

THE GAMBLER

[Verse 1]

G **C** **G**
On a warm summer's evenin' on a train bound for nowhere,
C **G** **C** **D**
I met up with the gambler; we were both too tired to sleep.
G **C** **G**
So we took turns a starin' out the window at the darkness
C **G** **D** **G**
'til boredom overtook us, and he began to speak.

[Verse 2]

G **C** **G**
He said, "Son, I've made a life out of readin' people's faces,
C **G** **C** **D**
and knowin' what their cards were by the way they held their eyes.
G **C** **G**
And if you don't mind my sayin', I can see you're out of aces.
C **G** **D** **G**
For a taste of your whiskey I'll give you some advice."

[Verse 3]

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

[Chorus]

G C G
You got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em,
C G C D
know when to walk away and know when to run.

G C G
You never count your money when you're sittin' at the table.
C G D G
There'll be time enough for countin' when the dealin's done.

[Verse 4]

D C G
Ev'ry gambler knows that the secret to survivin'
C G C D
is knowin' what to throw away and knowing what to keep.

G C G
'Cause ev'ry hand's a winner and ev'ry hand's a loser,
C G D G
and the best that you can hope for is to die in your sleep."

[Verse 5]

G C G
And when he'd finished speakin', he turned back towards the window,
C G C D
crushed out his cigarette and faded off to sleep.

G C G
And somewhere in the darkness the gambler, he broke even.
C G D G
But in his final words I found an ace that I could keep.

[Chorus] X 2