Let Him Dangle

Elvis Costello

Bentley said to Craig, "Let him have it Chris"
They still don't know today just what he meant by this
Craig fired the pistol, but was too young to swing
So the police took Bentley and the very next thingLet him dangle
Let him dangle
Let him dangle
Let him dangleBentley had surrendered, he was under arrest
When he gave Chris Craig that fatal request
Craig shot Sidney Miles, he took Bentley's word
The prosecution claimed as they charged them with murderLet him dangle
Let him dangle
Let him dangle
Let him dangleThey say, Derek Bentley was easily led
Well, what's that to the woman that Sidney Miles wed
Though guilty was the verdict and Craig had shot him dead
The gallows were for Bentley and still she never saidLet him dangle
Let him dangle
Let him dangle
Let him dangleWell, it's hard to imagine it's the times you have changed
When there's a murder in the kitchen that is brutal and strange
If killing anybody is a terrible crime
Why does this bloodthirsty chorus come 'round from time to timeLet him dangleNot many people thought that Bentley would hang
But the word never came, the phone never rang
Outside Wandsworth Prison there was horror and hate
As the hangman shook Bentley's hand to calculate his weightLet him dangle
Let him dangle
Let him dangle
Let him dangleWell, it's hard to imagine it's the times you have changed
When there's a murder in the kitchen that is brutal and strange
If killing anybody is a terrible crime
Why does this bloodthirsty chorus come 'round from time to timeLet him dangleFrom a welfare state to society murder
Bring "Back the noose" is always heard
Whenever those swine are under attack
But it won't make you even
It won't bring him backLet him dangle
Let him dangle
Let him dangle

Let him dangleLet him dangle
Let him dangle
Let him dangle
Let him dangle(String him up)
(String him up)
(String him up)

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