

Ralph Mine Disaster (1914) Rusty Beddis

110 bpm

Intro- (Harp) A F#m x 4

A F#m A F#m
Listen here people, there's a story to tell, 'bout a tragedy that happened in a town I know well,
A F#m E A
Where 43 men were sent to the here after, on the day the Ralph Mine became the Ralph Mine Disaster.
A F#m A F#m
The mine was situated near the middle of town, had a pit head and a vertical shaft that went down
A F#m E A A7
There was gases to burn, and the mixture was right, and with acetylene lamps it wasn't hard to ignite.

D D7 A A7
There were grown men crying, and good men dying, in the dust and the gas and the water,
D B E4 E
And those that were left that would pay the true cost, were the wives and the sons and the daughters.
D A F#m
An explosive time in the shaft of a mine, they was all wearing carbides and starters,
E E7 D A
Yes everyone knew, when the damn thing blew, the day they witnessed the Ralph Mine disaster.

(Turnaround-) A F#m x 2

A F#m A F#m
It was a Saturday shift and the crew was quite thrifty, 62 men out of a force of 250,
A F#m E A
19 survived and were finally found, such a fearful ordeal to go through under the ground.
A F#m A F#m
It's hard to understand whatever can drive a man, in pursuit of his wealth and his glory
A F#m E A A7
But 43 lives lost is a very high cost when they're pawns in someone else's story.

D D7 A A7
There were grown men crying, and good men dying, in the dust and the gas and the water,
D D7 B E4 E
And those that were left that would pay the true cost were the wives and the sons and the daughters.
D A F#m
And the lessons were learned by all those concerned, and this would not happen anytime after
E D A
'Cos it's a sure bet they would never forget, the men that died in the Ralph Mine disaster.

C#m A
It takes a certain kind to work down in a mine, and the risk back then, was quite high
C#m D Esus 4 E
Now the rules have changed, but the risk is the same, and the danger can still end your life.

(Turnaround-) A F#m (x 3) A E

Now the people are crying 'cos their men are still dying, in the dust and the gas and the fire
And it seems that it's true, that the me's and the you's, become dispensable, once we've been hired
And it's a dangerous game, but I think it's a shame, that the company isn't required.
To return the remains of the men who were claimed, by their company's wants and desires.

When events like this happen, in a mans life, he may start to wonder how to deal with the strife
Can any good come from all this suffering and pain? Is there any way to stop this all happening again?
Now a man that I knew, told me this story was true, and that his father had died in that mine
He said "Life was hard, Yes and money was short, and we never had nuthin' at the time"

He said "There were grown men crying, and good men dying, in the dust and the gas and the water, yes
and those that were left, that would pay the true cost, were the wives and the sons and the daughters"
Well he looked at me with no smile in his eyes, I could see no signs of laughter
He said "Don't tell me you know, this town son, until you've learned about the Ralph Mine disaster"

(Turnaround-) A F#m (x 3) A E Ahold(end)

Arr. R Beddis, S Farrar, M Lynch