

# The World and His Wife

Elvis Costello

The family circle gather round from very far and near  
To pass around the same remarks they passed away last year  
The little girl you dangle on your knee without mishap  
stirs something in your memory  
and something in your lap  
But it's a living  
This is the life  
For the world and his wife  
The world and his wife

The kissing cousins slip outside to cuddle and confess  
She says sweet nothing at all it's much more of a mess  
The conversation melts like chocolate down their open jaws  
As the juniper berry slips down just like last night's drawers

To tell the truth our Mum ran off with someone else's father  
went for two weeks holiday in taramasalata  
Daddy went out with the rubbish and he kept on walking  
Between Mum and the walls  
God only knows who does the talking

But later on in the evening through the tears and fol de rol  
Come the sentimental feelings for the lure of vitriol  
Longing thoughts go hankering for the old home overseas  
with a blindfold and a national anthem  
sung in different keys