

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 G 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

