Elvis Costello
"American Without Tears"

Outside in New Orleans, the heat was almost
frightening
But my hotel room as usual was freezing and unkind
On TV, they prosecute anyone who's exciting
So I put on my overcoat and went down to find

In Revlon and Crimpelene, they captured my heart
To the strain of a piano and a cocktail murderess
She was singing that, 'It's Too Late', I agreed with that
part
For two English girls who had changed their address

Now it seems we've been crying for years and for years
Now I don't speak any English, just American without
tears
Just American without tears

One had been a beauty queen and the other was her
friend
They had known rogues and rascals and showbiz
impresarios
While the boys were licking Hitler, they had something
to defend
From men armed with chewing gum and fine nylon
hose

By a bicycle factory, as they sounded the siren
And returned into the dance hall, she knew he was the
one
Though he wasn't tall or handsome, she laughed when
he told her
"I'm the Sheriff of Nottingham and this is Little John"

Now it seems we've been crying for years and for years
Now I don't speak any English, just American without
tears
Just American without tears

At a dock in Southampton full of tearful goodbyes
Newsreel commentators said, "Cheerio, G.I. brides"
Soon they'll be finding the cold facts and lies
New words for suspenders and young girls backsides

Now I'm in America and running from you
Like my grandfather before me walked the streets of
New York
And I think of all the women, I pretend mean more than
you
When I open my mouth and I can't seem to talk

Now it seems we've been crying for years and for years
Now I don't speak any English just American without
tears
Just American without tears