

GLADYS - SIDE 1

(beat)

(re: the band)

Shame, what they did to ya.

(COL. PARKER exits)

(ELVIS, with his acoustic guitar, looks around, unsure of what to do. Lights up on GLADYS and ELVIS in Tupelo, 1946. KID ELVIS is strumming the same song on his guitar and GLADYS is sitting next to him.)

#9 AURA LEE/LOVE ME TENDER

GLADYS

SAT AND LOCKED, I HEARD HIM SING
SINGING AURA LEE

GLADY AND KID ELVIS

AURA LEE, AURA LEE
MAID WITH GOLDEN HAIR
SUNSHINE CAME ALONG WITH THEE
AND SWALLOWES IN THE AIR

KID ELVIS

MMM, MMM, MMM, MMM
MMM, MMM, MMM
MMM, MMM, MMM, MMM, MMM

START

GLADYS

That song is coming along nicely, baby. Even better than yesterday.

KID ELVIS

Where does that song come from, Mama?

GLADYS

Oh, your Granddady used to sing me that song when I was your age. But you sing it way better than he did.

KID ELVIS

One day, when I'm a famous singer, maybe I'll sing that song.

GLADYS

(She smiles)

Maybe you will.

KID ELVIS

And you know...those famous people, they have a lot of money, so...I'm gonna do somethin' for ya.

GLADYS

What you gonna do baby?

KID ELVIS

I'm gonna buy you a car...a new one - no, I'm gonna buy two cars - a pair - matching Cadillacs...one for you and one for Daddy.

GLADYS

O-K...well, just remember, when you're some kind of big singing star...promise me you're gonna remember what got you there.

KID ELVIS

Yes, mama.

(They hug)

GLADYS

Alright now, go on and get into bed.

END

(KID ELVIS walks off into the next room. We're back in the recording studio.)

ELVIS

LOVE ME TENDER, LOVE ME SWEET
NEVER LET ME GO
YOU HAVE MADE MY LIFE COMPLETE
AND I LOVE YOU SO

ELVIS (CONT'D)

LOVE ME TENDER, LOVE ME TRUE
ALL MY DREAMS FULFILLED
FOR MY DARLING, I LOVE YOU
AND I ALWAYS WILL

ELVIS

Print that.

GLADYS - SIDE 2

SCENE 5

1945 ELVIS' BOYHOOD HOME, SHAKE RAG, TUPELO, MS.

START

GLADYS

Elvis! Elvis!! Where are you?!?

(KID ELVIS comes running in from the backyard. GLADYS grabs his hand and yanks him out of the front door. They make it to the outside door of their storm cellar.)

KID ELVIS

I'm here, mama. I'm here!.

GLADYS

Get this door open. Hurry!

(The two of them manage to open the storm cellar door and get inside. GLADYS comforts KID ELVIS.)

GLADYS

It's okay, baby. It's all gonna be okay.

KID ELVIS

Mama, I'm scared for Daddy. Do you think he's safe?

GLADYS

Of course he's safe. Them guards may be rough on them prisoners, but they sure as shortcake keep them safe so they can be up and workin' bright and early the next morning. And even if they didn't...your father is stronger than any tornado. He's fine.

KID ELVIS

Are you mad?

GLADYS

Can't be, baby. You gotta expect these things when you live down here. Can't get mad at no storm.

KID ELVIS

No. I mean...at daddy. You know...for goin' to prison and all. Leavin' us.

GLADYS

Mad? I ain't mad at your daddy. There are worse things a man can do than go forgin' a check so he can feed his family. He may be in trouble with the law...but not with God. No one got hurt and we ain't never gone hungry. And your daddy is payin' the price for it now. But he's doin' it for you and me. Don't you ever forget that.

See...love makes you do crazy things, sometimes. Makes you do things you'd never dreamt of. Makes ya act silly and sometimes it forces you to make some hard choices.

Your daddy loves you, and he loves me, and I know as sure as the Lord rose on the third day...that ain't never gonna change.

(she whispers to him)

Never.

END

GLADYS - SIDE 3

SCENE 16
HOSPITAL/GLADYS' ROOM

(light up on GLADYS' room)

FEMALE V.O.

Dr. Davis, telephone, please. Dr. Davis, telephone.

(ELVIS enters GLADYS' room in military uniform. GLADYS lies in bed.... ELVIS removes his army cap and approaches her bed)

START

ELVIS

Hey, Mama.

GLADYS

What are you doin' here?

ELVIS

Don't you worry about that. How ya feelin'?

GLADYS

Well, I'd have to feel better in order to die.

(KID ELVIS enter. GLADYS's joke eases the tension a little)

ELVIS

Oh come now, Mama. You just need your rest.

GLADYS

I don't think so, baby. Not this time.

ELVIS

Mama, don't talk like that.

(beat...ELVIS looks out the window)

I see the pink Cadillac is parked out here.

GLADYS

I had your daddy park it out my window. I sure do love lookin' at it. I like it special, 'cause you gave it to me.

(they smile)

It reminds me of a lot of times and everything we been through...where we come from and where you got to.

ELVIS

It's something else, huh?

GLADYS

When I had your brother and you, it was God's will that only one of you was gonna make it. And it's said that when one twin dies, the one that lives gets all the strength of both. It's deep inside of you and it's guided you through this life. I need you to promise me one thing, baby.

ELVIS

Yes, Mama.

GLADYS

You've made more money than you can spend in this lifetime. Now...go find what brings you the deepest joy, love...peace...cause as I lay here facing my god, the truth of life is that - it's only the memories you can take with you.

(ELVIS is starting to be overcome with the reality that GLADYS is dying)

Now. Sing for your mama. You know. My favorite song.

ELVIS

(shaking his head...in tears)

I...I can't.

(GLADYS takes his hand in hers, kisses his hand, and places it on her heart)

GLADYS

Sing.

(ELVIS opens his mouth slightly, he tries but he can't sing. When KID ELVIS begins singing, ELVIS acknowledges his presence.)

END

#11 PEACE IN THE VALLEY (ACT I FINALE)

~~KID ELVIS~~

~~*(a capella)*~~

~~I'M TIRED AND SO LONELY
BUT I MUST GO ALONE~~