

The Gambler

(KENNY ROGERS) Words and music by DON SCHLITZ

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

VERSE 2

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

VERSE 3

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

CHORUS

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

VERSE 4

[G] Ev'ry gambler knows that the [C] secret to sur[G]vivin'
Is [C] knowin' what to [G] throw away and [C] knowing what to [D] keep.
"Cause [G] ev'ry hand's a winner and [C] ev'ry hand's a [G] loser,
And the [C] best that you can [G] hope for is to [D] die in your [G] sleep."

VERSE 5 And [G] when he'd finished speakin', he [C] turned back towards the [G]
window,
[C] Crushed out his [G] cigarette and [C] faded off to [D] sleep.
(Slower) And [G] somewhere in the darkness, the [C] gambler he broke [G] even.
But [C] in his final [G] words I found an [D] ace that I could [G] keep.

CHORUS X 2

There'll be [C] time enough' for[G] countin', [D] when the dealin's [G] done.