

Coward of the County

Kenny Rogers

Key of C
62 BPM

C F C
Everyone considered him the coward of the county
G7
He never stood one single time to prove the county wrong
C F C
His mama named him Tommy but folks just called him yellow
G7 C
Something always told me they were reading Tommy wrong
F C
He was only ten years old when his daddy died in prison
G7
I looked after Tommy cause he was my brother's son
C F C
I still recall the final words my brother said to Tommy
G7 C
Son my life is over but yours is just begun
F C
Promise me son not to do the things I've done
F C G7
Walk away from trouble if you can
C F C
Now it don't mean you're weak if you turn the other cheek
F G7
I hope you're old enough to understand
F G7 C
You don't have to fight to be a man
F C
There's someone for everyone and Tommy's love was Becky
G7
In her arms he didn't have to prove he was a man
C F C
One day while he was working the Gatlin Boys came calling

G7 C
They took turns at Becky there were three of them

F C
Tommy opened up the door and saw his Becky crying

G7
The torn dress the shattered look was more than he could stand

C F C
He reached above the fireplace and took down his daddy's picture

G7 C
As his tears fell on his daddy's face he heard these words again
Repeat #3

F C
The Gatlin boys just laughed at him when he walked into the barroom

G7
One of the got up and hit him halfway cross the floor

C F C
Tommy turned around they said hey look ole Yellow's leaving

G7 C
But you coulda heard a pin drop when Tommy stopped and locked the door

F C
Twenty years of crawling was bottled up inside him

G7
He wasn't holding nothing back he let 'em have it all

C F C
When Tommy left the barroom not a Gatlin boy was standing

G7 C
He said this one's for Becky as he watched the last one fall
And I heard him say

F C
I promised you Dad not to do the things you've done

F C G7
I'll walk away from trouble if I can

C F C
Now Please don't think I'm weak I couldn't turn the other cheek

G7
Papa I sure hope you understand

F G7 C
Sometimes you gotta fight when you're a man

 F C
Everyone considered him the coward of the county

(Key of 0 1)