ELVIS PRESLEY BIOGRAPHY and life in pictures
compiled by Theresea Hughes.

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Chapter 1 – Elvis Presley Childhood & Family Background

Chapter 2 – Elvis’s Early Fame

Chapter 3 – Becoming the King of Rock & Roll

Chapter 4 – Elvis Presley Band Members

Chapter 5 – Elvis Presley Girlfriends & Loves

Chapter 6 – Elvis Presley Memphis Mafia

Chapter 7 – Elvis Presley Spirit lives on…

Chapter 8 – Elvis Presley Diary – Calendar of his life milestones

Chapter 9 – Elvis Presley Music & Directory of songs & Lyrics

Chapter 10 – Elvis Presley Movies directory & lists

Chapter 11 – Elvis Presley Pictures & Posters

Elvis Presley Famous Quotes by and about Elvis

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Elvis Presley FAN’S SURVEY FORM page
Introduction to Elvis Presley Biography

Elvis Presley, the name of a young country boy from East Tupelo Mississippi, on the path to becoming the king of not only Rock and Roll, but also of Hollywood Romantic Comedy.

By 1956 Elvis Presley had left his indelible mark on the music industry, and not only continued to excel in the land of melodious tunes, but also to break into Hollywood movies.

Often playing the part of a rebel, who was consistently surrounded by beautiful girls, most of his movies involved his music.

The movies of Elvis Presley provide an insight to the man behind them, as they follow a progressive tale of Elvis’s own life.

As in his life the movies depict a young aimless rebel as does his music, then comes the headstrong self assured man that heads for the midlife crisis stage of his heart, life and music.

As his youth slips from his grasp he emerges the fresh mature man with new, inspiration, confidence and drive to take the best of his past, and make it the best ever for the future.

Elvis Presley Childhood


By the time the Depression of the 1930’s dumped an extra load on their backs many people had found that their only real defence in life was a fierce independence and strong family ties that would allow them their only resource and joy.

It was in that setting that Vernon Elvis Presley and Gladys Love Smith fell in love.

"We should have been in school but we eloped," Gladys recalls.

"We didn’t elope very far. We just went down the road five miles to Vernon and got married."

Elvis inherited his mother’s coloring.
Her once blonde hair (later dyed black for effect) and her velvety blue eyes could both snap and smolder.

Both parents had an unpretentious deep natural dignity. They spoke frankly about their lack of formal education but their lively native intelligence made them intriguing conversationalists.

1935 the 8th of January, Elvis Aron Presley was born in Tupelo, Mississippi

Note: The Presley family, including Elvis, spelled his middle name "Aron" throughout his life, although Elvis is said to have considered changing it to "Aaron". His birth certificate and tombstone both read "Aaron".

His twin brother Jesse Garon Presley was stillborn. Jesse was buried the following day in Priceville Cemetery in an unmarked grave.

Vernon hoed cotton, corn and peas and Gladys worked as a sewing machine operator for Tupelo Garment Company.

The couple lived with their in-laws at first, while Vernon drove trucks, sorted lumber and also continued to work crops. Gladys had to quit her job when she became pregnant with Elvis.

With Gladys out of work money became scarcer than ever for the young couple.

Fortunately a dairy farmer named Orville Bean had loaned Vernon enough money to build a small “shot gun” style home in East Tupelo. The house was completed in time, before Gladys was ready to give birth.

The house, raised on stilts to protect it from overflowing Creeks, was a small two roomed shack whose design was called “shot gun” because it was small enough that if the front and back doors were open you could blast a shot gun clear through without hitting anything.

Vernon Elvis Presley: "I thank God, He gave us you as our son."  
Vester Presley: “I'm mighty proud of ma nephew El' the best any man could've had..."
During the first year of Elvis’s life a ruthless tornado hit Elvis’s home town of Tupelo and was described as being one of the worst in history, taking many lives and sweeping whole houses into it’s black vortex of destruction.

Gladys and Elvis would reminisce about that tornado and both be considering themselves so lucky to have escaped with their lives.

Elvis would also remember his twin brother, Jesse Garon. Elvis would alter ponder a sense of incompleteness at having lost a part of himself he could never know.

From Elvis’s first moment on earth, until his Mother’s death some twenty three years later, Gladys never stopped worrying about her son’s every waking moment, and when she discovered her boy was a somnambulist (sleepwalker), she then also worried about his sleeping moments.

Her love for her son was a fawning, all consuming emotion that never stopped growing.

At age three, Vernon was sent to prison for forgery. It seems that Vernon, Travis Smith, and Luther Gable changed the amount of a check from Orville Bean, Vernon's boss, from $3 to $8 and cashed it at a local bank. Vernon pled guilty and was sentenced to three years at Parchment Farms Penitentiary.

Vernon's boss, Mr. Bass calls in a note that Vernon signed to borrow money to build the house. Gladys is forced to move in with Vernon's parents. Vernon would only serve eight months. Afterward Vernon's employment was spotty and the family lived just above the poverty line.

"Don’t criticize what you don’t understand, son. You never walked in that man’s shoes."
-Elvis often used this adaptation of a well-known quotation.
The Presley’s attended the First Assembly of God Church whose Pentecostal services always included singing.

When Elvis turned five and started school, Gladys would walk him there every day and never stopped until he entered high school.

Gladys also insisted for him to take his own cutlery to school so as he couldn’t get germs from other students.

"When I was a child, ladies and gentlemen, I was a dreamer. I read comic books, and I was the hero of the comic book. I saw movies, and I was the hero in the movie. So every dream I ever dreamed has come true a hundred times... I learned very early in life that: ‘Without a song, the day would never end; without a song, a man ain’t got a friend; without a song, the road would never bend - without a song.’ So I keep singing a song. Goodnight. Thank you.”

-From his acceptance speech for the 1970 Ten Outstanding Young Men of the Nation Award. Given at a ceremony on January 16, 1971.
(Elvis quotes from copyrighted material with lines from the song "Without a Song").

Entering the fifth grade, Presley is asked by his teacher, Oleta Grimes to enter a talent contest on children's day at the Mississippi-Alabama Fair and Dairy Show.

At the age of ten, dressed in a cowboy suit, and standing on a chair to reach the microphone, Presley for his rendition of Red Foley's "Old Shep" won second place, a $5 prize and a free ticket to all the rides.
1946, Elvis asked his parents for a bicycle, but Gladys being very protective of Elvis was afraid he might fall off and hurt himself, and persuaded Elvis to get a guitar instead.

Over the next year, Vernon's brother Johnny Smith and Assembly of Good pastor Frank Smith gives him basic guitar lessons. Before long he was listening to the radio, tuning into a variety of music as he tried to pick out melodies.

Elvis would wander along the muddy banks of the Tupelo creek as he strummed his guitar at nightfall.

