

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.