Brilliant Mistake

Elvis Costello

He thought he was the King of America
Where they pour Coca Cola just like vintage wine
Now I try hard not to become hysterical
But I'm not sure if I am laughing or cryingI wish that I could push a button
And talk in the past and not the present tense
And watch this hurtin' feeling
Disappear like it was common senseIt was a fine idea at the time
Now it's a brilliant mistakeShe said that she was working for the ABC News
It was as much of the alphabet as she knew how to use
Her perfume was unspeakable, it lingered in the air
Like her artificial laughter, her mementos of affairs"Oh", I said, "I see you know him
Isn't that very fortunate for you?"
And she showed me his calling card
He came third or fourth and there were more than one or twoHe was a fine idea at this time
Now he's a brilliant mistakeHe thought he was the King of America
But it was just a boulevard of broken dreams
A trick they do with mirrors and with chemicals
The words of love in whispers and the acts of love in screamsI wish that I could push a button
And talk in the past and not the present tense
And watch this lovin' feeling
Disappear like it was common senseI was a fine idea at the time
Now I'm a brilliant mistakeI was a fine idea at the time
Now I'm a brilliant mistake

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