

**Coward Of The County**  
**Kenny Rogers**

Capo 3rd Fret

(In a moderate country half-time)

**A** **D** **A**  
Ev ryone considered him the coward of the county.  
**E**  
He d never stood one single time to prove the county wrong.  
**A** **D** **A**  
His mama named him Tommy, the folks just called him yellow,  
**E** **A**  
but something always told me they were reading Tommy wrong.

**A** **D** **A**  
He was only ten years old when his daddy died in prison.  
**E**  
I looked after Tommy cause he was my brother s son.  
**A** **D** **A**  
I still recall the final words my brother said to Tommy:  
**E** **A**  
Son, my life is over, but yours is just begun.

**A** **D** **A**  
Promise me, son, not to do the things I ve done.  
**D** **A** **E**  
Walk away from trouble if you can.  
**A** **D** **A**  
It won t mean you re weak if you turn the other cheek.  
**D** **E**  
I hope you re old enough to understand:  
**E7** **A**  
Son, you don t have to fight to be a man.

(Slide capo to 4th fret)

**A** **D** **A**  
There s someone for ev ryone and Tommy s love was Becky.  
**E**  
In her arms he didn t have to prove he was a man.  
**A** **D** **A**  
One day while he was workin the Gatlin boys came callin .  
**E** (Spoken) **A**  
They took turns at Becky.... There was three of them!

**A** **D** **A**  
Tommy opened up the door and saw his Becky cryin .

**E**  
The torn dress, the shattered look was more than he could stand.

**A** **D** **A**  
He reached above the fireplace and took down his daddy s picture.

**E** **A**  
As his tears fell on his daddy s face, he heard these words again:

**A** **D** **A**  
Promise me, son, not to do the things I ve done.

**D** **A** **E**  
Walk away from trouble if you can.

**A** **D** **A**  
It won t mean you re weak if you turn the other cheek.

**D** **E**  
I hope you re old enough to understand:

**E7** **A**  
Son, you don t have to fight to be a man.

(Slide capo to 5th fret)

**A** **D** **A**  
The Gatlin boys just laughed at him when he walked into the barroom.

**E**  
One of them got up and met him halfway cross the floor.

**A** **D** **A**  
When Tommy turned around they said, Hey look! ol yellow s leavin .  
(Whole line spoken) **E** **A**

But you coulda heard a pin drop when Tommy stopped and blocked the door.

**A** **D** **A**  
Twenty years of crawlin was bottled up inside him.

**E**  
He wasn t holdin nothin back; he let em have it all.

**A** **D** **A**  
When Tommy left the barroom not a Gatlin boy was standin .

**E** **A**  
He said, This one s for Becky, as he watched the last one fall.  
(Spoken)

And I heard him say,

**A** **D** **A**  
I promised you, Dad, not to do the things you done.

**E**  
I walk away from trouble when I can.

**A** **D** **A**

Now please don't think I'm weak, I didn't turn the other cheek,

**D** **E**

and Papa, I sure hope you understand:

**E7** **A**

Sometimes you gotta fight when you're a man.

**A** **D** (No chords) **A**

Ev'ryone considered him the coward of the county.