For Vernon Presley life was at it’s rawest as he struggled to put food on the table and a roof over his family’s head.

One night in 1948, Vernon packed up his family their belongings into a 1939 Plymouth and left for Memphis.

Elvis would later remember, “we were so broke, we just left overnight.”

They arrived, almost penniless, moved into a one-room apartment in one of the shabbiest sections of the City

Gladys Presley wasted no time getting a job; she worked in a cafeteria waitressing. Vernon drove a truck for a while, then ended up getting a job with the United Paint Company, were he earned eighty-three cent’s an hour, but held the job for five long year’s.

Elvis, at thirteen was shy and nervous, but always polite, (being a young gentleman); Elvis would always stand when a woman entered the room.

Elvis was enrolled at L. C. Humes High School he remained shy and unobtrusive. With no money, little confidence, and the only thing Elvis seemed to have was acne.

Elvis loved football, of course, but was neither the build nor good enough to be a player on the school team.
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http://affiliates.allposters.com/link/redirect.asp?item=311707&AID=1412326424&PSTID=0&LTID=1

Elvis would often be seen at the football games when Humes played, always on his own and usually just walking around the stands, Elvis was somewhat of a loner and bit of a dreamer.

After school, Elvis would occasionally wander down to the Mississippi, while strumming his old guitar where the blues could be heard being played.

After Elvis completed his first year at high school, Vernon Presley’s application for Public Housing through the Memphis Housing Authority, was accepted.

After over a year in Memphis, the Presley’s now move into a two-bed roomed apartment in the low rent project called the Lauderdale Courts at 185 Winchester Avenue. It was a welcome step up the economic ladder for Vernon and his family, but the Presley’s knew they weren’t out of the woods.

Elvis later remembers picking through garbage pails for useful things to bring home, to help get through those lean years.

Elvis got his first job, as an usher at Loew’s state Theater, he liked the job but was fired for having a go at a fellow employee over snitching on a candy girl for giving Elvis free food.

Some of Elvis’s earnings went to the household, with what Elvis had left, he would go back to the clothes store Lansky Brothers on the corner of second street Mississippi and purchased himself the slick duds he admired in the window.

As soon as Elvis was old enough to shave, he began growing his sideburns; he also grew his hair long and combed it back with so much gunk that it looked dark and lacquered, (Elvis would choose
to have his hair cut at the local Beautician’s rather than the Barbers, to keep the look.)

With Elvis’s individual look, loud clothes and long hair with sideburns, he became a target for the tough, crew cut read neck kids at school.

The Harassment got Elvis into many scrapes, and there were several times he came close to getting his young behind kicked in.

Elvis wanted to be accepted because he was different and the only way to be apart of what was going on, was to be “himself” by setting up his own terms, - an unusual approach for someone so seemingly shy and insecure.

Nevertheless, it was a hard road.

Elvis got his first job after high school with the Crow Electric Company, delivering supplies in a Ford pick up.

In the evenings Elvis would study to become an Electrician, with the plan to one day collect union wages.

Elvis was also quite seriously thinking of becoming a Tennessee State Trooper at the age of Twenty-one.

In 1948 after losing another job Vernon moved the family to Memphis.

Gladys’s brothers get him a job at the Precision Tool Company and the Presleys moved into a small apartment at 370 Washington Street for $11 a week.

On September 13 Elvis enrolls at L.C. Humes High School

Starting his sophomore year Presley works in the school library and after school at Loew's State Theatre.

In 1951, his receives his first driver's license, joins the ROTC unit at Humes High, tries out for the football team (he's cut by the coach
when he won’t trim his sideburns and ducktail), and in his spare time hanging around the black section of town, especially on Beale Street.

In his senior year Presley gets his first car, a 1942 Lincoln Zephyr, from Vernon. At eighteen majoring in Shop, History, and English he graduates from Humes High in 1953.

**Quote on what Elvis was like at High School:**

"Odd. He was sort of loner. The thing we had in common, because we weren’t that close, I had just moved from New York.

*And Elvis dressed in very flashy clothes, which was different than the kids back then.***

**Most of the guys back then wore crew cuts and Levis and t-shirts.**

*And Elvis wore flashy clothes, wore his collar up, his hair was a lot longer than the rest of the people.***

**And basically, I dressed the same way, coming from New York.**

*And the kids used to kid us about who was going to outdress who the next day."***

- **MARTY LACKER**

Early Fame

“Before Elvis there was nothing.”
*John Lennon*

**In 1954 Elvis went to the Mississippi Alabama State Fair.**

It was there, at the age of ten that Elvis stood on a chair in front of hundreds of people, unaccompanied by music, Elvis sang “Old Shep,” a sentimental ballad about a boy and his dog.

Elvis was awarded second prize.

It was the very first time in his life he ever got anything for just singing.

Elvis learned a simple but important lesson that day. His voice was powerful and singing could make his fantasies come true.

The day after graduation he took a job at Parker Machinists Shop. By June was working at the Precision Tool Company and then drove truck for the Crown Electric Co.

After a short time in the stock room he is promoted to truck and began to wear his long hair pompadour, the current truck driver style.

On the way out to jobs in a Ford pickup, Elvis would drive by the Memphis Recording Service.
One Saturday Elvis stopped by the recording services with his old guitar with plans to record his mother a birthday present.

The place was busy so Elvis took a seat and patiently waited his turn.

Elvis cut 2 songs “My Happiness” and the second “That’s When Your Heartaches Begin.”

Elvis’s name and address were taken, much to Elvis’s surprise.

The tape was taken to the boss, Sam C. Phillips – owner of Sun Records. Sam was impressed, but not enough to call Elvis.

Sam promised Elvis nothing, only “he would keep him in mind if something comes up.”

January 4 - Elvis Presley visits the Memphis Recording Service to record "Casual Love Affair" and "I'll Never Stand in Your Way"

June 27 - After several fruitless recording sessions, Sam Phillips pairs Elvis Presley with guitarist Scotty Moore and bass player Bill Black.

He hopes the singer might find his voice by rehearsing with other musicians cut from the same country, pop, gospel and R&B cloth.

Though July 4 is often sited as their first meeting, the three had actually been practicing for several months.

July 5 Rock and roll history is made when Elvis Presley, Scotty Moore and Bill Black perform bluesman Arthur "Big Boy" Craddock's "That's All Right" in romping, up tempo style.

The next day, bluegrass pioneer Bill Monroe's "Blue Moon of Kentucky" is given a similarly playful treatment.
Two days later Memphis disc jockey Dewey Phillips played "That's All Right" on his Red Hot and Blue show on radio station WHBQ.

Audience response was overwhelming and later that night Presley came in for his first interview.

