

Pancho and Lefty

Townes Van Zandt

I-78

C G
 Living on the road my friend, is gonna keep you free and clean
 F C G
 Now you wear your skin like iron, your breath as hard as kerosene.
 F C F
 You weren't your mama's only boy, but her favorite one it seems
 Am Dm Am G
 She began to cry when you said goodbye,
 F Am Am G C
 And sank into your dreams.
 C G
 Pancho was a bandit boys, his horse was fast as polished steel
 F C G
 He wore his gun outside his pants, for all the honest world to feel.
 F C F
 Pancho met his match you know on the deserts down in Mexico
 Am Dm Am G F Am Am G F
 Nobody heard his dying words, ah but that's the way it goes.

Chorus: F C F
 All the Federales say they could have had him any day
 Am Dm Am G F Am Am G C
 They only let him slip away out of kindness, I suppose.

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

Repeat Chorus

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

Repeat Chorus Am G F

F C F
 The few gray Federales say they could have had him any day
 Am Dm Am G F Am
 They only let him go so long, out of of kindness, I suppose.