

# Viceroy's Row

## Elvis Costello & The Roots

Now there's a crank in every crowd  
Sprinkling gunpowder  
Seems that everything is about to blow  
They lit the burning paper  
With a waxen taper  
Sitting up here on Viceroy's Row And they're gathering flowers  
In the crack of hours where all of the nightmares go  
Watching the pipeline as it overflowed  
Sitting pretty here on Viceroy's Row He made a fortune out of barbed wire  
In the last days of the Empire  
Built a cast-iron curtain  
Just to keep control He was a tycoon, then a cheapskate  
Went out looking for a keepsake  
To tuck into his suitcase on Viceroy's Row And they're gathering flowers  
In the crack of hours where all of the nightmares go  
Watching the pipeline as it overflowed  
Sitting pretty here on Viceroy's Row He had a satchel full of cash  
And dishes full of ashes  
He went from boom to bust  
In the blinking of a lash Heard the rat-a-tat of the late patrol  
Shooting out the lights up on Viceroy's Row And they're gathering flowers  
In the crack of hours where all of the nightmares go  
They're coming for him slowly  
Now the war is over  
Sitting up here on Viceroy's Row The woman in a blindfold  
She doesn't want her hand held  
Walking through a minefield  
Saying "How does this feel?"  
Stepping on the quicksand  
Going down slow  
Hiding up here on Viceroy's Row Nothing satisfies  
The ruins of his blue eyes  
Like blood stains on a diamond mine  
And deep within you felt  
Not one measure of his guilt  
Staring in the dark up on Viceroy's Row Yet her penitent lover  
Took a ribbon of rubber  
Tied her to the bed made of silken thread But without an ounce of mercy  
They denounced him with a curse

Hammering on the door upon Viceroy's Row  
Now his little concubine in her cemetery drag  
    Her face all smeared with charcoal  
        Is leaving all her cares, so  
    Take 500 acres and see what you can sow  
We came to overthrow those on Viceroy's Row  
They're gathering flowers  
    In the crack of hours where all of the nightmares go  
        Watching the pipeline as it overflowed  
    Sitting up here on Viceroy's Row

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