By the time the record was ready for release Sam already had orders for five thousand copies, and went on to sell twenty thousand copies.

On July 19th the two songs are released as Elvis Presley's first single, which bears the legend "Sun 209."

Scotty Moore became his manager. His first record “That's Alright Mama” with the flip side “Blue Moon of Kentucky” sold 7,000 copies within a week.

Elvis signed a three year contract with Sun Record Company.

On this day 30th July Elvis made his first professional stage appearance at Overton Park Shell in Memphis. Elvis was very nervous as he walked out to perform “Good Rockin’ Tonight”.

Elvis was feeling high and pumped up to be appearing on a show he had only dreamed about.

Pacing back stage, thinking about the thirty five hundred people out in the audience.

He felt his voice wasn’t doing it alone so he threw his body into the music, his feet began to shuffle, the knees bent and shook, his hips swiveled and pumped in time to the music.
All of a sudden Elvis was sexy, sensuous, dark and dangerous!

10th August Elvis wowed the fans in a concert at Overton park in Memphis, stealing the show from country star Webb Pierce.

"I’ve never gotten over what they call stage fright.

I go through it every show. I’m pretty concerned, I’m pretty much thinking about the show.

I never get completely comfortable with it, and I don’t let the people around me get comfortable with it, in that I remind them that it’s a new crowd out there, it’s a new audience, and they haven’t seen us before.

So it’s got to be like the first time we go on.”
-From a 1972 taped interview used in MGM’s documentary Elvis on Tour.

"The first time that I appeared on stage, it scared me to death."
I really didn’t know what all the yelling was about. I didn’t realize that my body was moving. It’s a natural thing to me.

So to the manager backstage I said ‘What’d I do? What’d I do?’ And he said “Whatever it is, go back and do it again’.”
-From a 1972 taped interview used in MGM’s documentary Elvis on Tour.

“Man, I was tame compared to what they do now. Are you kidding? I didn’t do anything but just jiggle.”

-From the press conference prior to his record-breaking Madison Square Garden shows in New York City, 1972.

9th September Elvis played at the opening of the Katz Drug store in Memphis, from the back of a flatbed truck.

On September 25 Presley made his first and last appearance at the Grand Ole Opry.

25th September Elvis’s, second record was released.

“Without Elvis, none of us could have made it.” Buddy Holly

1955

In the year 1955 Elvis’s first Sun releases received the favorable attention of Billboard Magazine.
On May 13, his performance in Jacksonville started a riot, his first.

"Baby Lets Play House" b/w "I'm Left, Your Right, She's Gone" was released and reached #10 on the national Country & Western chart in July.

In early 1955, Moore quit managing Presley, but continued playing in his band for several years.

Bob Neal, a Memphis disc Jockey, became Presley's new manager.

Colonel Thomas Parker first entered Presley's career when he helped Neal make some tour arrangements.

August 15 - Elvis Presley signs a management contract with "Colonel" Tom Parker, whose other clients included country-music stars Eddy Arnold and Hank Snow.

The contract lasted Presley's lifetime and beyond, for which he was to receive 25% of his earnings.

That September Presley had his first #1 country record "Mystery Train" b/w "I Forgot to Remember to Forget."

By this time Colonel Parker, despite the agreement with Neal, had become increasingly involved with Presley's career and had negotiated for RCA to purchase Presley's contract from Sun Records for $35,000.

Presley received a $5,000 advance that he used to buy his mother a pink Cadillac.

SCHILLING: "Well, I don't think there's anybody that can manage Elvis, when you really look at it, outside the colonel. The colonel did a great job, you know.

And you know, maybe there was a few creative things, but he really -- these guys loved each other, actually. And Elvis had respect."

WESTMORELAND: "The colonel had -- that was his thing. He loved to try to buffalo people. That was the way he operated. But underneath it, he was a really sweet..."
STANLEY: I liked Colonel Parker and I think he did a phenomenal job. But I have to quote my brother, Ricky, who unfortunately missed out tonight.

The great quote is this: "If Colonel Parker made Elvis Presley, then why didn't he make another one?"

November 1 - Despite Presley's growing popularity, his five Sun singles fail to make a dent on the national charts.

November 20-22 - Elvis Presley's contract with Sun Records, including all previously released and recorded material, is sold to the New York-based RCA Victor label for $35,000.

17th December Elvis gave his last performance on the influential Southern radio program "Louisiana Hayride."

His first appearance on a televised segment of this program had helped to launch his career.

1956

Presley became a national star in 1956. Presley went to Nashville to record his first records for RCA. Among them was "Heartbreak Hotel."

On January 28, 1956, he made his television debut on the Dorsey brothers' Stage Show, followed by six consecutive appearances.

Presley appeared on the Milton Berle, Steve Allen, and Ed Sullivan television shows.

That April Presley made his debut in Las Vegas at the New Frontier Hotel.

The two week engagement was cancelled after a week due to poor audience response. In August Presley began filming his first film Love Me Tender.
Released three months later the it recouped its filming cost of $1 million in three days.

His singles that year which included "Heartbreak Hotel," "I Was the One," "Blue Suede Shoes," "I Want You, I Need You, I Love You," "Hound Dog," "My Baby Left Me, "Anyway You Want Me," "Love Me Tender," "Don't Be Cruel," "Love Me," and "When My Blue Moon Turns To Gold" all were certified gold.

10th January 1956, Elvis cut five tracks at the RCA Studio in Nashville. "Heartbreak Hotel" was the second one recorded.

This was the record that Elvis Presley, at the age of twenty one, cast his fate to the winds of history.

"*Some people tap their feet, some people snap their fingers, and some people sway back and forth. I just sorta do 'em all together, I guess.*"
-Elvis in 1956, talking about his way of moving on stage.

"*I ain't no saint, but I've tried never to do anything that would hurt my family or offend God...I figure all any kid needs is hope and the feeling he or she belongs.*

*If I could do or say anything that would give some kid that feeling, I would believe I had contributed something to the world.*"
-Elvis commenting to a reporter, 1950's.

28th January Elvis made his first appearance on the national television program Jackie Gleason’s Stage Show.

There were to be six performances up to March 24. In the same year on the 31st of January, Elvis also recorded the all time hit "Blue Suede Shoes"
4th February Elvis appeared on Jackie Gleasons’s Stage Show, on national television he sang “Tutti Frutti” and “I was the One”

11th February, Elvis again appeared on Jackie Gleason’s State show, singing “shake, Rattle and Roll”, “Flip, Flop and Fly” and “I got a Woman”.

23rd April Elvis Presley performed in the Venus Room at the New Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas.

The adverse reaction to his week of shows there made him shun the stage at Las Vegas for thirteen years.

