

# Big River

*Jimmy Nail*

[G] Walking on cob[Gsus4]ble stone, [G] little bits of [C] skin and bone  
 [Em] Jumping on a [Bm] tramcar for a [Am] ride [Dsus4][D]  
 [G] I can re[Gsus4]member when, [G] I was just a [C] boy of ten,  
 [Em] Hanging a[Bm]round the old quay[Am]side [Dsus4][D]  
 [C] Now all the cap[G]stans and the [Em] cargo boats and [Em]stevedores are [C]gone  
 to where the [G] old ships go, but [Am] memories just like the [D]seas live on  
 [G] That was when coal [Gsus4] was king, [G] the river was a [C] living thing  
 [Em] and I was just a [Bm] boy but it was [Am] mine, [Dsus4][D] the coaly [G] Tyne [C] [D]

For this was a [G] big [C] river  
 I want [Em] you all to [Bm] know that I was [Am] proud [Dsus4][D]  
 this was a [G] big [C] river but [Em] that was long a[Bm]go,  
 that's not [Am] now, [Dsus4][D] that's not [G] now

Instrumental break [G] [C] [D] [D] x 2

[G] My father was a [Gsus4] working man, [G] he earned our living [C] with his hands  
 [Em] he had to cross the [Bm] river every[Am]day [Dsus4][D]  
 [G] he picked up the [Gsus4] union card [G] out of the [C] Neptune yard  
 [Em] mouths to [Bm] feed and bills to [Am] pay [Dsus4][D]  
 [C] then came a [G] time for him to [Em] sail across the [Em]sea and far away [C]  
 finally [G] when that war was [Am] won  
 they brought him [D] home and home he [G] stayed

[G] and when his [Gsus4] days were done [G] under a [C] golden sun  
 [Em] they took him back to [Bm] where he longed to [Am] be  
 [D] back to the sea [G] [C] [D]

For this was a [G] big [C] river  
 I [Em] want you all to [Bm] know that I was [Am] proud [Dsus4][D]  
 this was a [G] big [C] river but [Em] that was long a[Bm]go,  
 that's not [Am] now, [Dsus4][D] that's not [G] now

[G] The Neptune was the [Gsus4] last to go, [G] I heard it on my [C] radio  
 [Em] then they played the [Bm] latest number [Am] one [Dsus4][D]  
 [G] But what do they [Gsus4] do all day? [G] what are they [C] supposed to say?  
 [Em] what does a [Bm] father tell his [Am] son? [Dsus4][D] [C]

if you be[G]lieve that there's a [Em] bond between our [Em] future and our [C]past,  
 try to hold [G] on to what we [Am]had, we build them [D] strong we build to [G] last  
 `cause this is a [Gsus4] mighty town [G] built upon [C] solid ground  
 [Em] and everything they [Bm] tried so hard to [Am] kill  
 [Dsus4] we will [D] re[G]build [C] [D]

For this was a [G] big [C] river  
 I [Em] want you all to [Bm] know I'm so very [Am] proud [Dsus4][D]  
 this is a [G] big big [C] river  
 [Em] and in my heart I [Bm] know it will rise [Am] again [D]  
 [D] the river will rise [G] again [Gsus4] [G]