

# Abbey Lincoln - Coward Of The County

Tom: C

C F  
 Everyone considered him the coward of the county  
 C G G  
 He never stood one single time to prove the county wrong  
 C F C C  
 His mama named him Tommy, the folks just called him yellow  
 C G C  
 But someting always told me they were reading Tommy wrong  
 C F C  
 He was only ten years old when his daddy died in prison  
 C G G  
 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  
 C G C  
 "Son my life is over but yours is just begun"  
 C F C  
 "Promise me, son, not to do the things I've done  
 C G  
 Walk away from trouble if you can  
 C F  
 It won't mean you're weak if you turn the other cheek  
 C G  
 I hope you're old enough to understand  
 G C  
 Son you don't have to fight to be a man"  
 D  
 There's someone for everyone and Tommy's love was Becky  
 A  
 In her arms he didn't have to prove he was a man  
 D G D  
 One day while he was working, the Gatlin boys came callin'  
 A D  
 They took turns at Becky, there was three of them  
 D G D  
 Tommy opened up the door and saw his Becky cryin'  
 A  
 The torn dress, the shattered look was more than he could  
 stand  
 D G D  
 He reached above the fireplace and took down his daddy's  
 picture  
 A D

As his tears fell on his daddy's face, he heard these words again

G D  
 "Promise me, son, not to do the things I've done  
 A  
 Walk away from trouble if you can  
 D G D  
 It won't mean you're weak if you turn the other cheek  
 A  
 I hope you're old enough to understand  
 D  
 Son you don't have to fight to be a man"  
 G D  
 The Gatlin Boys just laughed at him when he walked into the  
 bar room  
 A  
 One of them got up and met him halfway 'cross the floor  
 D G D  
 When Tommy turned around they said, Hey look ol' yellow's  
 leavin'  
 A  
 D  
 But you coulda heard a pin drop when Tommy stopped and blocked  
 the door  
 G D  
 Twenty years of crawling was bottled up inside him  
 A  
 He wasn't holding nothin' back he let 'em have it all  
 D G D  
 When Tommy left the bar room not a Gatlin boy was standin'  
 A D  
 He said this one's for Becky," as he watched the last one fall  
 (And I heard him say)  
 G D  
 I promised you Dad not to do the things you done  
 A  
 I walk away from trouble when I can  
 D G D  
 Now please don't think I'm weak I didn't turn the other cheek  
 A  
 And Poppa, I sure hope you understand  
 D  
 Sometimes you gotta fight when you're a man  
 G D  
 D Everyone considered him the coward of the county

## Acordes

