Radio Silence

Elvis Costello

Signal fading, listen to what I'm saying
Testing, testing
This better be worth all of the breath I'm wasting
Maintaining radio silence from now onBarricaded in the talk radio station
Hostage taken, the red 'On Air' light shines on
Something cheaper that passes for free speech will have to doHear him coming through loud and clear
He's trickling in your ear
He'll tell you anything you want to hear
Tape starts running
He's going to tell you something
Strings start strumming another humdrum conundrum
Signing off now
Maintaining radio silence from now onBut there's one thing I should have said
The hostage will end up dead
It's just a comedy, the hostage is me
So pay the ransom beyond the run-out groove and
Get my wife down here, a helicopter on the roof
No police marksman
Maintaining radio silence from now onMystery voices drowned out by too much choice that's
Not to mention
The sad waste of this wonderful invention
Maintaining radio silence from now onLibraries filled up with failed ideas
There's nothing more for me there
I trust in tender ink and gentle airsDo those drug dealers still polish women made of wax?
Gangsters and world leaders require the same protection from attack
From a distance it's hard to tell the difference
Between a king and a jack
And a poet and a hack
Maintaining radio silence from now on

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