

The Gambler - Kenny Rogers #16 in '78

On a warm summer's evenin' on a train bound for nowhere I met up with
 The gambler we were both too tired to sleep so we took turns a-starin' out the
 Window at the darkness 'til boredom overtook us and he began to speak

He said son I've made a life out of readin' people's faces and knowin' what
 Their cards were by the way they held their eyes so if you don't mind my sayin'
 I can see you're out of aces for a taste of your whiskey I'll give you some advice
 So I handed him my bottle and he drank down my last swallow then he bummed a
 Cigarette and asked me for a light and the night got deathly quiet and his face lost
 All expression said if you're gonna play the game boy ya gotta learn to play it right

You got to know when to hold 'em know when to fold 'em know when to
 Walk away and know when to run you never count your money when you're
 Sittin' at the table there'll be time enough for countin' when the dealin's done

Now every gambler knows that the secret to survivin' is knowin' what to throw away
 And knowin' what to keep 'cause every hand's a winner and every
 Hand's a loser and the best that you can hope for is to die in your sleep

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And when he'd finished speakin' he turned back towards the window crushed
 Out his cigarette and faded off to sleep and somewhere in the darkness
 The gambler he broke even but in his final words I found an ace that I could keep

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