

Brilliant Mistake

Words & Music:
Declan Patrick Aloysius MacManus (Elvis Costello)

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G F [4x]

G D
He thought he was the King of America
C G D
Where they pour Coca Cola just like vintage wine.
G D
Now, I try hard not to become hysterical;
C G D
But I'm not sure if I am laughing or crying.
C F C
I wish that I could push a button and talk in the past and not the present tense;
C F C Em
And watch this hurtin' feeling disappear like it was common sense.
G F G F G Em F C G C Em Am G C
It was a fine idea at the time; now, it's a brilliant mistake.

She said that she was working for the ABC News.
It was as much of the alphabet as she knew how to use.
Her perfume was unspeakable, it lingered in the air
Like her artificial laughter, her mementos of affairs.
"Oh," I said, "I see you know him. Isn't that very fortunate for you?"
And she showed me his calling card.
He came third or fourth and there were more than one or two.
He was a fine idea at the time; now, he's a brilliant mistake.

He thought he was the King of America
But it was just a boulevard of broken dreams.
A trick they do with mirrors and with chemicals.
The words of love in whispers and the axe of love in screams.
I wish that I could push a button and talk in the past and not the present tense.
And watch this lovin' feeling disappear like it was common sense
I was a fine idea at the time; now, I'm a brilliant mistake.