

## Elvis Costello

### "How To Be Dumb Macmanus"

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I was hell-bent on destroying my powers of  
concentration  
While you were living like a saint  
And all the time the very one you trusted was washing  
off  
somebody else's paint

Now you've got yourself a brand new occupation  
Every fleeting thought is a pearl  
And beautiful people stampede to the doorway of the  
funniest  
fucker in the world

They're here to help you  
Satisfy your desire  
There's a bright future for all you professional liars

#### CHORUS

Now you know how to be dumb  
Are you ready to take your place in the modern  
museum of  
mistakes?  
Don't you know how to be dumb?  
Like a building thrown up overnight in one of the  
reverse  
earthquakes

They emptied out all the asylums, they emptied out all  
the gaols  
The "New Bruise" was the name of a dance craze  
By "Jesus Christ and the Cruel Nails"  
Followed up by "Torturing Little Beaver"  
With their contraption of barbed wire  
Between the fear and the fever lies all the rejection  
they  
require  
They'll be howling by midnight, they'll be drooling by  
dawn  
Skulls shrunk down to the size of their brains  
Heads shaven and shorn

## CHORUS

Trapped in the House of the Perpetual Sucker  
Where bitterness always ends so pitifully  
You always had to dress up your envy in some half-  
remembered  
philosophy

Now you're masquerading as pale powdered genius  
Whose ever bad intention has been purged  
You could've walked out any time you wanted but face  
it you  
didn't have the courage  
I guess that makes you a full time hypocrite or some  
kind of  
twisted dilettante  
Funny though people don't usually get so ugly 'til they  
think  
they know what they want  
Scratch your own head stupid  
Count up to three  
Roll over on your back  
Repeat after me

Don't you know how to be dumb?  
Are you ready to take your place in the modern  
museum of  
mistakes?  
Don't you know how to be dumb?  
Like a building thrown up overnight in one of those  
reverse  
earthquakes

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