

Rogers Kenny

"The Gambler"

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* transcribed by Frantic Freddy, on request *

KENNY ROGERS - THE GAMBLER

On a warm summers evening, on a train bound for
nowhere
I met up with a gambler, we were both too tired to sleep
So we took turns at staring out the window at the
darkness
The boredom overtook us and he began to speak

He said, son I've made a life out of reading people's
faces
And knowing what the cards were, by the way they held
their eyes
So if you don't mind my sayin', I can see you're out of
aces
For a taste of your whiskey, I'll give you some advice

So I handed him my bottle, and he drank down my last
swallow
Then he bummed a cigarette and asked me for a light
And the night got deathly quiet, and his face lost all
expression
Said, if you're gonna play the game, boy, you gotta
learn to play it right

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

Every gambler knows that the secret to survive is
Knowing what to throw away and knowing what to keep
'Cos every hand's a winner and every hand's a loser

And the best that you can hope for is that I end asleep

And when he finished speakin', he turned back for the
window

Crushed out the cigarette, faded off to sleep

And somewhere in the darkness, the gambler he broke
even

But in his final words I found an ace that I could keep

chorus repeats 3x

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