

Pancho and Lefty

Recorded by Merle Haggard and Willie Nelson

Written by Townes Van Zandt

C
 Living on the road my friend
 G7
 Was gonna keep us free and clean
 F
 But now you wear your skin like iron
 C G7
 And your breath's as hard as kerosene

F
 You weren't your mama's only boy
 C F
 But her favorite one it seems
 Am F G7
 She began to cry when you said good bye
 F Am
 And sank into your dreams

C
 Pancho was a bandit boy
 G7
 Rode a horse fast as polished steel
 F
 He wore his guns outside his pants
 C G7
 For all the honest world to feel

F
 Pancho met his match you know
 C F
 On the deserts down in Mexico
 Am F G7
 Nobody heard his dying words
 F Am
 But that's the way it goes

F
 And all the federales say
 C F
 They could have had him any day
 Am F G7
 They only let him slip away
 F Am
 Out of kindness I suppose

C
 Now Lefty he can't sing the blues
 G7
 All night long like he used to
 F
 The dust that Pancho bit down South
 C G7
 It ended up in Lefty's mouth

F
 The day they laid poor Pancho low
 C F
 Lefty split for Ohio
 Am F G7
 Where he got the bread to go
 F Am
 Well there ain't nobody knows

F

And all the federales say

C F
They could have had him any day
Am F G7
They only let him slip away
F Am
Out of kindness I suppose

C

The poets tell how Pancho fell
G7
Lefty's living in a cheap hotel
F
The desert's quiet and Cleveland's cold
C G7
And so the story ends we're told

F
Pancho needs your prayers it's true
C F
But save a few for Lefty too
Am F G7
He only did what he had to do
F Am
And now he's growing old

F

And all the federales say
C F
They could have had him any day
Am F G7
They only let him go so long
F Am
Out of kindness I suppose

F

A few gray federales say
C F
They could have had him any day
Am F G7
They only let him go so long
F Am
Out of kindness I suppose