

# Tears at the Birthday Party

Elvis Costello

Think back now when we were young  
There were always tears at the birthday party  
You know how children can be  
So cruel  
That's how it starts, but  
What if we never learn how to behave?  
I did something, and you never forgave me  
I never thought that it could be like this

But now I see  
I see you share your cake with him  
Unwrapping presents that I should have sent  
What can I do?  
Must I watch you?

Close the door, dim the lights, blow out the candles  
So Happy Birthday again

And it's the same every year  
Seems that I remember it as something more, but  
You know how children can grow  
So strange  
I still adore you

What if we never learn from our mistakes?  
But then, you'll never know how my heart aches

I never thought that it would be like this  
But now I see  
I see you share your cake with him  
Unwrapping presents that I should have sent  
What can I do?  
Must I watch you?

Close the door, dim the lights, blow out the candles  
So Happy Birthday again  
Close the door, dim the lights, blow out the candles  
So Happy Birthday again

One day I know he'll forget  
To pay you the compliments you're after  
You'll hang your sad, aching head  
Behind a brittle smile or a shrill of laughter

What if we only get what we deserve?  
Somehow I couldn't quite summon the nerve

Upon each anniversary  
Then do you ever think of me?  
Unwrapping presents that I should have sent  
What can I do?  
Must I watch you?

Close the door, dim the lights, blow out the candles  
So Happy Birthday again  
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