“THE KING”

“...the image is one thing and the human being is another...it’s very hard to live up to an image.”
-From the press conference prior to his record-breaking Madison Square Garden shows in New York City, 1972.
“A live concert to me is exciting because of all the electricity that is generated in the crowd and on stage. It’s my favorite part of the business - live concerts.”
-Elvis at a press conference prior to his 1973 television special, <i>Elvis - Aloha from Hawaii, via Satellite.</i>

2nd July Elvis recorded his famous hit “Hound Dog”.

The flip side of the record featured “Don’t be Cruel”.

His songs exploded like concussion bombs – Elvis’s dreams and fantasies materialized with breathtaking speed.

Back in Memphis he took $40,000 and plunked it down for a ranch house at 1034 Audubon Drive.

3rd September Elvis recorded his first album “Elvis” for RCA. It included a rendition of a song which had won him second prize in a concert as a boy, “Old Shep”.

25th September Elvis’s home town of Tupelo, Mississippi held a celebration to mark the town’s “Elvis Presley Day”. He gave two outdoor performances on the day.

1st October Elvis recorded “Too Much” which reached number #2 in the charts and became his first major single since “Hound Dog” earlier in July.

28th October Elvis made his second appearance on TV’s “Toast of the Town” hosted by Ed Sullivan, coast to coast, singing “Hound Dog”.

20
Cut off from the waist down by the television camera, while his mere presence erupted the madness in the theatre.

November 15, - The film Love Me Tender, which features Elvis Presley in the first of 31 Hollywood movie roles, premieres at the New York Paramount.

Two months earlier, on September 9th, he performed the title song on the Ed Sullivan Show to a record viewing audience estimated at 54 million.

December 4, - Four legendary past and present Sun Records recording artists — Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Johnny Cash — gather at Sun for an informal jam session.

Later dubbed the Million Dollar Quartet, the stars (sans Cash, who stays only briefly) perform gospel standards and recent hits in relaxed, impromptu fashion.

The recordings aren't officially released until the mid-Eighties.

1957

January 8

Elvis Presley passes the pre-induction exam for the Army.

Leiber & Stoller are summoned to New York by Elvis's Brill Building music publisher to write songs for the movie 'Jailhouse Rock.' The title song soon reaches #1.

In early 1957 Presley became the target of criticism by teachers, clergymen, and even other entertainers who his style was too suggestive.

He was nicknamed "Elvis the Pelvis" by one writer.

On January 6, he made the last of his three appearances on the Ed Sullivan Show and was shown only from the waist up.
Ed Sullivan had once said he would never have the controversial singer on his top-rated show, but that was before the week that Elvis’ appearance on Steve Allen had surpassed Sullivan’s ratings.

Sullivan paid Elvis $50,000 to make three appearances on his show, which was, at the time, more money than any performer had ever been paid to appear on a network variety program.

When Elvis made his third Sullivan appearance in January of 1957, Ed Sullivan surprised Elvis by telling him on camera that his show had never had a better experience with a name act, and said “I wanted to say to Elvis and the country that this is a real decent, fine boy.”

It was on this very same Sullivan appearance that Elvis was shown on camera from the waist up only, one of early television history’s most memorable moments.

23rd February Elvis first recorded the classic hit “Let Me Be Your Teddy Bear”. It went to number #1 on the charts, as did “All Shook Up” and “Jailhouse Rock”.

In February “All Shook Up” headed for eighteen weeks at the top number one on the charts.

In March Presley purchased Graceland, a former church and converted it into a twenty three room mansion.

Approximately 675,000 people visit Graceland yearly

Presley was the first rock star to crossover into films with consistent commercial success.
“Loving You”, his second film, was released in July 1957 and "Teddy Bear" from it's soundtrack went to #1 on the pop, country, and R&B charts, as did "All Shook Up" and "Jailhouse Rock," the title song from his next movie.

That December he received his draft notice, while home at Graceland for the Christmas holidays, but was given a 30 day deferment to complete the filming of King Creole.

1958

He is sworn in as a private in the U.S. Army on March 24.

"Private Presley #3310761" attended his basic training at a site that has been variously reported as being in "Fort Hood, Texas" and/or at "Fort Chaffee, Arkansas" as well as at "Killeen, Texas".

Elvis went to Nashville ten weeks later on a weekend pass and recorded several hits for RCA.

The next months saw number one hits with "Don't" and "I Beg You."

During this time Gladys became ill and was admitted to the Methodist Hospital, where she was finally diagnosed with a serious case of Hepatitis four days later.

In August Elvis was finally granted "compassionate leave" to be able to visit his mother and hold a vigil by her hospital bedside as her condition quickly deteriorated.

Sadly, on August 14th. Gladys passed away at 3 a.m. - without Elvis by her side.

But within four weeks he was shipped off to serve in Germany, and simply did not have the time or opportunity to grieve properly for the loss of his one true love in his life - his beloved mother.
Many family members re-iterated the sentiments that after his mother died, Elvis changed for he never had time alone to grieve.

Elvis considered this to be the greatest tragedy in his life.

He returned to the Army and was shipped to Bremerhaven, West Germany.

He served in Company D, 32nd Tank Battalion, 3rd Armor Corps, from October 1, 1958, to March 1 (or 5), 1960.

In January 1960 he was promoted to sergeant.

Elvis drove a jeep for Sgt. Ira Jones, and was honorably discharged on March 5, 1960.

During his time in the service Colonel Parker continued to release Elvis's singles recorded before his departure so his fans wouldn't forget him.

A number of these were hits including "Wear My Ring Around Your Neck," "Don't cha Think It's Time," "Hard Headed Woman," "Don't Ask Me Why," "One Night," "I Got Stung," "A Fool Such as I," "I Need You, I Love You," "A Big Hunk O' Love," and "My Wish Came True".

Many have since wondered why an only child – by then the sole support of his parents and grandmother – was drafted during
peacetime, since his services were clearly not critical for the defense of his country.

It has long been suspected that Elvis' draft notice was either politically instigated to shunt his "dangerous", "race-mixing" influence, or quietly encouraged by his manager in order to keep the increasingly world-wise Southern lad under his thumb.

While in the army, he also received a black belt in karate. When he left the Army he continued his karate training with a personal trainer at his home.

Originally Presley intended to be a serious actor. Unfortunately after he left the service, the choice of roles was left entirely to Colonel Parker - with famously poor results.

Since Presley would not tour until the early Seventies, it was through these movies that most fans saw him and that alone accounted for their massive success. If you wanted to see Elvis, you only had the movies....

In 1958 alone Presley earned over $2 million. After his release, in March 1960, he recorded his first stereo record, "Stuck On You" and later that month he taped a TV program with Frank Sinatra, The Frank Sinatra Timex Special.

In July Vernon, Presley's father remarried.

Vernon Presley's second wife was Davada "Dee" Stanley.

