

The Gambler

Don Schlitz

F C G C C
 //// //// //// //// ///..

C F C
 On a warm summer's evening on a train bound for nowhere

F C F G⁷
 I met up with a gambler, we were both too tired to sleep

C F C
 So we took turns a-staring out the window at the darkness

F C G C C
 'Til boredom overtook us, and he began to speak. //..

C F C
 He said, "Son I've made a life out of reading people's faces

F C F G⁷
 Knowing what the cards were by the way they held their eyes.

C F C
 So if you don't mind my sayin', I can see you're out of aces

F C G C C
 For a taste of your whiskey, I'll give you some advice".

C F C
 So I handed him my bottle, and he drank down my last swallow

F C F G⁷
 Then he bummed a cigarette and asked me for a light.

C F C
 And the night got deathly quiet, and his face lost all expression

F C G C
 Said, "If you're gonna play the game, boy, you gotta learn to play it right."

CHORUS:

C **F** **C**
 "You got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em

F **C** **G⁷**
 Know when to walk away, know when to run.

C **F** **C**
 You never count your money when you're sittin' at the table

F **C** **G** **C**
 There'll be time enough for countin', when the dealin's done."

C **F** **C**
 "Now, every gambler knows, the secret to survivin'

F **C** **F** **G⁷**
 Is knowing what to throw away, knowing what to keep.

C **F** **C**
 'Cause every hand's a winner and every hand's a loser

F **C** **G⁷** **C** **C**
 And the best you can hope for is to die in your sleep."

C **F** **C**
 And when he'd finished speakin', he turned back toward the window

F **C** **F** **G⁷**
 Crushed out his cigarette, faded off to sleep.

C **F** **C**
 And somewhere in the darkness, the gambler, he broke even

F **C** **G** **C**
 But in his final words I found an ace that I could keep.

CHORUS: X2 *Tag last line to end*

