

BIG BAD JOHN

Johnny Cash

G **F**
EVERY MORNING AT THE MINE YOU COULD SEE HIM ARRIVE
G **F**
HE STOOD SIX FOOT SIX AND WEIGHED 245
G **F**
KINDA BROAD AT THE SHOULDER AND NARROW AT THE HIP
G **F** **G**
AND EVERYBODY KNEW YOU DIDN'T GIVE NO LIP TO BIG JOHN.

Chorus:

Em **C** **D** **G**
BIG JOHN, BIG JAW----WON, BIG BAD JOHN.

NOBODY SEEMED TO KNOW WHERE JOHN CALLED HOME
HE JUST DRIFTED INTO TOWN AND STAYED ALL ALONE
DIDN'T SAY MUCH; A-KINDA QUIET AND SHY
AND IF YOU SPOKE AT ALL YOU JUST SAID "HI" TO BIG JOHN
SOMEBODY SAID HE CAME DOWN FROM NEW ORLEANS
WHERE HE GOT IN A FIGHT OVER A CAJUN QUEEN
AND A CRASHING BLOW FROM A HUGE RIGHT HAND
SENT A LOUISIANA FELLOW TO THE PROMISED LAND BIG JOHN

(Chorus)

Ab **Gb**
THEN CAME ONE DAY AT THE BOTTOM OF THE MINE
Ab **Gb**
WHEN A TIMBER CRACKED AND THE MEN STARTED CRYING
Ab **Gb**
MINERS WERE PRAYING AND THEIR HEARTS BEAT FAST
Ab **Gb** **Ab**
AND EVERYBODY THOUGHT THEY'D BREATHED THEIR LAST 'CEPT JOHN
Ab **Gb**
THROUGH THE DUST AND THE SMOKE OF THIS MAN-MADE HELL
Ab **Gb**
WALKED A GIANT OF A MAN THAT THE MINERS KNEW WELL
Ab **Gb**
GRABBED A SAGGING TIMBER AND GAVE OUT WITH A GROAN
Ab **Gb** **Ab**
AND LIKE A GIANT OAK TREE JUST STOOD THERE ALONE' BIG JOHN

Chorus:

Fm **Db** **Eb** **Ab**
BIG JOHN, BIG JAW----WON, BIG BAD JOHN

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A **G**
 WITH ALL OF HIS STRENGTH HE GAVE A MIGHTY SHOVE
A **G**
 THEN A MINER YELLED OUT "THERE'S A LIGHT UP ABOVE
A **G**
 AND 20 MEN SCRAMBLED FROM W WOULD BE GRAVE
A **G** **A**
 NOW THERE'S ONLY ONE LEFT DOWN THERE TO SAVE BIG JOHN
A **G**
 WITH JACKS AND TIMBERS THEY STARTED BACK DOWN
A **G**
 THEN CAME THAT RUMBLE WAY DOWN IN THE GROUND
A **G**
 AND SMOKE AND GAS BELCHED FROM OUTTA THAT MINE
A **G** **A**
 EVERYBODY KNEW IT WAS THE END OF THE LINE FOR BIG JOHN

Chorus:

F#m **D** **E** **A**
 BIG JOHN, BIG JAW----WON, BIG BAD JOHN.

Return To G

NOW THEY NEVER RE-OPENED THAT WORTHLESS PIT
 THEY JUST PLACED A MARBLE STAND IN FRONT OF IT
 THESE FEW LINES ARE WRITTEN ON THAT STAND
 "AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS MINE, LIES ONE HELLUVA MAN.--BIG JOHN".

(Chorus)