At this time Presley began gathering more closely around him his friends, employees, and hangers on that would become known as the "Memphis Mafia" and would accompany him almost constantly until his death.

Presley's world would become increasingly insular, as he took the next step and became "The King" of rock & roll, and our hearts.
Becoming “The King”

1960

G.I. Blues was released in 1960 and "It's Now Over Never" reached #1

Presley had five number #1 hits in the early 60s, "Stuck On You," "It's Now or Never, "Are You lonesome Tonight," (1960); "Surrender (1961); and "Good Luck Charm" (1962).

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1960 3rd March Elvis recorded the great Peggy Lee hit "Fever" as part of “Elvis is Back” an album celebrating his return from the US Army and his return to live performing.

Every time I felt low I just put on an Elvis record and I’d feel great.
Paul McCartney

Elvis was my Idol from the beginning and even today when I’m alone, I’ll often put on the King Creole album.
He’s produced the most exciting pop music sounds of all time
Cliff Richard

On the 4th of March Elvis recorded “Are You Lonesome Tonight” which was also one day to be used as the title of a biographical musical about the King.
If I slept with every woman the weekly magazines say I have, I would have been dead a long time ago.

*Elvis*

27th April of the same year, Elvis recorded the title song of both an album and a movie “GI Blues”.

*I wasn’t exactly a James Bond in Movies, but then no one ever asked Sean Connery to sing a song while dodging bullets.*

*Elvis*

May 12th Elvis appeared on “The Frank Sinatra Show” in a more clean cut image when Frank Sinatra gave his variety show a “Welcome Home, Elvis” theme to herald Elvis’ return from the army.

Elvis was paid $125,000 to appear - again, making history.

30th October Elvis recorded his first gospel record ”His Hand in Mine” at the RCA Studios in Nashville.

Priscilla Beaulieu, a teenage daughter of an Army officer that Presley had met while in Germany, visited Graceland during Christmas 1960. In early 1961 she moved in, it was said, under the supervision of Vernon and Davada.

The press went along with the spin Colonel Parker put on the story, and few seemed to care the King of Rock and Roll was sharing his house with a teenaged girlfriend.
1961

1961 25th February “Elvis Presley Day” was proudly announced publicly by Tennessee Governor Buford Ellington. Elvis was Guest of Honour and all the proceeds of the celebrations were donated to 38 charities.

“Money is meant to be spread around, the more happiness it helps create, the more it’s worth.”

Elvis

After a live performance on March 25, 1961 Presley quit performing and spent the next eight years making movies. The soundtracks from his movies were generally poor.

By the mid-Sixties Presley was earning $1 million per movie plus a large percentage of the gross. Each movie had a concurrently released soundtrack album, five of which went gold.

Presley was displeased with these films, but Colonel Parker insisted that Presley stick with this winning formula.

Years later Parker’s shortsightedness would result in his turning down Barbara Streisand’s offer to have Presley costar with her the 1974 remake of A Star Is Born.

Parker felt Streisand didn't deserve equal billing with Presley.

If he was a revolutionary, then he was an accidental one, an innately talented young man who arrived on the scene at the right place at the right times.

And though his music symbolized the coming together of black and white cultures into the mainstream in a way that had never happened before, that seemed to hold little interest for him.

What Elvis Aaron Presley really wanted from the start was to go to Hollywood and become a movie star like his heroes, James Dean and Marlon Brando. And just like them to be the rebel up on the screen.

It was almost as if the music that shook the world was incidental, Brando and Dean were his role models.
When he finally got to Hollywood and met director of Rebel Without A Cause, Nicholas Ray, Elvis got down on his knee and started reciting whole pages from the script.

Obviously Elvis had seen Rebel at least a dozen times and memorized every line that Dean spoke.

However, Elvis was never given the chance to rival Brando and Dean as a movie actor, but he did learn from them one critical lesson: never smile.

Elvis was convinced that that serious, sultry and sexy look was the key to their success. Now even Robert Mitchum (another favourite actors of Elvis) used that down cast appearance at times.

He was sure he could manage the same kind of sultry and sexy persona of his Hollywood idols.

As a teenager, in the privacy of his bedroom Elvis spent hours in front of the mirror working on the look and used it to maximum effect own screen and stage appearance.

The perfect example of this can be seen in the movie "Jailhouse Rock" when Elvis impulsively grabs his new manager (Judy Tyler) and kisses her.

When she objects he claims "It's just the beast in me..." A sexually charged moment in the movie as he walks away with a sneer.

And again, if you care to notice, all professional photo shoots of the 50's rarely show Elvis with a smile on his face.

However, the difference between Dean, Brando, and Elvis was that although a sinner on-stage, he was a saint off-stage.

Whereas, Dean and Brando remained sullen, self-obsessed and at times completely anti-social.

**Interview with RED**

*Let me go through the thing here. He started out great doing personal appearances, then he went into the movies, the movies got to be a drag because of what we've been talking about - the songs were terrible, the scripts were terrible.*

*So he went to Vegas instead of working maybe 5 nights a week and 2 nights off or 6 nights and 1 night off for a couple of weeks, like Frank Sinatra and everybody else did, he worked for 4 weeks for 7 nights a week, 2 shows a night.*

*The Colonel was downstairs gambling enjoying himself. So, this got to be .. OK I want to go back on the road, I want out of this.*
The movies got to be a drag, this is getting to be a drag, I want to get back in front of the audience around the country, the world.

The Colonel started booking him into the same towns. Each tour we’d hit Roanoke, Virginia, we’d hit so-and so and so-and-so, Atlanta, Georgia.

He wanted to come here. He wanted to go to Australia, he wanted to go to Germany, he wanted to go anywhere but Roanoke, Virginia and Atlanta, Georgia, but no, and why the Colonel did that?

I asked the Colonel why can’t we tour Europe. Why can’t we go to Australia. Can’t handle security, can’t handle security.

We didn’t know he was an illegal alien and he could not go outside the US.

I wondered why he never came to Germany while we were there. He always sent other people there.

He never left the USA, once he got there he never left, and that hurt Elvis.

If Elvis could have gotten out and seen you people and entertained you and everybody else, it could’ve been different, but he was a prisoner of his own success and let’s just say the Colonel got him where he was, but he also put him where he is.

Elvis’ Shopping List

The following list are the items which had to be kept at Graceland

"for Elvis - AT ALL TIMES - EVERY DAY."

