

## JOHNNY CASH JOE STRUMMER

Hello, I'm Johnny Cash.  
I have just stepped out of a limo.  
You should thank me and believe me,  
because I have written  
some really classic American songs.  
I myself am a classic American. Sometimes  
I ride my bike places and throw F-bombs around  
where people can hear them. It's a kind of terror  
of the mouth. Mothers cover the ears of their children,  
walk away quickly in the other direction.  
I am also Joe Strummer. I am not  
a classic American, but you can read  
all about me and listen to my band The Clash.  
I smoke a lot of weed. I drink a lot of Guinness.  
I am a dead man, like Johnny Cash.  
But I am alive like him as well  
And also like him, I have written a lot  
of classic songs. "Daddy was a bankrobber,"  
I used to sing. I have been planning this  
reemergence for ages, but I have been here  
all along. Yesterday I was standing  
in my front yard with a garden hose  
watering the petunias and lilacs  
and all manner of geraniums, and people were  
confused, wondering how I can be  
Johnny Cash and Joe Strummer  
and why I'm a dead-alive man  
and all that. Well I'll tell you.  
First, I'm a fucking classic, like I said,  
and classics never die. They're always  
alive even out beyond the bodies  
strewn in the streets  
of all our cities. I see so many bodies  
on the streets of our cities, sleeping  
in doorways, rolling around  
in drainage ditches, pushing  
stolen merchandise in stolen shopping carts.  
Everywhere I look there's a newspaper  
president. Some of them ask me  
for change, but I say change is inevitable  
or I sing about "a ring of fire"  
and everybody calms down and goes  
about their business. Second  
when I did that duet of Bob Marley's  
"Redemption Song," I thought,

this sounds pretty good.  
I should make us forever,  
so that's what I've done.  
And when I talk to the cats  
in the alleys or the chickens  
in the darkness, they always ask me  
to sign their fur and their feathers,  
and of course I oblige. I sign them  
"Best wishes always,  
Johnny Cash Joe Strummer."  
And if I ever do disappear  
you should really be worried,  
because that'll mean something's gone  
horribly awry. Something's skipped out  
of the deep groove of the planet,  
and you'd better probably check  
the classified ads and the help wanted  
posters and the wanted posters,  
because the Sun's gone out  
and Four Horsemen are stirring  
in the background.