

Pancho And Lefty
Willie Nelson

Song written by Townes Van Zandt
sung by Willie Nelson and Merle Haggard

[Verse 1]

D
Livin on the road, my friend
A
Was gonna keep us free and clean
G
But now you wear your skin like iron
D **A**
And your breath s as hard as kerosene
G
You weren t your mama s only boy
D **G**
But her favorite one, it seems
Bm **G** **A**
She began to cry when you said good bye
G **Bm**
And sank into your dreams

[Verse 2]

D
Pancho was a bandit, boys
A
Rode a horse fast as polished steel
G
Wore his guns outside his pants
D **A**
For all the honest world to feel
G
Pancho met his match, you know
D **G**
On the deserts down in Mexico
Bm **G** **A**
No one heard his dyin words
G **Bm**
But that s the way it goes

[Chorus]

G

And all the federales say

D
They could have had him any day

Bm **G** **A**
They only let him slip away

G **Bm**
Out of kindness, I suppose

[Verse 3]

D
Now Lefty he can t sing the blues

A
All night long like he used to

G
The dust that Pancho bit down South

D **A**
It ended up in Lefty s mouth

G
The day they laid old Pancho low

D **G**
Lefty split for Ohio

Bm **G** **A**
Where he got the bread to go

G **Bm**
Well there ain t nobody knows

[Chorus]

G
And all the federales say

D **G**
They could have had him any day

Bm **G** **A**
They only let him slip away

G **Bm**
Out of kindness, I suppose

[Verse 4]

D
Now poets sing how Pancho fell

A
Lefty s livin in a cheap hotel

G
The desert s quiet and Cleveland s cold

D **A**
And so the story ends, we re told

G

Pancho needs your prayers, it s true

D **G**

But save a few for Lefty, too

Bm **G** **A**

He only did what he had to do

G **Bm**

And now he s growin old

[Chorus]

(Final Chorus)

G

Yes a few old gray federales still say

D **G**

They could have had him any day

Bm **G** **A**

They only let him go so wrong

G **Bm**

Out of kindness, I suppose