

## The Gambler

Kenny Rogers

On a [C] warm summer's evenin' on a [F] train bound for [C] nowhere,  
I [F] met up with the [C] gambler; we were both too tired to [G7] sleep.  
So [C] we took turns a starin' out the [F] window at the [C] darkness  
'til [F] boredom over-[C]-took us, and [G7] he began to [C] speak.

He said, [C] "Son, I've made a life out of [F] readin' people's [C] faces,  
and [F] knowin' what their [C] cards were by the way they held their [G7] eyes.  
And if [C] you don't mind my sayin', I can [F] see you're out of [C] aces.  
For a [F] taste of your [C] whiskey I'll [G7] give you some ad-[C]-vice."

So I [C] handed him my bottle and he [F] drank down my last [C] swallow.  
Then he [F] bummed a cigar-[C]-ette, ... and asked me for a [G7] light.  
And the [C] night got deathly quiet, and his [F] face lost all ex-[C]-pression.  
Said, "If you're [F] gonna play the [C] game, boy, ya gotta [G7] learn to play it  
[C] right.

You got to [C] know when to hold 'em, [F] know when to [C] fold 'em,  
[F] know when to [C] walk away and know when to [G7] run.  
You never [C] count your money when you're [F] sittin' at the [C] table.  
There'll be [F] time enough for [C] countin' [G7] when the dealin's [C] done.  
[C // /] [D // /]

## (Key change)

[D] Every gambler knows that the [G] secret to sur-[D]-vivin'  
is [G] knowin' what to [D] throw away and knowing what to [A7] keep.  
'Cause [D] every hand's a winner and [G] every hand's a [D] loser,  
and the [G] best that you can [D] hope for is to [A7] die in your [D] sleep."

And [D] when he'd finished speakin', he turned [G] back towards the [D]  
window,  
Crushed [G] out his cigar-[D]-ette ... and faded off to [A7] sleep.  
And [D] somewhere in the darkness the [G] gambler, he broke [D] even.  
But [G] in his final [D] words I found an [A7] ace that I could [D] keep.

You got to [D] know when to hold 'em, [G] know when to [D] fold 'em,  
[G] know when to [D] walk away and know when to [A7] run.  
You never [D] count [G] your [D] money when you're [G] sittin' at the [D] table.  
There'll be [G] time enough for [D] countin' [A7] when the dealin's [D] done.

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