

Elton John – Candle in the Wind (1973)

This song was written as a homage to Marilyn Monroe (born Norma Jeane Mortenson), 1926 – 1962.

Goodbye, Norma Jeane
Though I never knew you at all
You had the grace to hold yourself
While those around you crawled
They crawled out of the woodwork
And they whispered into your brain
They set you on the treadmill
And they made you change your name

Chorus:

It seems to me you lived your life
Like a candle in the wind
Never knowing who to cling to
When the rain set in
And I would've liked to have known you
But I was just a kid
Your candle burned out long before
Your legend ever did



Loneliness was tough
The toughest role you ever played
Hollywood created a superstar
And pain was the price you paid
Even when you died
Oh, the press still hounded you
All the papers had to say
Was that Marilyn was found in the nude

Chorus

Goodbye, Norma Jeane
Though I never knew you at all
You had the grace to hold yourself
While those around you crawled

Goodbye, Norma Jeane
From a young man in the 22nd row
Who sees you as something more than sexual
More than just our Marilyn Monroe

Chorus

Live version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoOhnrjdYOc>

Version rewritten for Princess Diana (1997)

In 1997, Elton John created a new version of the song as a tribute to Princess Diana (1961-1997) which he played and sung at her funeral.

Goodbye England's rose
May you ever grow in our hearts
You were the grace that placed yourselves
Where lives were torn apart
You called out to our country
And you whispered to those in pain
Now you belong to heaven
And the stars spell out your name

Chorus:

And it seems to me you lived your life
Like a candle in the wind
Never fading with the sunset
When the rain set in
And your footsteps will always fall here
Along England's greenest hills
Your candles burned out long before
Your legend ever will



Loneliness we've lost
Those empty days without your smile
This torch we'll always carry
For our nation's golden child
Even though we try
The truth brings us to tears
All our words cannot express
The joy you brought us through the years

Chorus

Goodbye England's rose
May you ever grow in our hearts
You were the grace that placed yourselves
Where lives were torn apart
Goodbye England's rose
From the country lost
Without your soul who missed the wings of your compassion
More than you will ever know

Chorus

Diana's funeral: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1o9rLDCfO6o>