin' was [F] bottled up in[C]side him.
[C] He wasn't holdin' nothin' back; he let 'em have it [G] all.
[C] When Tommy left the barroom not a [F] Gatlin boy was [C] standin'.
[C] He said, "This one's for Becky," as he [G] watched the last one [C] fall.
[C] And I heard him say,

[C] I promised you Dad not to [F] do the things you've [C] done
[F] I'll walk away from [C] trouble when I [G] can
[G] Now [C] please don't think I'm weak, I couldn't [F] turn the other [C] cheek
[C] Papa, I sure [F] hope you under[G]stand
[G] Some[F]times you gotta [G] fight when you're a [C] man

[C] Everyone considered him the [F] coward of the [C] County

*You can't actually hear a pin drop, but you might be able to hear it as it lands.