

Pancho and Lefty — Townes Van Zandt

Intro – last 3 lines of 1st verse

[C] Living' on the road my friend, [G] was gonna keep you free and clean
[F] Now you wear your skin like iron, your [C] breath's as hard as [G] kerosene
[F] You weren't your mamma's only boy, but her [C] favorite one it seems
She [Am] began to cry when you [Dm] said good- [G] bye
And [F] sank into your [Am] dreams [C]

[C] Pancho was a bandit boys, [G] his horse was fast as polished steel
[F] He wore his gun outside his pants, for [C] all the honest [G] world to feel
[F] Pancho met his match you know, on the [C] deserts down in Mexico
And [Am] nobody heard his [Dm] dyin' [G] words ... but [F] that's the way it [Am] goes

Chorus:

[F] All the Federales say, [C] “could have had him any day”
[Am] They only let him [Dm] slip a-[G] way... out of [F] kindness I sup-[Am] pose [C]

[C] Lefty he can't sing the blues, [G] all night long like he used to do
[F] The dust that Pancho bit down south, [C] ended up in [G] Lefty's mouth
[F] The day they laid poor Pancho low, [C] Lefty split for Ohio
[Am] Where he got the [Dm] bread to [G] go... there [F] ain't nobody [Am] know

Repeat chorus

[C] The poets tell of how Pancho fell, [G] and Lefty's livin' in a cheap hotel
[F] The desert's quiet and Cleveland's cold, and [C] so the story [G] ends, we're told
[F] Pancho needs your prayers it's true, but [G] save a few for Lefty too
[Am] He only did what he [Dm] had to [G] do... and [F] now he's growing [Am] old

[F] All the Federales say, we [C] “could have had him any day”
[Am] They only let him [Dm] slip a-[G] way ... out of [F] kindness I sup-[Am] pose

[F] A few grey Federales say, [C] “we could have had him any day”
[Am] We only let him [Dm] go [G] so long... out of [F] kindness I sup- [Am] pose.