- fresh, lean, unfrozen ground meat
- one case regular Pepsi
- one case orange drinks
- rolls (hot rolls - Brown 'n' Serve)
- cans of biscuits (at least six)
- hamburger buns
- pickles
- potatoes and onions
- assorted fresh fruits
- cans of sauerkraut
- wiener
- at least three bottles of milk and 1/2 & 1/2 cream
- thin, lean bacon
- mustard
- peanut butter
- fresh, hand-squeezed cold orange juice
- banana pudding (to be made each night)
- ingredients for meat loaf and sauce
- brownies (to be made each night)
• ice cream - vanilla and chocolate
• shredded coconut
• fudge cookies
• gum (Spearmint, Doublemint, Juicy Fruit - three each)
• cigars (El Producto Diamond Tips & El Producto Altas)
• cigarettes
• Dristan
• Super Anahist
• Contac
• Sulcrets (antibiotic red box)
• Feenamint gum
• matches (four to five books)

This list is taken from the book "The Life and Cuisine of Elvis Presley"

“Elvis was a complex and contradictory type of person. I mean, he had many sides to him.

Elvis could not really bring himself to say I'm sorry to anybody.

If he got mad at them or did something that he knew he shouldn't have done, and he'd get over it in 30 minutes.

But...instead of saying I'm sorry, instead of saying I'm sorry, he'd buy you something...

The only time I ever heard him say I'm sorry, is he said it to me because of an argument, the one and only argument we ever had.

And it shocked me when he did it, because he just didn't do that. He'd go buy you something.”
- Lacker

On March 25th Elvis gave a benefit concert in Hawaii, it was to be his last live performance until 1968, Elvis quit stage performing and spent the next seven years making movies to launch his film career.

May 16th Elvis recorded the early hit of Bob Dylan “Don’t think twice, it's alright” in Nashville Tennessee.
In the early 60’s Elvis had five number #1 hits, they were “It’s now or never”, “Stuck on you”, “Are you lonesome tonight” “Surrender” (1961) also “Good luck charm” (1962)

Reply to being asked whether being a prisoner was sort of counteractive to what Elvis could’ve actually done... “Do you think he was too frightened, or was it instilled in him to be so protected and protective that he dared not go out into the general public?’’

"No, he tried. Even in Las Vegas where people like Frank Sinatra, many of the stars, Sammy Davis - they could go out and pretty well mingle.

They could go down if they wanted to gamble or whatever. People didn’t bother them too much.

But Elvis tried it - once - and the whole casino... everybody stopped playing and came around just to watch and see what he was doing, and he could not get out and do what most people do, and everything had to be at night." - Red West

1964

March 19 Elvis first recorded “Suspicion” on the B site and “Kiss me quick” on the A side of the record which made number #1 in the UK
1965

"Before Elvis there was nothing." John Lennon

August 27 - The Beatles spend the evening talking and playing music with Elvis Presley at his Bel air home.

TS INTERVIEWS RED;
I guess when the British invasion first started to penetrate the charts in the States, Elvis at that time, and you all at that time, must have taken a step back and said to yourselves what’s happening here, we need to reassert our place in the marketplace because all these limeys are coming over and taking our money.

RW -- No, Elvis always said there’s room for everybody. He was never threatened, in fact when he had his home in Bel Air, and I guess everybody knows about when the Beatles came to his house.

It was one of the best, fun times we ever had. We just sat around. Ringo, myself and my cousin played pool.

Ringo was kind of a loner, the rest of them and Elvis sat and chit-chatted all night and had a ball.

The only thing, when he was in the Army, he felt like his hands were tied and everybody was doing their thing when he was in the Army but he said I’ve got this to do, and then I hope they’ll remember me when I get out, but he never wished anybody any bad luck or anything like that.

Maybe you’ve heard he did, but don’t believe it.
1967

On May 1 Presley married Priscilla at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas.

Fearing he had been forgotten, Presley defied Parker and made a comeback television special.

Over the summer he taped the television special that was released on December 3 to high ratings.

Its soundtrack reached #8 and produced his first Top Twenty single "If I Can Dream" (#12, 1968) since 1965.

1968
February 1, 1968 their only child Lisa Marie was born, exactly nine months after the wedding.

June 28 Elvis began taping a Christmas special for NBC Television, dressed in his black leather. He returned back to the top of the American Entertainment scene.

With this success Presley turned to performing in Las Vegas.

1969

On July 26, Presley began a month long appearance at the International Hotel. This set the course for all of his future performances.

His fee for four months was over a $1 million. Riding the crest of the comeback Presley released a series of top singles, including "In the Ghetto," "Suspicious Minds," "Don't Cry Daddy," and The Wonder of You".

Presley began touring again, his shows selling out and frequently breaking box office records.

Two on tour documentaries were released Elvis: That's the Way It Is (1970) and Elvis On Tour (1972), the latter which won the Golden Globe Award for Best Documentary.

Outwardly, Presley was more popular than ever and one of the biggest personality cults in modern history was taking hold.

Off stage Presley was plagued with self doubt, poor management, and a basic dissatisfaction with his life.
He repeatedly threatened to quit show business, but debts and financial obligations to his large extended family, employees, and assorted hangers on made that impossible. Presley turned to drugs.

After leaving the army he became wary of the public and would often rent whole movie theatres and amusement parks that he would visit at night.

By the late Sixties he was an almost total recluse.

Although evidence that Presley began taking drugs shortly after began performing or while in the army, his abuse of prescription drugs increased during the last years of his life.

Through all this he remained highly spiritual and publicly denounced the use of recreational drugs.

**1970**

September 16 Elvis’s sellout series of concerts come to an end at the International Hotel in Las Vegas.

In Elvis’s concerts of the 1970’s he would often wear his ornamented jumpsuits with a cloak, worth thousands of dollars.
Elvis’s suits in the 70s have been said to weigh up to thirty pounds.

1971

July 20 Elvis started a series of stage performances at the Las Vegas International Hotel and at the Sahara Tahoe and finished on September 6

**Paul McCartney:** "The Beatles would’ve happened had he not been around"

**John Lennon:** "Before Elvis there was nothing..."

**Roy Orbison:** "He was the greatest natural talents in the world 'cause he never took lessons..."

**Frank Sinatra:** "I'm just a singer. Elvis was the embodiment of the whole American culture."

**Paul Simon:** "Elvis sang, Bridge Over Trouble Water, with great feeling - like it should've been sung..."

**Mick Jagger:** "No-one but on-one is his equal or ever will be!

**Bruce Springsteen:** "Elvis is my religion. But for him, I'd be selling encyclopedias right now!"

**John Cougar Mellencamp:** "Elvis was a time went rock n roll really meant somethin'!"

1972

June 9 Elvis performed to an audience of 80,000 people in the first of his three concerts in Madison Square Gardens, New York and recorded a live Album
I don’t admire nobody but Elvis Presley. He was the sweetest most humble and nicest man you’d ever meet. 

Muhammad Ali

Meanwhile Presley's personal life had become the subject of countless tabloids.

In February 1972, Presley separated from Priscilla and on his birthday in 1973 filed for divorce.

