

## “A True King”

By Emily Robinson

He was a big hit on the big screen. A big heart throb to all women that listen to his songs. Most of all, he was an “unlikely hero.” He started a new generation of music, dance, and movies. While living the American dream, he became a worldwide phenomenon and a multi millionaire. This was an incredible feat for this “unlikely hero” growing up in a bad part of a rural town in the South. Music and the Baptist church were havens for him, and together, they would help him escape the shackles of poverty and reach success.

To begin with, Aaron had an unconventional childhood; he grew up on the wrong side of town. Because of a friendly push from his teacher, he was able to win a fifth grade talent show. With a win in his pocket, his confidence grew. On his next birthday, he received a guitar. He was so excited that he asked his pastor for lessons. Within one year, he had learned to play. Church music became a big influence on him. In the past, many people thought church was a place of worship. The pastor of Aaron church thought it was a place for music and celebration. It was his influence that encouraged him to sing and play many songs. Because Aaron was so poor, his family lived in a Negro neighborhood. Aaron also attended many black church-services where the theme of church music was played to express emotion and praise of the Lord. Families in black churches used music differently than families in white churches.

When Aaron entered junior high school, the kids labeled him as a loner. He would often bring his guitar to school to play and sing while he ate lunch. Because he lived on the poor side of town, people said he was trashy and played hillbilly music. Kids

made fun of him but that did not matter to Aaron; he enjoyed playing his style of music his way.

As Aaron grew, he continued to explore the many sides of music. He eventually recorded "My Happiness" and "That's When Your Heartaches Begin". These recordings were not very successful, but he had started to assimilate into the world of music. After these recordings, he went back to driving trucks but returned to music again in 1954 when he met Sam Phillips. Sam was a music producer who liked Aaron's sound and style. Aaron was a very deceptive performer. His looks did not match his voice; he was a "white phenomenon with a Negro sound and feel." Sam had him record "Without You" as a demo. Phillips had Aaron record this song many times and each attempt was a failure. Phillips decided to take a risk; he was going to foster Aaron's unique musical talent. Sam introduced Aaron to a new song called "That's All Right." It was the right fit for the rhythm of his voice. Two days later, Memphis disc jockey Dewey Phillips played the song, and the reviews from the radio audience were amazing and blooming with good vibes. By the end of that first night, Aaron was on his way to a sublime career.

Furthermore, Aaron overcame many of the disadvantages from his childhood, and became a famous musician. As soon as his song "That's All Right" went on the radio for the first time, people could not get enough. Everything about him was different. His clothing, his voice, his music, and his performances made him an overnight success. In March of 1955, he appeared in "The Hayride." Thousands of screaming girls flocked to the theater to watch him do his signature moves on stage. In early 1955, his manager quit shortly before Aaron had made his first number one country record, "Mystery Train" and "I Forgot to Forget." Aaron and his new manager sold the

hit songs for thirty-five thousand dollars, which was considered big money in the fifties. Aaron was allotted five thousand dollars from the sale and bought his mom an ornate pink Cadillac.

Also, in 1956, Aaron signed with the recording label RCA. After signing, he was an official star. Unfortunately, not everyone was in love with music's new phenomenon. Teachers, mothers, clergymen, and even other entertainers disapproved of his music. They thought that his music and especially his performance on stage was vulgar and sinful. They were used to more conventional artists who did not "wobble" to the music. In 1957, he added to the controversy when he bought Graceland, which was an old church, and turned it into his private mansion. However he did gain respect from many of his critics when in 1958 he joined the Army. Although he was drafted, he did not let his fame prevent him from serving as an ordinary soldier.

While in the Army, he met his future wife Priscilla and married her on May 1, 1967. On February 1, 1968, he had his first child. Her name was Lisa Marie. Aaron and his family continued to live the life of a superstar for many decades. His music and style was known worldwide. He was a popular performer in Las Vegas as well as a movie star in Hollywood. Sadly, after many hits and years of success, his life came to a tragic end. He had a heart attack while sitting on the toilet and died in his bathroom on August 16, 1977.

In conclusion, this was a memoir of Elvis Presley. He started at rock bottom and shot higher than any other person. He never gave up and surpassed even his own expectations. He was a superstar at a very young age and faced a great deal of pressure as the "King of Rock and Roll." Even though he faced many difficulties in his

life, he was also known for his generosity and kindness. His parents instilled values in him even if many people thought his music was sinful. His life was about enjoying music and playing the kind of music he loved. He succeeded because he did what he loved. He opened the world up to a new kind of music with roots from the Negro community. Elvis's bountiful haven was his joy for learning and creating new music that people loved. His dedication to his art makes him an everyday hero in an unconventional way.

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