Bullets For The New-Born King

Elvis Costello

No one looks in this place for motive or any hope
But for the dead shot of an amber glass
The blue light of a votiveRain obscured the window
As the pain was dulled by the grains
Absolved by spoons in flames
In fear in time dissolvingIt's not for the faint of pulse
Or anybody false

Those amateurs who simply shed their skins

So where are those traitors now, we once called patriots?

Just like those saints who seem to revel in their sinsO my eyes were filled with tears that were stinging

After our assassin's work was done

But bells in hands are only there for the wringing

And we were bringing bullets for the new-born kingTrumpet sounds lamenting

Trampling down the blooms of the deceased

The double agent girl and the fallen priest were heading for the borderSomewhere in the high command there stayed the palest hand

Who saw the order countermand

Erased the tape recorder and then they hung him from a window cordSwallow down that voodoo vial and stay your breath a while

Before we spill this tale that we had spun

And now I shall now confide all that I have denied

Oh I'm so sorry for the things I've doneO my eyes were filled with tears that were stinging

After our assassin's work was done

But bells in hands bells were only there for the ringing

And we were bringing bullets for the new-born king

Songwriters

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