

## Byline

Elvis Costello

I read by line by line by line  
Some words of yours, some words of mine  
Some sentiments are best forgot  
Some letters read then folded shut

The profile on a postage stamp  
I traced it by my reading lamp  
Remembered when I'd sit in wait  
Then marked our parting from that date

I read by line by line by line  
That old sarcastic Valentine  
That you denied you'd sent to me  
Then took it back

It's a thought that we shared, a careless phrase  
A curse or a joke, some words of praise  
But I didn't write  
Did you wonder why?  
It was the easiest way to say "Goodbye"

You'll see my photo beside the article  
"That's just some guy I used to know  
I was never his  
He was always mine  
But I wrote him off by line by line"  
By line by line by line by line by line by line  
By line by line