



# The Handicapper

**Intro:** So [G] we took turns a steerin' in the [C] cockpit and the [G] darkness 'til [C] boredom over-[G]-took us, and [D7] he began to [G] speak.

On a [G] warm summer's evenin' on a [C] boat bound for [G] nowhere, I [C] met up with the [G] sailor; we were both too tired to [D7] sleep. So [G] we took turns a steerin' in the [C] cockpit and the [G] darkness 'til [C] boredom over-[G]-took us, and [D7] he began to [G] speak.

He said, [G] "Son, I've made a life out of [C] crewin' in yacht [G] races, and [C] knowin' how the [G] boat sails by the way the telltale [D7] flies. So if [G] you don't mind my sayin', I think [C] you'd be losing [G] places. For a [C] taste of your [G] whiskey I will [D7] give you some ad-[G]-vice."

So I [G] handed him my bottle and he [C] drank down my last [G] swallow. Then he [C] bummed a cigar-[G]-ette, ... and asked me for a [D7] light. And the [G] night got deathly quiet, and his [C] face lost all ex-[G]-pression. Said, "If you're [C] gonna play the [G] game, boy, ya gotta [D7] learn to play it [G] right. [G]

You got to [G] know when to raise 'em, [C] know when to [G] reef 'em, [C] know when to [G] bear away and know when to [D7] run. You never [G] count your trophies when you're [C] sittin' in the [G] cockpit There'll be [C] time enough for [G] countin' when the [D7] handicapper's [G] done. [G] [A] [A] [A]

(Key change)

[A] Every sailor knows that the [D] secret to sur-[A]-vival is [D] knowin' what to [A] throw away and knowing what to [E7] keep. 'Cause [A] every boat's a winner and [D] every boats a [A] loser, and the [D] best that you can [A] hope for is to [E7] die in the [A] deep."

And [A] when he'd finished speakin', I went [D] back towards the [A] cabin, saw his [D] glowin' cigar-[A]-ette ... and faded off to [E7] sleep. And [A] somehow in the darkness the [D] sailor, he went [A] over. But [D] in his final [A] words I found some [E7] wisdom I could [A] keep. [A]

You got to [A] know when to raise 'em, [D] know when to [A] reef 'em, [D] know when to [A] bear away and know when to [E7] run. You never [A] count your trophies when you're [D] sittin' in the [A] cockpit There'll be [D] time enough for [A] countin' when the [E7] handicapper's [A] done.

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There'll be [D] time enough for [A] countin' when the [E7] handicapper's [A] done [A !]