



# **Elvis: My Best Man: Radio Days, Rock 'n' Roll Nights, and My Lifelong Friendship with Elvis Presley**

*George Klein , Chuck Crisafulli*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# Elvis: My Best Man: Radio Days, Rock 'n' Roll Nights, and My Lifelong Friendship with Elvis Presley

*George Klein , Chuck Crisafulli*

## **Elvis: My Best Man: Radio Days, Rock 'n' Roll Nights, and My Lifelong Friendship with Elvis Presley** George Klein , Chuck Crisafulli

When George Klein was an eighth grader at Humes High, he couldn't have known how important the new kid with the guitar—the boy named Elvis—would later become in his life. But from the first time GK (as he was nicknamed by Elvis) heard this kid sing, he knew that Elvis Presley was someone extraordinary. During Elvis's rise to fame and throughout the wild swirl of his remarkable life, Klein was a steady presence and one of Elvis's closest and most loyal friends until his untimely death in 1977.

In *Elvis: My Best Man*, a heartfelt, entertaining, and long-awaited contribution to our understanding of Elvis Presley and the early days of rock 'n' roll, George Klein writes with great affection for the friend he knew—about who the King of Rock 'n' Roll really was and how he acted when the stage lights were off. This fascinating chronicle of boundary-breaking and music-making through one of the most intriguing and dynamic stretches of American history overflows with insights and anecdotes from someone who was in the middle of it all. From the good times at Graceland to hanging out with Hollywood stars to butting heads with Elvis's iron-handed manager, Colonel Tom Parker, to making sure that Elvis's legacy is fittingly honored, GK was a true friend of the King and a trailblazer in the music industry in his own right.

*From the Hardcover edition.*

## **Elvis: My Best Man: Radio Days, Rock 'n' Roll Nights, and My Lifelong Friendship with Elvis Presley Details**

Date : Published (first published November 19th 2009)

ISBN :

Author : George Klein , Chuck Crisafulli

Format : Kindle Edition 322 pages

Genre : Biography, Music, Nonfiction

 [Download Elvis: My Best Man: Radio Days, Rock 'n' Roll ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Elvis: My Best Man: Radio Days, Rock 'n' Ro ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Elvis: My Best Man: Radio Days, Rock 'n' Roll Nights, and My Lifelong Friendship with Elvis Presley George Klein , Chuck Crisafulli**

---

## **From Reader Review Elvis: My Best Man: Radio Days, Rock 'n' Roll Nights, and My Lifelong Friendship with Elvis Presley for online ebook**

### **Maame says**

Four stars for me! It is apparent that Elvis has one of the best vocals to have ever been heard on radio in American History. He is known for being the King of Rock and Roll. This book is a great read for Elvis fans, music buffs, and enthusiasts. The authors of this book did a great job writing it. I was not bored at all reading the book. Although it was meant to be a biography about Elvis I really enjoyed getting to learn about George Klein as well. He definitely had an exciting life as a disc jockey!

What I love about the book is how George Klein shares his experiences on encounters he had with Elvis's manager Colonel Parker. I don't want to give too much info away for the sake of the future readers. Let's just say they but heads A LOT when it came to Elvis creative control. The book definitely highlights what can happen to the greatest artists of our time--highs and lows. You have to be careful who you hire as managers. I'm an independent artist and I am always networking and I encounter many moments when I meet aspiring musicians who want to get into the business but they have no idea what they are getting into. The reasons why is because they don't read books, they don't watch their favorite artists interviews, and they don't research. Without learning the business for yourself is how you make some of the mistakes Elvis has made such as (view spoiler).

What I did not like about the book is I felt that the author made too many excuses for poor decisions Elvis made in his life AND I did not like how Elvis treated women. The feminist in me was screaming the entire time. I was so tempted to rate the book three stars because of it. Some Elvis fans are going to hate me for saying this but it's my review so, oh well...I never really understood what the big deal was about Elvis. I never understood why he is the King and why America loves him so much. These reasons inspired me to want to read the book. If we want to be really honest the history books will tell you who invented Rock & Roll...it was Sister, (yes a sister) Rosetta Tharpe. She inspired artists Chuck Berry and Little Richard who cultivated the sound to interest the ears of artists like Elvis Presley and the rest was history. Don't get me wrong I've listened to his music and he has some good tunes. But outside of those good tunes I didn't really feel connected to his legacy like I do with other artists other than him being a good guy to his friends. He's been in a lot of movies so I will watch those next to see if it changes anything for me. Right now what I can think of that would make people call Elvis the King is that he's been in so many Rock & Roll movies and has so many Rock and Roll hits that it helped shaped pop culture before the MTV era began.

