

## Let Him Dangle

Elvis Costello

Bentley said to Craig "Let him have it Chris"  
They still don't know today just what he meant  
by this  
Craig fired the pistol, but was too young to swing  
So the police took Bentley and the very next thing  
Let him dangle  
Let him dangle  
Bentley had surrendered, he was under arrest,  
when he gave Chris Craig that fatal request  
Craig shot Sidney Miles, he took Bentley's word  
The prosecution claimed as they charged them  
with murder  
Let him dangle  
Let him dangle

They say Derek Bentley was easily led  
Well what's that to the woman that Sidney  
Miles wed  
Though guilty was the verdict, and Craig had  
shot him dead  
The gallows were for Bentley and still she  
never said  
Let him dangle  
Let him dangle

Well it's hard to imagine it's the times that  
have changed  
When there's a murder in the kitchen that is  
brutal and strange  
If killing anybody is a terrible crime  
Why does this bloodthirsty chorus come round  
from time to time  
Let him dangle

Not many people thought that Bentley would  
hang  
But the word never came, the phone never rang  
Outside Wandsworth Prison there was horror  
and hate  
As the hangman shook Bentley's hand to  
calculate his weight  
Let him dangle

From a welfare state to society murder  
Bring "back the noose" is always heard  
Whenever those swine are under attack  
But it won't make you even  
It won't bring him back

Let him dangle  
Let him dangle (String him up)