

Pancho and Lefty - Townes Van Zandt

Intro and then linger on D

D

Livin' on the road, my friend

A

Was gonna keep us free and clean

G

But now you wear your skin like iron

D

A

And your breath's as hard as kerosene

G

You weren't your mama's only boy

D

G

But her favorite one, it seems

D

She began to cry

G

A

When you said good bye

G

Bm

And sank into your dreams

Pancho was a bandit, boys

His horse was fast as polished steel

Wore his guns outside his pants

For all the honest world to feel

Pancho met his match, you know

On the deserts down in Mexico

No one heard his dyin' words

That's just the way it goes

G

And all the federales say

D

G

They could have had him any day

D

G

A

They only let him slip away

G

Bm

Out of kindness, I suppose

**Now Lefty he can't sing the blues
All night long like he used to
The dust that Pancho bit down South
It ended up in Lefty's mouth
The day they laid old Pancho low
Lefty split for Ohio
Where he got the bread to go
Well there ain't nobody 'knows**

[Chorus]

**Now poets sing how Pancho fell
Lefty's livin' in a cheap hotel
The desert's quiet and Cleveland's cold
And so the story ends, we're told
Pancho needs your prayers, it's true
But save a few for Lefty, too
He only did what he had to do
And now he's growin' old**

**And all the federales say
They could have had him any day
They only let him go so long
Out of kindness, I suppose**

**Yes a few old gray federales still say
They could have had him any day
They only let him go so wrong
Out of kindness, I suppose**