Overall that is my review and why I'm giving it four stars.

---

### **Denise Sheets says**

#### **Fantastic!!**

If you are an Elvis fan, you will love this book! The absolute best one I have read! Kept my attention from beginning to end. Enjoy!

---

### **Karen says**

Interesting to read about Elvis from the perspective of a friend of his. I know there was another book published by 3 other people but it was unfavourable and widely panned.

---

### **Patrick L McCloskey says**

Very entertaining. Easy to read. Interesting anecdotes from someone who obviously over The King.

---

### **Charles Eddy says**

#### **Great Book**

Have been a Elvis fan all my life and have read every book on Elvis that I could get my hands on, but this book by far is the best!! I read a lot of books, when you feel like you are right there, you know it is well written. Thank You GK

---

### **pam couch says**

#### **Love**

Great book. Loved the insider view. Big Elvis fan. Can't wait to go to Memphis and see the sites I read about.

---

### **Nick Van says**

A good read. Informative and revealing, but not disrespectful or sordid. On some points, there is a bit of doubt as to how true some of Klein's claims are, but those aren't enough to take away from the overall enjoyment of the subject, or of the author's presentation of it.

---

### **Kenneth Summers says**

#### **Best book I've read about Elvis**

I've read a few books about Elvis and I found this one to be the best because it was written by a friend.

---

### **Mitch McCracken says**

There have been many books written about the King of Rock and Roll before and after his death. I have yet to find one that not only talks about what he did but what he was like when the spotlight is turned off. What George Klein shows us isn't a tale of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll like other books about Elvis. Klein holds off on all of that, preferring to paint a picture of Presley the man. The Elvis he knew we get to see for the first time.

Klein admits in the author's note that right after Elvis' death he was offered a fair amount of money to write a tell all, he passed on that.

Now Presley's best friend from the eighth grade until his final days, GK as Elvis called him, has written the book that you have been waiting to read. Why now? According to George it's because "Now, I'm old enough to know that I won't always be around to speak of the Elvis I knew."

George Klein, in addition to being Elvis' friend and a proud member of the "Memphis Mafia" was also one of the top disc jockeys in Memphis. In his hometown GK was known for those two things and for his generosity to Memphis musicians trying to make a name for themselves as host of Talent Party, Memphis' version of American Bandstand.

George knew Elvis better than anyone outside the Presley family. He was more than just a voice on the radio in Memphis playing Elvis' music. He was the King's traveling companion in the early days and was on the movie sets with him. This book is as close as you will ever get to knowing what Elvis was really like.

In his book George takes you from his High School days with Elvis and the many ups and downs of Elvis' career. You get an incredible inside view of what was happening behind the scenes, how Presley coped with the death of his beloved mother, Gladys, whom Klein calls "the anchor in his crazy life." Read about Elvis' interactions with other celebrities like Ann-Margret, James Brown, Steve McQueen, Nancy Sinatra and Nat King Cole. Elvis: My Best Man also hits on the major points in Presley's life, including his marriage and divorce from Priscilla; his time in the Army; his movie and music careers.

Elvis was no doubt the greatest star who ever lived, he was the definition of "Superstar". But he was much more than a movie star and the King of Rock and Roll. He was funny, smart, generous and kind. You get to see that through his friend's eyes.

Just how generous Elvis was is mind boggling. How someone with that much fame and fortune could be so caring and compassionate is amazing to read about.

Here's what those close to Elvis are saying about Elvis: My Best Man-

'George, bravo! I learned some new things about you and your life, especially the earlier years. I feel you capture the essence of Elvis not only in dialogue, but also in giving the reader a sense of his personality, humor, and his spirit of play... I know that Elvis would be proud that you've remained his loyal and lifelong friend.' Priscilla Presley

'George was with Elvis from the beginning. He personally knows the story.' - Dick Clark

'George Klein is something else. Through the years, George has been right there. He's got the great stories and he's always talked about Elvis and presented him with great dignity.' Tom Petty

'GK was there from the beginning, and there 'til the end. This book is fact.' - Jerry Lee Lewis

'GK was one of the most important friends and confidants of Elvis Presley ... This book captures all the excitement of the birth of rock 'n' roll, and reminds us of the very significant roles that Elvis and GK played

as rock 'n' roll pioneers.' - Jerry Schilling

Elvis: My Best Man is a must read for every Elvis fan from the original Ambassador of Memphis Music, George Klein.

