

# 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  
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 areound 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

