

ELVIS PRESLEY - SIDE 1

START

ELVIS

Ms. Kessler, what are you doing here? Who's watching the recording studio?

SAM

No one. First day in history Sun Records is closed.

MARION

It's not every day we get one of our local boys on the Hayride. We weren't going to miss it for the world, were we Dixie?

STAGE MANAGER

Everyone...please, we need you off the stage!

SAM

Alright. Here we go.

ELVIS

Mr. Phillips, can I have two minutes?

SAM

Oh lord...two minutes, son. Then backstage. This is an important night!

ELVIS

Yes, sir.

(ALL exit leaving ELVIS and DIXIE alone on stage)

DIXIE

Surprise.

ELVIS

You're incredible. You drove all the way over?

DIXIE

When your high school sweetheart's playin' the Hayride, aint nothing gonna stop a girl from bein' there.

ELVIS

I feel like my heart is gonna jump outta my chest.

DIXIE

All for little ol' me?

ELVIS

I'm serious Dix. This isn't my usual crowd. What if they hate me?

DIXIE

You're cute when you're nervous.

ELVIS

Come on. I'm serious.

DIXIE

And you're cute when you're serious. How did I get so lucky?

(she tousles his hair – ELVIS grabs her wrist and wraps his arms around her then softly in her ear)

ELVIS

Whatdoyasay we get out of here. Just...disappear. Don't tell anyone. Go right out that door, down to the preacher, get married, and start our normal lives together.

(DIXIE doesn't know if she should take him seriously, then takes ELVIS and kisses him...he looks her in the eye)

DIXIE

Hmmmm. Not a chance. You been dreamin' 'bout this your whole life. Just promise me one thing.

ELVIS

What's that?

DIXIE

Nothin's gonna change you from being my cute, truck drivin', delivery boy.

ELVIS

Never.

(DIXIE smiles...beat)

DIXIE

Elvis? *(he turns back to her)*. They're gonna love you...just like..."I do."

(ELVIS smiles and before he can respond, SAM enters) **END**

~~STAGE MANAGER~~

~~Miss, Off the stage--now. Over here, over here, with the rest of the girls.~~

~~*(DIXIE is asked to the side of the stage without regard. Then to the guys--)*~~

ELVIS PRESLEY - SIDE 2

SCENE 6

1964--THE CEMETARY. GLADYS' GRAVE.

(ELVIS is standing at GLADYS' grave. KID ELVIS looks on from afar.)

START

Read the scene - skip the songs

ELVIS

How you doin', mama? Sure do miss you.

(beat as he picks the weeds away from the flowers)

I hope you like the statue we got for ya. I thought it was kinda nice that it has two angels at the bottom here. I was thinking that they were like your two babies, you know.

(beat)

Business is doin' good. We all been real busy with what the Col.'s got planned and all. I'm workin' hard on being a serious actor so he's got me several movies lined up with albums to go with'em. I've been spending lots of time out there in Hollywood and..well...well, I'm sorry I haven't had a chance to visit as much as before, you know.

(beat)

Daddy...well, he's been real busy too and Graceland...it just ain't the same.

(VERNON enters)

VERNON

It's real nice, ain't it?

ELVIS

It looks good.

(beat)

VERNON

You know Dee would like to spend a bit more time. Get to know you better.

ELVIS

I've been real busy and all.

(beat)

VERNON

When you headed back?

ELVIS

A couple days. Me and the boys are gonna drive back out there.

VERNON

'Cilla goin' with ya?

ELVIS

Nah. She don't belong in Hollywood.

VERNON

Why don't you stick around for a while?

ELVIS

Other than comin' here, there ain't much for me, Daddy.

VERNON

(beat)

You know, Dee and I are gonna take a little trip over to Huntsville. Visit her brother.

ELVIS

...that's nice...

VERNON

We'll be takin' her kids with us, if we can ever get them out of the pool.

(beat)

So we were thinking, once we get to Huntsville that uh...we - Dee and I, might go and...you know, make it official.

(Awkward pause. Both ELVIS and KID ELVIS freezes upon hearing this.)

So if you want to join us -

KID ELVIS

Don't you think it's a bit early for that?

ELVIS

I...I don't want to be a distraction.

VERNON

Suit yourself.

(ELVIS walks back towards Gladys's grave. VERNON and KID
ELVIS look on.)

ELVIS

Make sure you have fresh flowers here every day. These ones are looking real beat up.

(VERNON exits)

END

ELVIS

(a capella)

FOR MY DARLIN', I LOVE YOU

ELVIS AND KID ELVIS

AND I ALWAYS WILL

ELVIS PRESLEY - SIDE 3

START

ELVIS (CONT'D)

Stop. This is rock and roll. Hit it harder. Ya'll sound like your auditioning for Pat Boone's band.

(to RONNIE)

Ronnie..snare AND floor tom. Both of 'em. Together. You got two sticks, don't ya? Try usin' both. You'd be surprised the sound you get.

Come on...

One...two...three...

