

# Elvis Costello, Hidden Shame

I'm sorry to say that you don't know me  
I'm sad in ways you never understood  
Each time I try to tell the ugly truth  
You always let it pass you by  
You said I 'd never tell you a lie  
Just because I could  
Did you really think I was a bad man?  
You always said that that should be my middle name  
But you don't know the half of it  
You don't know how that name fits  
You don't know my hidden shame

[Chorus:]  
Hidden shame, shame, shame  
That I can't get free  
From the blame and the torture  
And the misery  
Must it be my secret for eternity?  
Till you know my hidden shame you really don't know me

Well, there's a different kind of prison  
And it don't even have to look much like a cell  
It's already on your mind  
Boy, we can see it in your eyes  
So, here's the bars and walls as well

Well, you know I'm never coming home, babe  
You said you'd stand by me until I cleared my name  
Sure it's easy to be strong  
When you know the charge is wrong  
But the days and weeks get long  
When you've got a hidden shame

[Chorus]

I had a friend when I was just a boy  
We were like brothers, we would run and hide  
And we went walking on a high hillside  
And I really don't how it happened  
He turned to me and had this strange look in his eye  
And not a single word was spoken  
I must have pushed him, but I don't remember why  
And all at once, he lay there broken  
And I walked down without him and I didn't even sigh

CHORUS

They say you always hurt the one you love  
And I'm not saying if I did or if I didn't  
But like my shame, that kind of love is always hidden  
They locked me up here for the ideas in my head  
They never got me for the thing I really did

[Chorus]