

Plainclothes Man
Elliott Smith

A great Elliott Smith song from Heatmiser's Mic City Sons. I believe that on the recording the song is played tuned a step down, but to me it sounds fine in standard tuning.

[Verse 1]

Am

You're everybody's second home

Am/B (Just Am works here, too)

Always trying to get me alone

C **D** **F**

An easy way to lose it all

Am

Always there when all else fails

Am strum **D**, then **F**

Over by the west side rails

(same as verse chords progression)

But I don't really need that now

I never really did anyhow

I only really needed alcohol

Something that'll treat me okay

And wouldn't say the things you'd say

[Chorus]

Fm **E**

Please turn out the light

D

I get a sick confusion headache trying

Am

to figure out who's right

[Verse 2]

(same as verse 1)

Dreaming on the silver strand

Waking up to plainclothes man

You little bastard, little boy in blue

Someone's gonna get to you

And fuck up everything you do

He's so unhappy inside

He's serious with everyone

And he thinks he'll win you with his angry kiss

Acting like he has no needs

Wanting you to watch him bleed

[Bridge]

C **G** **F** **C**
Made for each other bet you pay me any mind
G **D** **F**
Just goes to show my continual decline
C **G** **F** **C**
They say that I ll recover my love of her once in a while
Dm
But I don t know
Fm
I don t think so...

[Verse 3]

(same as verse 1)

There s something that I ll tell you now
Now that no one else is around
The sort of lesson that I learned from you
Not quite the way you planned
But I know you ll understand

Someone takes a photograph
A picture while their sweetheart laughs
A perfect moment in a flash of light
Counting back from 3 to 1
That s exactly what you ve done

Fm **E**
And I m so unsurprised
D **C**
I remember, I remember why I dream in black & white

G **D** **F**
Goes to show my continual decline
C **G** **F** **C**
They say that I ll recover my love of her once in a while
Dm
But I don t know
Fm
I don t think so

[Outro]

Am D Fm Am