## **Ballade At Thirty-Five**

## Carla Bruni

This, no song of ingenue This, no ballad of innocence This, the rhyme of a lady who Followed ever her natural bentsThis, a solo of sapience This, a chantey of sophistry This, the sum of experiments I loved them 'til they loved meI loved them 'til they loved me I loved them 'til they loved meDecked in garments of sable hue Daubed with ashes of myriad Lents Wearing shower bouquets of rue Walk I ever in penitenceOft I roam, as my heart repents Through God's acres of memory Marking stones in my reverence I loved them 'til they loved meI loved them 'til they loved me I loved them 'til they loved mePictures pass me in long review Marching columns of dead events I was tender and often true Ever a prey to coincidenceAlways knew I the consequence Always saw what the end would be We're as nature has made us hence I loved them 'til they loved meI loved them 'til they loved me I loved them 'til they loved mePrinces, never I'd give offense Won't you think of me tenderly? You're my strength and my weakness, gentsThis, no song of ingenue

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This, no ballad of innocence This, the rhyme of a lady who