

## **Elvis Costello**

# **"Radio Silence"**

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Signal fading, listen to what I'm saying  
Testing, testing  
This better be worth all of the breath I'm wasting  
Maintaining radio silence from now on

Barricaded in the talk radio station  
Hostage taken  
The red "On-Air" light shines on  
Something cheaper that passes for free speech  
Will have to do

Hear him coming through loud and clear  
Trickling in your ear  
He'll tell you anything you want to hear

The tape starts running  
He's going to tell you something  
The strings start strumming  
Another humdrum conundrum  
Signing off now  
Maintaining radio silence from now on

But there's one thing I should have said  
"The hostage will end up dead"  
It's just a comedy  
The hostage is me

So pay the ransom  
Beyond the run-out grove  
Get my wife down here  
A helicopter on the roof  
No police marksman  
Maintaining radio silence from now on

Mystery voices  
Drowned out by too much choice  
That's not to mention  
The sad waste of this wonderful invention  
Maintaining radio silence from now on

Libraries filled up with failed ideas  
There's nothing more for me there

I trust in tender ink and gentle airs

Do those drug dealer still polish women made of wax?

Gangster and world leaders

Require the same protection from attack

From this distance it's hard to tell the difference

Between a king and jack

Between a poet and hack

Maintaining radio silence from now on

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