WELL A HARD HEADED WOMAN
A SOFT HEARTED MAN

(ELVIS cuts it off again)

(to JERRY)

Glen...

JERRY

(under his breath)

It's Jerry.

ELVIS

What'd you say?

JERRY

Nothin'.

ELVIS

Slide off the notes. Don't just thump 'em. You gotta feel those hits, man.

Let's go...

One...two...three...

WELL A HARD HEADED WOMAN

(ELVIS stops it yet again)

No, no, no, no. Ya'll - it's like my head tingles and I wanna throw someone out that window.

(to GLEN)

Glen. What's with the clean sound? How many times have I said crank the damn drive.

ELVIS (CONT'D)

(to all)

Come on guys, I can't do everyone's job! You're supposed to be the "specialists." Then how come none of you sound special until I tell you what to play!? Huh!? Again.

One...two...three...

WELL A HARD HEADED WOMAN
A SOFT HEARTED MAN

(it sounds a lot better)

BEEN THE CAUSE OF TROUBLE
EVER SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN

OH YEAH

BAND

(OH YEAH)

ELVIS

EVER SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN
A HARD HEADED WOMAN BEEN
A THORN IN THE SIDE OF MEN

ADAM TOLD TO EVE
"LISTEN HERE TO ME
DON'T YOU LET ME CATCH YOU
MESSIN' ROUND THAT APPLE TREE"

(ELVIS cuts it off again. This time he thinks for a sec. Singing the song quietly in his head. Thinking how to make it better. Then--)

ELVIS

(to RONNIE)

Ron. Keep it going. Through the second verse. Keep the drums going.

GLEN

So, no stopping in the second verse?

ELVIS

You guys stop. Just me and Ron. Top of the second verse. Here we go.

One...two...three...

~~ADAM TOLD TO
"LISTEN HERE TO ME
DON'T YOU LET ME CATCH YOU~~ ELVIS (CONT'D)

(ELVIS stops it)

Nah man nah. It's gotta be snare on one AND two. Not two and four.

(JERRY and GLEN look at each other, semi-confused. Where is he going with this.)

Let me hear it. Go. One and two.

(RONNIE plays and it's a little sloppy)

GLEN

It ain't gonna work that way, man. One and two on the snare.

JERRY

Yeah, you want rock and roll and that ain't rock and roll. You need the backbeat on one.

ELVIS

Hey Ron? Who's name is on the record label? Does it say "The Reject Band" or does it say something different?

RONNIE

It says Elvis.

ELVIS

I'm sorry, I couldn't hear you.

RONNIE

(Louder)

It's says Elvis.

ELVIS

(beat as he looks at the guys)

I decide what rock and roll is and isn't.

(silence)

Let's go.

(RONNIE plays. Better, not amazing though. ELVIS stops.)

ELVIS (CONT'D)

Ride. It's gotta be ride. Keep the snare there but double the bass drum on the ride. On the bell. Alright. Horns too. Here we go.

One...two...three...

WELL A HARD HEADED WOMAN
A SOFT HEARTED MAN
BEEN THE CAUSE OF TROUBLE
EVER SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN

OH YEAH

BAND

(OH YEAH)

ELVIS

EVER SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN
A HARD HEADED WOMAN BEEN
A THORN IN THE SIDE OF MAN

ADAM TOLD TO EVE
"LISTEN HERE TO ME

It's amazing!

DON'T YOU LET ME CATCH YOU
MISSIN' ROUND THAT APPLE TREE"

OH YEAH

BAND

(OH YEAH)

ELVIS

EVER SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN, A HUH HO
A HARD HEADED WOMAN BEEN
A THORN IN THE SIDE OF MAN

I GOT A WOMAN
A HEART LIKE A ROCK
IF SHE EVER WENT AWAY
I'D CRY AROUND THE CLOCK

OH YEAH

~~(OH YEAH)~~ ~~BAND~~
~~EVER SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN, A HUH HO~~ ~~ELVIS~~
~~(ELVIS stops it again)~~

ELVIS
Nah, nah. It still ain't right, man. Still ain't right.

(ELVIS grabs his head in frustration. He can't figure out what's wrong.)

GLEN
(quietly to JERRY)
I thought it sounded fantastic.

ELVIS
What did you say?

GLEN
Nothin', boss. I didn't say nothin'.

ELVIS
You think THAT sounded good?! THAT?!?

GLEN
Yeah, boss. I thought your ideas made the song--

ELVIS
No one's interested in what YOU think, man. Contrary to what you may have thought, you weren't hired to give your opinion. You were hired to make what's in my head come through that amp...and that amp...and those drums. And it's obvious ain't none of you are capable of comin' near that. I ain't your third grade music teacher who has time to spell everything out for you. Get out, now.

(They're shocked and don't move.)

I said, *get the fuck out!*

(They leave, leaving their gear behind.)

ELVIS (CONT'D)

(berating them as they leave)

Professional musicians, my ass. Can't even play a simple three-chord song. 100 fuckin' takes.

END