

The Gambler

written by Don Schlitz



C
On a warm summer's evening
F C
on a train bound for nowhere
F C
I met up with the gambler we
G7
were both too tired to sleep
C
So we took turns a- staring out
F C
the window at the darkness
F C
Till boredom overtook us
G7 C
and he began to speak

CHORUS

You got to know when to hold 'em
F C
know when to fold 'em
F C G7
know when to walk away and know when to run
C
You never count your money when you're
F C
sitting at the table
F C
There'll be time enough for counting when
G7 C
the dealings done

He said 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

And if [C] you don't mind my saying
I can [F] see you're out of [C] aces
For a [F] taste of your [C] whiskey
I'll [G7] give you some [C] advice

[C] So I 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 express [C]
ion.
Said if you're [F] gonna play the [C]
game boy
Ya gotta [G7] learn to play it [C]
right.

Every gambler knows that the [F] secret to survi [C]
ving
Is [F] knowing what to [C] throw away and
knowing 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
[G7] die in your [C] [sleep

And when he'd finished speaking 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 the [F] gambler
he broke [C] even -
But [F] in his final [C] words I found an [G7] ace
that I could [C] keep

REPEAT CHORUS