

Pancho and Lefty

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Townes Van Zandt 1972; Key of G; Original in C: Am/C/F/G

CHORDS: G / D / Em / C

[G] Livin' on the road my friend [D] was gonna keep you free and clean
[C] Now you wear your skin like iron
Your [G] breath's as hard as [D] kerosene
[C] You weren't your mama's only boy, but her [G] favorite one it [C] seems
She be-[Em]gan to cry when you [C] said [G] good-[D]bye [D]
And [C] sank into your [Em] dreams / [G]

[G] Pancho was a bandit, boys: [D] his horse was fast as polished steel
[C] He wore his gun outside his pants
For [G] all the honest [D] world to fear
[C] Pancho met his match you know, on the [G] border down in [C] Mexico
And [Em] nobody heard his [Bb] dy-[F]in' [C] words [C]
Ah but [Bb] that's the way it [Em] goes / [C]

CHORUS:

[C] All the Federales say [G] could've had him [C] any day
[Em] They only let him [C] hang [G] a-[D] round [D]
Out of [C] kindness, I sup-[Em]pose / [G]

[G] Lefty he can't sing the blues [D] all night long like he used to
[C] The dust that Pancho bit down south [G] ended up in [D] Lefty's mouth
[Bb] The day they laid poor Pancho low [F] Lefty split for [C] Ohio
[Em] Where he got the [C] bread [G] to [D] go [D]
There [C] ain't nobody [Em] knows / [C]

CHORUS:

[C] All the Federales say [G] they could've had him [C] any day
[Em] They only let him [C] slip [G] a-[D]way [D]
Out of [C] kindness, I sup-[Em]pose / [C]

[G] The poets tell how Pancho fell [D] Lefty's livin' in a cheap hotel
[C] The border's quiet and Cleveland's cold
[G] And so the story [D] ends we're told
[C] Pancho needs your prayers it's true [G] but save a few for [C] Lefty too
[Em] He only did what he [C] had [G] to [D] do [D]
And [C] now he's growin' [Em] old / [C]

CHORUS:

[C] All the Federales say [G] they could've had him [C] any day
[Em] They only let him [C] slip [G] a-[D]way [D]
Out of [C] kindness, I sup-[Em]pose / [G]

[C] A few grey Federales say [G] they could've had him [C] any day
[Em] They only let him [C] go [G] so [D] wrong [D]
Out of [C] kindness, I sup-[Em]pose / [G]