Less than a week later the TV special Elvis: Aloha from Hawaii was broadcast over satellite to over a billion people in forty countries, an indication of his international appeal although (with the exception of three dates in Canada in 1957 and an impromptu performance in Paris while on leave in 1959)

Presley never performed outside the United States.

During his career Presley had 94 gold singles, three gold EPs, and over 40 gold albums.

His movies grossed over $180 million and millions more were made by the merchandising of Elvis products, the rights which were controlled by Colonel Parker

1973

October 9, Elvis and Priscilla Presley divorce in Santa Monica, California.

Despite deteriorating health, Presley maintained a frantic tour schedule, because in 1973 Colonel Parker negotiated a deal with RCA to the rights of many of his masters in exchange for a lump sum payment of which only 2.8 million came to him.

After 1973, Parker was earning nearly 50% commission.

Worse yet Presley wasn't earning royalties on records recorded before 1973, although they continued to sell millions.

Presley opposed tax shelters on principle; naively relied on his father for business advice; gave away expensive gifts and cash.

The result was by the mid-Seventies was an impending financial disaster.

1977

May/June 26 Elvis Presley gave his final performance in Madison Square Arena at Indianapolis, Indiana.
"’Til we meet you again, may God bless you. Adios.”
-Said in 1977 at the end of a concert during his last tour.

August 6 Elvis sang with friends for the last time. The songs were mostly hymns such as “How Great Thou Art” at his girlfriend Ginger Alden’s house.

**August 16th 1977**

**On this day “The King” Elvis Presley was found dead at his home “Graceland”**.

The day before his next scheduled concert, Presley was discovered by his girlfriend Ginger Alden dead in his bathroom at Graceland.

An unconscious Elvis Presley is rushed to Baptist Memorial Hospital around 3 p.m. Despite efforts to revive him, Presley is subsequently pronounced dead.

His death was attributed to congestive heart failure. A later autopsy revealed advanced hardening of the arteries and an enlarged liver.

Later it was determined that drug abuse may have been a contributing factor.

At a press conference that evening, medical examiner Dr. Jerry Francisco indicates that the cause of death appeared to be "cardiac arrhythmia," noting that, "There was severe cardiovascular disease present."

September 1979 Presley’s private doctor Dr. George Nichopoulos was charged by the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners with indiscriminately prescribing 5,300 and vials in the seven months before his death. He was later acquitted.

Thousands gathered at Graceland where his body lay in state before he was buried in a mausoleum at Forest Hills Cemetery in Memphis.

After attempts to break into the mausoleum, Presley’s body and that of his mother were moved to the Meditation Garden behind Graceland.

Nearly two years later, Vernon died and was also buried there. The estate now passed on to Lisa Marie.

Court battles over the estate ended in June 1983 after twenty one months of litigation with a settlement of four lawsuits.

Colonel Parker was forced to turn over most of his interests in Presley’s audio and visual recordings to RCA and the Presley family in return for a large monetary settlement.
Priscillia Presley assumed control of the estate and through a number of business moves made Presley's estate more valuable than it had ever been.

The cornerstone of the Elvis Presley Enterprise, Inc. financial empire is the Tennessee state law Priscilla Presley pushed for that guarantees to heirs of commercial rights to the deceased celebrity's image and likeness.

*Elvis is the greatest Blues singer in the world today.*
*Joe Cocker*

*Nothing really affected me until I heard Elvis. If there hadn’t been an Elvis, there wouldn’t have been the Beatles.*
*John Lennon*

*Like every artist to emerge during the rock scene Elvis was my influence and my idol.*
*Marty Wilde (Rock’n Roll singer)*

*His two most critically acclaimed films, Jailhouse Rock (1957) and King Creole (1958) have become classics of their era and a Legacy of “The King” for future generations of his fans.*

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The rest of Elvis Presley Biography can be seen at the website.

Simply click on the links below to be taken to that page of the site. (you need to be connected to the internet when you click, to be able to see these pages)

Chapter 4 – The Band Members.

“We do two shows a night for five weeks. A lotta times we’ll go upstairs and sing until daylight - gospel songs. We grew up with it...It more or less puts your mind at ease. It does mine.”

-Talking about the informal jam sessions he and the band and entourage enjoy each night during the lengthy Vegas engagements. These happen upstairs in Elvis’ suite at the Las Vegas Hilton as they all try to “wind down” from the excitement and energy of the live shows. Quote is from a 1972 taped interview used in MGM’s documentary Elvis on Tour

to read the rest, click on the link below:

Chapter 5 – Elvis Presley Girlfriends & the true Loves of his life.

From the beginning of his career, Elvis was a sex symbol who sent legions of women swooning.

He had a string of girlfriends, before and after he became famous, including celebrities such as Mamie Van Doren, Natalie Wood, Tuesday Weld, Cybill Shepherd, Barbra Streisand, Connie Stevens, Nancy Sinatra and Ann-Margret,

“If I slept with every woman the weekly magazines say I have, I would have been dead a long time ago.”
Elvis
to read the rest, click on the link below:

Chapter 6. Memphis Mafia

A newspaper reporter tagged the group with this name during the time Elvis required them to wear dark, Mohair suits to give a respectable appearance.

The guys never objected to the name, the “Memphis Mafia,” Elvis thought it was quite funny, because among themselves they referred to the group as the Guys.

to read the rest, click on the link below:

Chapter 7 – Elvis Presley spirit lives on forever

“I AM WHOLE, I AM WELL, I AM HERE!”

With these shattering words Elvis Presley’s spirit reached across the gulf that separates his world from ours, to communicate with his step brother David Stanley and David’s mother Dee Presley, in a spine-tingling two-hour séance arranged just a few days short of the day when the king of rock died.

to read the rest, click on the link below:

Chapter 8 – Elvis Presley Diary – calendar record of all the milestone events in his life

JANUARY 8, 1935 - 4:35 AM
In Tupelo, Mississippi, Gladys Presley gives birth to identical twin sons. The first, Jesse Garon, is stillborn. The second, Elvis Aaron, is born alive and healthy.

Day by Day calendar of all the events in Elvis Presley’s Biography, right through to ......
AUGUST 16, 1977
Elvis is up early and spends most of the morning attending to tour details: he plans to fly out of Memphis that night for Portland, Maine so that he can rest up for a performance the night of the 17th. At 7:00 am, Elvis decides to lay down in the master bedroom. He is found dead a short time later.

to read the rest, click on the link below:

Elvis Presley Music....

Elvis Presley Music & Directory of songs & Lyrics

click on the link below:

Elvis Presley Movies Directory

Elvis Presley starred in 31 films and 2 movie release life documentaries

His two most critically acclaimed films, Jailhouse Rock (1957) and King Creole (1958) have become classics of their era.

