

# Waiting At the Gate

Woody Guthrie

Tell the miners' kids and wives  
There's a blast in the number five  
And the families I see standing at the gate  
The inspector years ago said number five's a deadly hole  
And the men most likely won't come out alive  
Waiting at the gate, we are waiting at the gate  
Smoke and fire does boil and roll from that dark and deadly hole  
While the miners' kids and wives wait at the gate  
The inspector told the boss, it was more than a year ago  
You're risking these men's lives in number five  
That hole's full of fumes and dust, full of high explosive gas  
But the boss said we'll just have to take the chance  
Waiting at the gate, we are waiting at the gate  
Smoke and fire does boil and roll from that dark and deadly hole  
While the miners' kids and wives wait at the gate  
Well the men in the number five kissed their wives and kids  
goodbye  
Then they walk with their lunch kits up the hill  
Everybody told the owner that this deadly day would come  
But he said we had to work to pay our bills  
Waiting at the gate, we are waiting at the gate  
Smoke and fire does roll and boil from that dark and deadly hole  
While the miners' kids and wives wait at the gate  
Well I tried to get a look of the face I often know  
As the men are carried out wrapped up in sheets  
I can hear the church bells ringing for the one hundred eleven dead  
I can hear the families weeping in the streets  
Waiting at the gate, we are waiting at the gate  
Smoke and fire does roll and boil from that dark and deadly hole  
While the miners' kids and wives wait at the gate  
This explosion struck on Wednesday  
And I stood by the gate till Saturday  
Till they laid my daddy out with the other men  
In the pocket of his shirt I found a little note he wrote  
Never go down in a dangerous mine again  
Waiting at the gate, we are waiting at the gate  
Smoke and fire does roll and boil from that dark and deadly hole  
While the miners' kids and wives wait at the gate

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