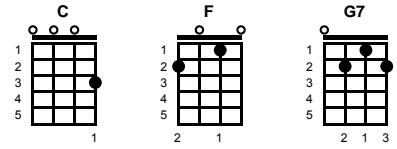


Coward Of The County
Roger Bowling, Billy Ed Wheeler

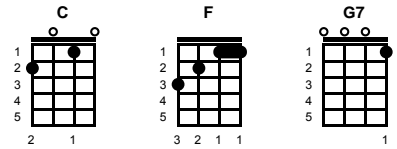
Key of C

Everyone considered him the coward of the county
 He never stood one single time to prove the county wrong
 His mama named him Tommy but folks just called him yellow
 Something always told me they were reading Tommy wrong
 He was only ten years old when his daddy died in prison
 I looked after Tommy cause he was my brother's son
 I still recall the final words my brother said to Tommy
 Son my life is over but yours is just begun

STANDARD



BARITONE



chorus:

Promise me son not to do the things I've done, walk away from trouble
 If you can; now it don't mean you're weak if you turn the other cheek
 I hope you're old enough to understand ~ you don't have to fight to be a man

There's someone for everyone and Tommy's love was Becky
 In her arms he didn't have to prove he was a man
 One day while he was working, the Gatlin Boys came calling
 They took turns at Becky; there were three of them
 Tommy opened up the door and saw his Becky crying
 The torn dress, the shattered look, was more than he could stand
 He reached above the fireplace and took down his daddy's picture
 As his tears fell on his daddy's face he heard these words again -- **CHORUS**

The Gatlin boys just laughed at him when he walked into the barroom
 One of them got up and hit him halfway cross the floor
 Tommy turned around, they said, "hey look, ole Yellow's leaving"
 But you could of heard a pin drop when Tommy stopped and locked the door
 Twenty years of crawling was bottled up inside him
 He wasn't holding nothing back, he let 'em have it all
 When Tommy left the barroom not a Gatlin boy was standing
 He said, "this one's for Becky" as he watched the last one fall --

SPOKEN: And I heard him say

I promised you Dad not to do the things you've done, I walk away from trouble
 If I can, now please don't think I'm weak, I couldn't turn the other cheek
 Papa, I sure hope you understand ~ sometimes you gotta fight when you're a man
 Everyone considered him the coward of the county