

4  
4 time  
Key of D/E

-9-

The Gambler

D. Schlitz

<sup>D</sup>  
On a/warm summer's/evenin', on a/train bound for/n<sup>D</sup>owhere  
I/met up with a/gambler, we were/both to tired to/s<sup>A7</sup>leep  
So/w<sup>D</sup>e took turns a/starin' out the/w<sup>G</sup>indow at the/d<sup>D</sup>arkness  
The/<sup>G</sup>boredom over<sup>D</sup>took us and/<sup>A7</sup>he began to/s<sup>D</sup>peak /  
<sup>D</sup>  
He said,/son, I've made a/life out of/<sup>G</sup>readin' people's/<sup>D</sup>faces  
And/<sup>D</sup>knowin' what the/cards were by the/w<sup>G</sup>ay they held their/<sup>A7</sup>eyes  
So if/<sup>D</sup>you don't mind me/sayin', I can/<sup>G</sup>see you're out of/<sup>D</sup>aces  
For a/<sup>G</sup>taste of your/<sup>D</sup>whiskey I'll/<sup>A7</sup>give you some advice /  
<sup>D</sup>  
So I/handed him my/bottle and he/<sup>G</sup>drank down my last/<sup>D</sup>swallow /  
Then he bummed a/cigarette and/asked me for a/<sup>A7</sup>light  
And the/<sup>D</sup>night got deathly/quiet and his/<sup>G</sup>face lost all exp<sup>D</sup>ression  
He said, if you're/<sup>G</sup>gonna play the/<sup>D</sup>game, boy  
You gotta/<sup>A7</sup>learn to play it/<sup>D</sup>right /

<sup>D(E)</sup>  
You got to/<sup>G(A)</sup>know when to/hold 'em,/<sup>D(E)</sup>know when to/<sup>D(E)</sup>fold 'em /  
<sup>G(A)</sup>  
Know when to/<sup>D(E)</sup>walk away and/<sup>A7(B7)</sup>know when to/<sup>A7(B7)</sup>run  
You never/<sup>D(E)</sup>count your/money when you're/<sup>G(A)</sup>sittin' at the/<sup>D(E)</sup>table  
There'll be/<sup>A7(B7)</sup>time enough for/<sup>D(E)</sup>countin' when the dealin's/<sup>D(E)</sup>done / / /

<sup>E</sup>  
Every gambler/<sup>A</sup>knows that the/<sup>E</sup>secret to survivin'  
Is/<sup>B7</sup>knowin' what to/throw away and/<sup>B7</sup>knowin' what to/<sup>B7</sup>keep  
Cause/<sup>E</sup>every hand's a/winner and/<sup>A</sup>every hand's a/<sup>E</sup>loser  
And the/<sup>A</sup>best that you can/<sup>E</sup>hope for is to/<sup>B7</sup>die in your/<sup>E</sup>sleep /

<sup>E</sup>  
And/<sup>E</sup>when he finished/<sup>A</sup>speakin' he/<sup>E</sup>turned back toward the/<sup>E</sup>window /  
Crushed out his/cigarette and/<sup>B7</sup>faded off to/s<sup>B7</sup>leep  
And/<sup>E</sup>somewhere in the/darkness the/<sup>A</sup>gambler he broke/<sup>E</sup>even -  
But/<sup>A</sup>in his final/<sup>E</sup>words I found an/<sup>B7</sup>ace that I could/<sup>E</sup>keep /

Chorus - 2 times (key of E)

one strum

single strums  
single strums