

Elvis Presley: The King of Rock and Roll and an Icon of American Culture

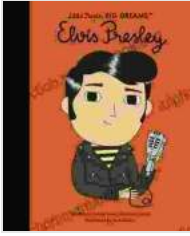


Elvis Presley (Little People, BIG DREAMS)

by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language: English



File size : 10357 KB



Elvis Presley was an American singer and actor who is regarded as one of the most significant cultural figures of the 20th century. Known as the "King of Rock and Roll," Presley's music, stage presence, and personal life had a profound impact on American culture and popular entertainment. This article explores the life and career of Elvis Presley, from his humble beginnings in Tupelo, Mississippi, to his rise to global fame as a rock and roll icon.

Early Life and Influences

Elvis Aaron Presley was born on January 8, 1935, in Tupelo, Mississippi. He was the only child of Vernon Presley, a truck driver, and Gladys Presley, a church choir singer. Presley's family was poor, and he lived in a two-room house with no electricity or running water. Despite these humble beginnings, Presley showed a love for music from an early age.

Presley's early musical influences included gospel music, rhythm and blues, and country music. He began singing in church and at local talent shows, and he won a talent competition at the age of 10. Presley's first experience with rock and roll came when he heard a record by Arthur Crudup, and he was immediately hooked. He began experimenting with

different guitar styles and singing techniques, and he developed a distinctive sound that would soon revolutionize popular music.

Rise to Fame

In 1953, Presley met Sam Phillips, the owner of Sun Records. Phillips was impressed by Presley's energy and talent, and he gave him a contract to record his first single, "That's All Right." The record was a local hit, and it soon caught the attention of RCA Records. In 1955, Presley signed a contract with RCA and released his first major single, "Heartbreak Hotel." The song was a massive success, and it launched Presley's career as a rock and roll star.

Presley's popularity soared in the mid-1950s. He released a string of hit singles, including "Hound Dog," "Don't Be Cruel," and "Jailhouse Rock." He also starred in a series of Hollywood movies, including "Love Me Tender" and "King Creole." Presley's electrifying stage presence and charismatic personality made him a global icon, and he was soon known as the "King of Rock and Roll."

Later Career and Personal Life

In the late 1950s, Presley's career was interrupted by his military service. He spent two years in the U.S. Army, and he was stationed in Germany. After his military service, Presley returned to the music industry and continued to release hit records. However, his personal life became increasingly troubled. He became addicted to prescription drugs, and he developed a weight problem.

In 1967, Presley married Priscilla Beaulieu. They had one daughter, Lisa Marie Presley. The couple divorced in 1973. Presley's health continued to

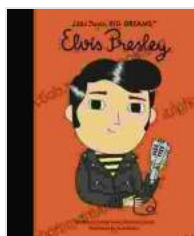
decline in the 1970s. He died on August 16, 1977, at the age of 42, from a heart attack.

Legacy

Elvis Presley's legacy is immense. He is one of the most successful and influential musicians of all time. His music has had a profound impact on American culture and popular entertainment, and he is considered to be one of the most significant cultural figures of the 20th century.

Presley's music continues to be enjoyed by millions of people around the world. He has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Country Music Hall of Fame, and the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. His home in Memphis, Tennessee, Graceland, is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the United States.

Elvis Presley was a true cultural icon. His music, stage presence, and personal life had a profound impact on American culture and popular entertainment. He is considered to be one of the most significant cultural figures of the 20th century, and his legacy continues to live on today.



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