

# POKERFACE SMILE

This song tells the story of Robert's ill-fated attempt to double the rent money during a long winter spent on the Washington coast. The scene was the back room of one of Aberdeen's many card rooms, the players were the truck drivers and loggers who could afford to double and redouble the stakes. All he brought home to the Lady Janette was a crumpled napkin and the words to this song.

This is basically a one-part tune. The chorus is played as a duplicate to the verse positions an octave higher (except for the final turn-around, which introduces alternate voicings to the chord as played in the A-part). Switching back and forth from strumming to flat-picking gives movement and variety to the song. It also gives rise to some pretty, double-flat-picking passages, especially toward the end. The separate articulation of the strings (cross-picking) gives the tune its unique movement. This is accomplished by strumming two down strokes, then individually picking up on the bass and melody strings, then down again with just one note of the treble string. The relatively slow-moving chord changes leave plenty of time for focusing on accurate intonation and getting the fingers to stretch. An interesting variation to the tune is to substitute the bass string for the treble in the chording. Just invert the tablature and you get a different voicing.

