

## Elvira Madigan

### "Fake Tin Star"

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(Krall/Costello)

Things these days are better by far,  
A horse can out run a motor car,  
If the wheels are rubber and the rails are steel  
That beast can outrun any automobile

Here's the story of progress and all the bullets they  
spent  
On a sheet hung up in a circus tent  
There's a lantern shining - it's pointing the way  
This kind man has probably had his day  
But they keep him around with his last vain hope  
For selling tickets while spinning a rope.

They brought him down off the vanishing trail  
But nobody these days wants to hear his tale  
So he spends his nights leaning up at the bar  
The real gone cowboy with the fake tin star.

Up on the screen there's a boy half his age  
They pay him 20 times his weekly wage  
For dodging phony bullets and catching blunt blades  
For blowing up horses and kissing young maids.

Children cheer  
Women throw flowers  
Men just glower  
Up at the screen  
But they don't know  
Just what it means  
Vengeance and dreams.

Girls just swoon at the mention of him  
With his face all powdered and his immaculate brim  
And his hair pomaded and his fingernails clean  
While old men whisper "Just look at him preen"  
And outside muttering through a cheap cigar  
There's a real gone cowboy with a fake tin star

