

**Big Bad John**  
**Johnny Cash**

**G** **F**  
Every moning 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.  
**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 high 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** **F#**  
Then came one day at the bottom of the mine  
**Ab** **F#**  
When a timber cracked and the men started crying  
**Ab** **F#**  
Miners were paraying and their hearts beat fast  
**Ab** **F#** **Ab**  
And everybody thought they d breathed their last cept John  
**Ab** **F#**  
Through the dust and the smoke of this man made Hell  
**Ab** **F#**  
Walked a giant of a man that the miners knew well  
**Ab** **F#**  
Grabbed a sagging timber and gave out with a groan  
**Ab** **F#** **Ab**  
And like a giant oak tree just stood there alone Big John  
**Fm** **Db** **Eb** **Ab**  
Big John, Big Jaw----won, Big Bad John  
**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  
**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)