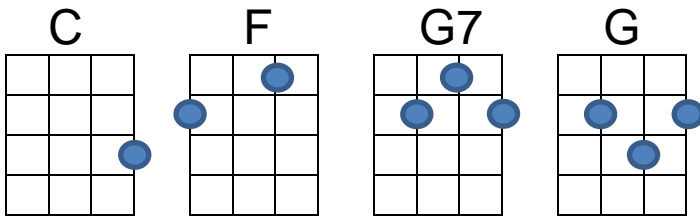


The Gambler

Written by: Don Schlitz - 1978

Recorded by: Kenny Rogers



On a (C) warm summer's eve 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 staring out the (F) window at the (C) darkness,
Till (F) boredom over(C)took us (G) and he began to (C) speak.

He said, (C) "Son, I've made a life out of (F) reading people's (C) faces,
And (F) knowing what their (C) cards were by the way they held their (G7) eyes,
So if (C) you don't mind me saying I can (F) see you're out of (C) aces,
For a (F) taste of your (C) whiskey, I'll (G) give you some (C) advice".

So I (C) handed him my bottle and he (F) drank down my last (C) swallow,
(F) Then he bummed a (C) cigarette 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 game (C) boy, ya gotta (G) learn to play it (C)
right.

You've got to (C) know when to hold 'em, (F) know when to (C) fold 'em,
(F) Know when to (C) walk away, know when to (G) run,
You never (C) count your money, when you're (F) sittin' at the (C) table,
There'll be time (F) enough for (C) countin', (G) when the dealin's (C) done.

(C) Every gambler knows that the (F) secret to sur(C)vivin',
(F) Is knowin' what to (C) throw away and knowin' what to (G7) keep,
'Cause (C) every hand's a winner and (F) every hand's a (C) loser,
And the (F) best that you can (C) hope for, is to (G) die in your (C) sleep.

And (C) when he finished speakin', he (F) turned back toward the (C) window,
(F) Crushed out his (C) cigarette and faded off to (G7) sleep,
And (C) somewhere in the darkness (F) the gambler he broke (C) even,
And (F) in his final (C) words, I found an (G) ace that I could (C) keep.

(REPEAT TWICE)

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