---

### **Susan Callicoatt says**

This book was written by a long time friend who was with Elvis from 8th grade till his death. Very touchingly written. Didn't go into sordid details but seemed to be truthful. It was a treat to read the details of how Elvis was a true friend and how much he enjoyed being Elvis.

---

### **Billy says**

**“ ELVIS “ Multi-talented, Original & Unique, yet humble.**

I admire the manner the author chose to relate his relationship With Elvis Presley starting with the last two years in High School In Memphis, TN up to the day of Elvis's demise in 1977. Where some would be boastful, this author named George Kline Relays the story in a humble fashion often stating he was ever so Fortunate Elvis chose to like and be a good friend to him. The major portion of the book transpires in the late 1950's.

I can't recall reading anything surprising, it was interesting to Find the many everyday problems that face all of us regardless Of our assets and life style.

---

### **Alexina says**

This memoir impressed me because it's very clear that George Klein was a close friend of Elvis Presley until the day he died and George was quite candid about many of the stories he shared about Elvis.

I like the setup particularly because the prologue begins in a more advanced state of the timeline of GK and Elvis' friendship and then reverts back to the beginning and eventually reaches back to the point of the

prologue to then continue the rest of the story.

There were some anecdotes that literally made me laugh out loud at some of the antics Elvis, GK, and the rest of the Memphis Mafia created and it was evident that they were all a tight group.

GK presents the happy and dark moments in Elvis' life and the life of a celebrity rockstar in general: the good, the bad, the ugly, the sad, etc. He portrays a very real image of Elvis--as humanistic as possible--rather than a giant, untouchable idol that people might automatically think of. It's sad and poignant yet heart-warming.

"I've come to believe that if Mrs. Presley had loved a full life, Elvis would be with us today."

That's the line that stuck with me the most because it was so heartfelt and sad. Sometimes I get caught on the "what-ifs" and "what could have beens" so, naturally, it's the one line I can't get out of my head from this one.

Readers will absolutely hate the Colonel even more. And probably wonder why someone as fiesty and spirited as Elvis would listen to the guy. But, GK does also help you see why the Colonel was good at what he did.

---

### **Keith Caserta says**

This is an outstanding book! It captures the joys, challenges, humor, disappointments, commitments, and pathos associated with a life-long friendship with one of the giant personalities of the 20th century. George Klein was there from the beginning. He gives a balanced, insightful, "insiders" view of the real, human Elvis and the friends and acquaintances who surrounded him. In a completely enjoyable narrative, he pulls the reader into the birth pangs of rock 'n roll, the society that surrounded it, the heroic efforts and disappointments, the influences and the interpretation of this new sound by the great personalities of its founding. George's personal experiences add color and sensitivity to everything else that was going on. His devotion to his "best friend" is evident, but balanced with his own ethical views of the events in the whirlwind life Elvis led. This is an excellent work by a devoted friend about his friend. It's intermixed with tales both light-hearted and serious. I dare you to put it down.

---

### **Dee Ardonne says**

#### **At last...Elvis exposed!**

At last, Elvis is exposed as the loving, generous, caring, humble, insightful man he truly was. Memories of everyday life and intimate conversations with Elvis shared in a way that only a BEST friend could, Unlike many of the self-proclaimed "best friends" of Elvis, George Klein does not dwell on Elvis' weaknesses and flaws. He acknowledges them and accepts them without allowing these weaknesses to define who the real Elvis was. G.K., as he was affectionately called by Elvis, shares his most precious memories with his readers, leaving the reader feeling as though they too had known Elvis personally. What an incredible gift we've been given by G.K. Thank you for sharing your prized memories of Elvis with us.

---

## **dianeblackwell says**

### **Honestly Elvis**

I felt George Klein provided interested readers a detailed account into the history of ELvis. Readers are taken back to the very beginning of Elvis' career and are shown the man, Elvis Presley, in his everyday life whether on stage or off. GK digs into the many personalities that constantly surrounded Elvis. I enjoyed learning more about Tom Parker, and Caroline Kennedy was a real surprise! Mr. Klein offers a heartfelt view of a long term friendship between two men who shared a love of music and respect for those less fortunate. But more than that, this book tells about the life of a Jewish radio man and his enduring love and respect for the king of rock and roll. I found the book to be highly entertaining even for those who weren't Elvis fans. As for me, Elvis will always be the king of rock and roll!

---