

Cheap

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Am G Am
Thirteen went down in the coal mine that day
Am G Am
Tho' they knew there was danger, they needed the pay
C G C G
With roof tops collapsing, and small, petty fines
Am G A
Thirteen went down, twelve died in the mine
A D A
We're gettin' cheap coal, cheap electricity
A D A
We're getting' cheap gas, cheap color TV
C G C G
We're getting' cheap food, cheap clothes and cheap shoes
A Em Am
But it won't look so cheap when the bill comes due

In China the workers can barely get by
While Wal-Mart reaps profits from the cheap stuff we buy
Here unions get busted, and small towns decline
And everyone's working the poverty line CHORUS

So what is the true cost of that tin can of pop?
Who's died at the hands of a Coke hired cop?
And who pays for the garbage as it floats to the sea?
The bill's coming due, for you and for me CHORUS

If we buy bread from the grocer next door
If we buy nails from the small hardware store
We might pay more money, but this we can trust
If we'll be there for them, they'll be here for us.

Twelve miners died in January, 2006, at the Sago mine in West Virginia. The mine had been the subject of 46 citations from the UW Mine Safety and Health Administration – 18 considered “serious and substantial”.

But the song also addresses what happens to a community when Walmart moves in. And now the greatest threat of all to our local stores is the online giant, Amazon. Shop local!