

# I Had a King

[Joni Mitchell](#)

I had a king in a tenement castle  
Lately he's taken to painting the pastel walls brown  
He's taken the curtains down, he's swept with the broom of contempt  
And the rooms have an empty ring, he's cleaned with the tears  
Of an actor who fears for the laughter's sting-I can't go back there anymore  
You know my keys won't fit the door  
You know my thoughts don't fit the man  
They never can, they never can I had a king dressed in drip-dry and paisley  
Lately he's taken to saying I'm crazy and blind  
He lives in another time, ladies in Gingham still blush  
While he sings them of wars and wine  
But I in my leather and lace I can never become that kind I can't go back there anymore  
You know my keys won't fit the door  
You know my thoughts don't fit the man  
They never can, they never can I had a king in a salt-rusted carriage  
Who carried me off to his country for marriage too soon  
Beware of the power of moons, there's no one to blame  
No there's no one to name as a traitor here  
The king's on the road and the queen's in the grove till the end of the year I can't go back there anymore  
You know my keys won't fit the door  
You know my thoughts don't fit the man  
They never can, they never can  
They never can, they never can

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