

Coward of the County – Kenny Rogers

Ev'ryone considered him the **coward** of the **county** ...
He'd **never** stood one single time to prove the county **wrong** ...
His **mama** named him Tommy, the **folks** just called him **yellow** ...
But **something** always told me they were **reading** Tommy **wrong** ...
/ C - F C - / C - - G - / 1st / C - G C - /

He was only ten years old when his **daddy** died in **prison**
I **looked** after Tommy 'cause he was my brother's **son**
I **still** recall the final words my **brother** said to **Tommy**
"Son, my life is over, but **yours** is just **begun**

Promise me, son, not to **do** the things I've **done**
Walk away from **trouble** if you **can** ...
It won't mean you're weak if you **turn** the other **cheek**
I **hope** you're old **enough** to understand
/ C - F C / F C G - / 1st / C F G - /

Son, **you** don't have to fight to be a **man**"
/ G7 - C - /

There's someone for ev'ryone and **Tommy's** love was **Becky**
In her arms he didn't have to prove he was a **man**
One **day** while he was workin' the **Gatlin** boys came **callin'**
They took turns at Becky – **There was three of them!**

Tommy opened up the door and **saw** his Becky **cryin'**
The torn dress, the shattered look was more than he could **stand**
He **reached** above the fireplace and took **down** his daddy's **picture**
As his tears fell on his daddy's face, he **heard** these words **again**

"Promise me, son..."

The Gatlin boys just laughed at him when he **walked** into the **barroom**
One of them got up and met him halfway 'cross the **floor**
When **Tommy** turned around they said, "Hey **look!** ol' yellow's **leavin'**"
But you coulda heard a pin drop
When **Tommy** stopped and **locked** the door

Twenty years of crawlin' was **bottled** up inside him
He wasn't holdin' nothin' back; he let 'em have it **all**
When **Tommy** left the barroom not a **Gatlin** boy was **standin'**
He said, "This one's for Becky," as he **watched** the last one **fall**

And I heard him say...

"I promised you, Dad not to do the things you've done
I walk away from trouble when I can
Now please don't think I'm weak, I didn't turn the other cheek
And papa, I sure hope you understand
Sometimes you gotta fight when you're a man"

Ev'ryone considered him the **coward** of the county. ...