1960 Soundtrack for “GI Blues” was #1 for 10 weeks and stayed in the charts for over 2 years.

Soundtrack for “Blue Hawaii” was #1 for 20 weeks and stayed in the charts for 1 ½ years.

to read the rest, click on the link below:

Famous Quotes by and about Elvis Presley

“Some people tap their feet, some people snap their fingers, and some people sway back and forth. I just sorta do ‘em all together, I guess.”
-Elvis in 1956, famous quote talking about his way of moving on stage.
"I ain't no saint, but I've tried never to do anything that would hurt my family or offend God...I figure all any kid needs is hope and the feeling he or she belongs. If I could do or say anything that would give some kid that feeling, I would believe I had contributed something to the world."
-Elvis commenting to a reporter, 1950's.

“Don’t criticize what you don’t understand, son. You never walked in that man’s shoes.” - Elvis often said this.

to read the rest, click on the link below:

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Would you like to make your own web site, like I have here? I had no experience, but just like me... if you can type a letter and click a mouse, you can create a website!


Elvis Presley FAN’S SURVEY FORM page


Read SURVEY RESPONSES FROM ELVIS PRESLEY FANS:

April 05
First Name: katrene
Country: United States
1. How and when did you first hear about Elvis Presley?: in the late 50's- i was lucky- my parents liked him too-have loved him ever since!
2. What was it that got you hooked on Elvis?: 1957-I was 11
3. If Elvis were alive, what would you like to say to him or ask him?: please do another concert--and i want to be there in the front row--are we sure he isn't alive??
4. WHICH is your favourite Elvis Presley song or movie?: My Way--and American trilogy
    i feel "my way" kinda suits me too-- and the other is just fantastic the way he did it
5. WHY is it your favourite?: two movies--"flaming Star"-shows his true talent like he would have been without colonel parker!! and the one with Ann Margret - the one he should have married!!!
6. Who do you think Elvis loved most in his life, his greatest love?: his Mother and Ann Margret - sent her flowers to every show in Las Vegas
7. Where were you and what were you doing when you heard that Elvis had died?: i was 31-- my Father had just died and Elvis's death added sadness to my already overwhelming grief- the next year my Mother died
8. Why do you think Elvis still attracts new fans every year, even long after his death?: NO ONE will ever be able to replace him-- he WAS and IS the KING!!!!
9. Do you collect Elvis music or memorabilia?:Yes, Music, Movies, Posters, Books, Personal items
10. Every month we select one Survey participant to receive a free copy of our Elvis-Presley-forever.com book version of our site. Would you like to be considered for selection to get a free copy?: Yes
11. How would you rate our Elvis Presley Biography site?: Excellent
12. Do you have any suggestions on how we can improve this site for Elvis's fans?: excellent site- its evident you loved him too!!
7. Where were you and what were you doing when you heard that Elvis had died?: I was 9 years old. Came across the television. Mother and I both cried. Incredibly sad day.

8. Why do you think Elvis still attracts new fans every year, even long after his death?: Because of the man he was. Always took time for the fans, Loved his family with everything he had, music career that is unsurpassed and for how many lives he touched with his music.

9. Do you collect Elvis music or memorabilia? Yes, Music, Movies, Posters, Books, Ceramics, Figurines, Souvenir items

10. Every month we select one Survey participant to receive a free copy of our Elvis-Presley-forever.com book version of our site. Would you like to be considered for selection to get a free copy?: Yes

11. How would you rate our Elvis Presley Biography site? Excellent

12. Do you have any suggestions on how we can improve this site for Elvis's fans?: -

Want to read more Quiz Results?
http://www.elvis-presley-forever.com visit the Home Page for latest surveys received

We really hope you enjoyed the life story of Elvis so far and will visit the site for even more of our Elvis Presley Biography, as introduced in the rest of the Chapters!

Theresea Hughes,
Webmaster,
http://elvis-presley-forever.com

for more Elvis Presley pictures and posters click on the link below.
http://affiliates.allposters.com/link/redirect.asp?item=311707&AID=1412326424&PSTID=0&LTID=1
Some bonus song lyrics for you to sing along with...

"Are You Lonesome Tonight?"

Are you lonesome tonight,
do you miss me tonight?
Are you sorry we drifted apart?
Does your memory stay to a brighter sunny day
When I kissed you and called you sweetheart?

Do the chairs in your parlor seem empty and bare?
Do you gaze at your doorstep and picture me there?
Is your heart filled with pain, shall I come back again?
Tell me dear, are you lonesome tonight?

- Elvis talks:
I wonder if you're lonesome tonight
You know someone said that the world's a stage
And each must play a part.
Fate had me playing in love you as my sweet heart.

Act one was when we met, I loved you at first glance
You read your line so cleverly and never missed a cue
Then came act two, you seemed to change and you acted strange
And why I'll never know.
Honey, you lied when you said you loved me
And I had no cause to doubt you.
But I'd rather go on hearing your lies
Than go on living without you.

Now the stage is bare and I'm standing there
With emptiness all around
And if you won't come back to me
Then make them bring the curtain down.

Elvis sings again:
Is your heart filled with pain, shall I come back again?
Tell me dear, are you lonesome tonight?

"ALWAYS ON MY MIND"

(words & music by wayne thompson - mark james - johnny christopher)

Maybe I didn't treat you
Quite as good as I should have
Maybe I didn't love you
Quite as often as I could have
Little things I should have said and done
I just never took the time

You were always on my mind
You were always on my mind

Tell me, tell me that your sweet love hasn’t died
Give me, give me one more chance
To keep you satisfied, satisfied

Maybe I didn’t hold you
All those lonely, lonely times
And I guess I never told you
I’m so happy that you’re mine
If I make you feel second best
Girl, I’m sorry I was blind

You were always on my mind
You were always on my mind

Tell me, tell me that your sweet love hasn’t died
Give me, give me one more chance
To keep you satisfied, satisfied

Little things I should have said and done
I just never took the time
You were always on my mind
You are always on my mind
You are always on my mind

“SUSPICIOUS MINDS”

(words & music by mark james)

We’re caught in a trap
I can’t walk out
Because I love you too much baby

Why can’t you see
What you’re doing to me
When you don’t believe a word I say?

We can’t go on together
With suspicious minds
And we can’t build our dreams
On suspicious minds

So, if an old friend I know
Drops by to say hello
Would I still see suspicion in your eyes?

Here we go again
Asking where I’ve been
You can’t see these tears are real
I’m crying

We can’t go on together
With suspicious minds
And be can’t build our dreams
On suspicious minds

Oh let our love survive
Or dry the tears from your eyes
Let’s don’t let a good thing die

When honey, you know
I’ve never lied to you
Mmm yeah, yeah

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