

# The First to Leave

Elvis Costello

I should open with a kiss  
For if you're reading this  
You must have opened up your case  
And found this letter where I placed it  
In between the silk and lace  
There were other clues, like your walking shoes  
But I still refused to believe  
That you were meant to be the first to leave  
Everybody here sends you their love  
How can I forget you still walk above  
Or  
below  
Perhaps you'll never know this purgatory  
We never could agree  
There's a thought, there's a pause  
No time to repent  
Eternally yours  
In a permanent lent

But if I should give you up  
If you're right and life just stops  
And I never see your face again  
Then from unearthly pleasures, proud and plain  
I shall abstain

Until you realise, my loss is your surprise  
Unless you know otherwise  
Then don't grieve  
You see I had to be the first to leave