

Kenny Rogers "Coward Of The County"

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Everyone considered him
the coward of the county
He'd never stood one single time
to prove the county wrong
His mama named him Tommy
but folks just called him Yellow
something always told me
they were reading Tommy wrong

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

(chorus)

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
Son you don't have to fight to be a man

There's someone for everyone
and Tommy's love was Becky
In her arms he didn't have
to prove he was a man
One day while he was working
the Gatlin boys came calling
They took turns at Becky
there was three of them

Tommy opened the door
and saw his Becky crying
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 this word again

(chorus)

The Gatlin boys just laughed at him
when he walked into the bar room
One of them got up and met him
half way cross the floor
When Tommy turned around they said
"Hey look old Yellow's leaving"
But you could've heard a pin drop
when Tommy stopped and locked the door

Twenty years of crawling
were bottled up inside him
He would hold nothing back
he let 'em have it all
When Tommy left the bar room
not a Gatlin boy was standing
He said "this one's for Becky"
as he watched the last one fall
Now hear 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 should hope you understand
sometimes you gotta fight when you're a man

Everyone considered him the coward of the county

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