

## Elvis Costello "This Sad Burlesque"

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I write in hope  
By the time you get this letter  
We may live  
To see a change for the better

Or are we so devoted  
To these wretched selfish motives  
When the cold facts and figures all add up  
They cannot contradict this sad burlesque

This sad burlesque with miserable failures  
Making entertainment of our fate  
Laughter cannot dignify or elevate  
This sad burlesque

Now can they recall being young and idealistic?  
Before wading knee-deep in hogwash and arithmetic  
The pitying smirk, the argument that runs like  
clockwork  
Will run down eventually and splutter to a stop

P.S. Well, by now you know the worst of it  
And we've heard all the alibis that they've rehearsed  
The smug predictions  
If it's not a contradiction

Please have faith in human nature  
And have mercy on the creatures  
In this sad burlesque

This sad burlesque with miserable failures  
Making entertainment of our fate  
Laughter cannot dignify or elevate  
This sad burlesque

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