

Pancho and Lefty

by Townes Van Zandt (1972)

C *C* *G* *G*
Living on the road my friend is gonna keep you free and clean
F *F* *C* *G*
Now you wear your skin like iron your breath as hard as kerosene
F *F* *C* *F*
Weren't your mama's only boy but her favorite one it seems
C *F(½)* *C(½)* *G* *G* *F* *Am* *Am(½)* *G(¼)* *F(¼)*
She began to cry when you said good bye and sank into your dreams

C *C* *G* *G*
Pancho was a bandit boys his horse was fast as polished steel
F *F* *C* *G*
He wore his gun outside his pants for all the honest world to feel
F *F* *C* *F*
Pancho met his match you know on the deserts down in Mexico
C *F(½)* *C(½)* *G* *G* *F* *Am* *Am(½)* *G(¼)* *F(¼)*
Nobody heard his dy ing words ah but that's the way it goes

F *F* *C* *F*
All the Federales say they could have had him any day
C *F(½)* *C(½)* *G* *G* *F* *Am* *Am(½)* *G(¼)* *F(¼)*
They only let him slip a way out of kindness I suppose

C *C* *G* *G*
Lefty he can't sing the blues all night long like he used to
F *F* *C* *G*
The dust that Pancho bit down south ended up in Lefty's mouth
F *F* *C* *F*
The day they laid poor Pancho low Lefty split for Ohio
C *F(½)* *C(½)* *G* *G* *F* *Am* *Am(½)* *G(¼)* *F(¼)*
Where he got the bread to go there ain't nobody knows

F *F* *C* *F*
All the Federales say they could have had him any day
C *F(½)* *C(½)* *G* *G* *F* *Am* *Am(½)* *G(¼)* *F(¼)*
They only let him slip a way out of kindness I suppose

C *C* *G* *G*
Poets tell how Pancho fell and Lefty's living in a cheap hotel
F *F* *C* *G*
The desert's quiet and Cleveland's cold, And so the story ends we're told
F *F* *C* *F*
Pancho needs your prayers it's true but save a few for Lefty too
C *F(½)* *C(½)* *G* *G* *F* *Am* *Am(½)* *G(¼)* *F(¼)*
He only did what he had to do and now he's growing old

F *F* *C* *F*
A few gray Federales say could have had him any day
C *F(½)* *C(½)* *G* *G* *F* *Am* *Am(½)* *G(¼)* *F(¼)*
We only let him go so wrong out of kindness I suppose