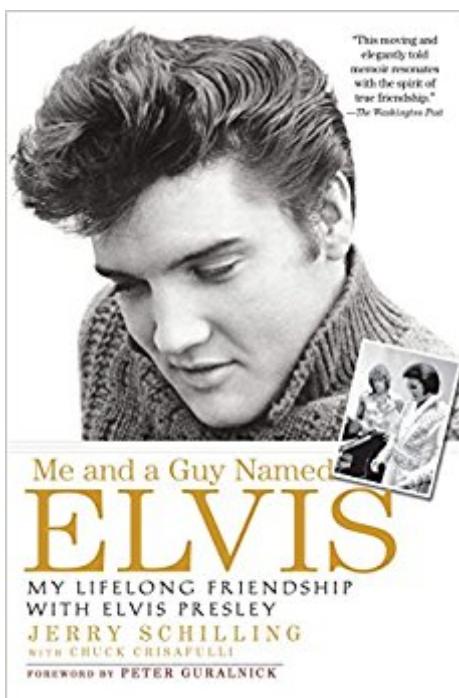


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Me And A Guy Named Elvis: My Lifelong Friendship With Elvis Presley



Synopsis

On a lazy Sunday in 1954, twelve-year-old Jerry Schilling wandered into a Memphis touch football game, only to discover that his team was quarterbacked by a nineteen-year-old Elvis Presley, the local teenager whose first record, "That's All Right," had just debuted on Memphis radio. The two became fast friends, even as Elvis turned into the world's biggest star. In 1964, Elvis invited Jerry to work for him as part of his "Memphis Mafia," and Jerry soon found himself living with Elvis full-time in a Bel Air mansion and, later, in his own room at Graceland. Over the next thirteen years Jerry would work for Elvis in various capacities — from bodyguard to photo double to co-executive producer on a karate film. But more than anything else he was Elvis's close friend and confidant: Elvis trusted Jerry with protecting his life when he received death threats, he asked Jerry to drive him and Priscilla to the hospital the day Lisa Marie was born and to accompany him during the famous "lost weekend" when he traveled to meet President Nixon at the White House. *Me and a Guy Named Elvis* looks at Presley from a friend's perspective, offering readers the man rather than the icon — including insights into the creative frustrations that lead to Elvis's abuse of prescription medicine and his tragic death. Jerry offers never-before-told stories about life inside Elvis's inner circle and an emotional recounting of the great times, hard times, and unique times he and Elvis shared. These vivid memories will be priceless to Elvis's millions of fans, and the compelling story will fascinate an even wider audience.

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Customer Reviews

In 1954, at age 12, Schilling first met fellow Memphis homeboy Presley, a 19-year-old truck driver "a year out of high school and less than a week into a recording career that carried no guarantee of turning into steady work." He provides a fascinating view of Memphis in the late '50s, but most of his memoir is from after 1964, when he officially joined the retinue of friends—*the "Memphis Mafia"*—that served as Elvis's surrogate family. While this thoroughly enjoyable book deftly describes his many adventures with Elvis and other notables, including the Beatles, Ann-Margret, the Beach Boys and Billy Joel, the heart of it is his many observations of Elvis's inner exploration. Unlike the rest of Elvis's posse, Schilling was liberal in his musical and racial views, and he shared Elvis's spiritual hunger "for a sense of meaning and purpose." Schilling provides the most detailed account yet of the sometimes comical LSD trip he took with Presley, and he poignantly observes the "disappointment and frustration" Elvis felt about his Hollywood movies. Overall, Schilling's heartfelt narrative makes this more than just another piece of Elvis product. (Aug.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

When 12-year-old Schilling was invited to join the older kids in their football game, he was surprised to learn that the guy calling the plays was the singer of "That's All Right (Mama)," a song currently tearing up the airwaves. Schilling eventually joined Presley's entourage, the Memphis Mafia, a close-knit group of bodyguards, road managers, and confidants. He had the difficult task of trying to be a true friend without becoming a yes-man or a pain in the ass. In 1977 he was one of Presley's pallbearers and later joined Elvis Presley Enterprises as creative affairs director, whose job was to protect Presley's image and legacy. Schilling's account of his years with Presley joins the ever-growing body of work written by associates (Elvis: What Happened, 1977; Good Rockin' Tonight, 1994; Elvis' Man Friday, 1994), sharing anecdotes, gossip, and insights into what made Elvis Elvis. Schilling portrays an incredibly successful, talented, charismatic, spiritual, and moody force prone to acts of extreme generosity (he paid for Schilling's West Hollywood Hills home) who was ultimately a tragic figure whose short life was beset by constant creative disappointment. Benjamin SegedinCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I had the honor of meeting Jerry Schilling in Tupelo, Mississippi in June 2015. What a kind and nice man. He is just as gentle as his voice (if you've ever heard him speak either in person or on Elvis satellite radio). It was awesome to finally meet one of Elvis's best friends.

Really enjoyed reading this. Jerry seems to be good hearted unlike the ones who profited from revenge by their book. Really the best Elvis book I have read to date.

A true story from a Memphian who was welcomed into Elvis's private life because of his ability to respect Elvis and his need for privacy. Mr Schilling loved Elvis and ventured out of the security living off Elvis by going out on his own and working various jobs to become self-reliant. His story is honest and heart warming and takes the reader with him through many great times with Elvis. A great read and told with utmost respect for "The King". I give this book 5 stars

..What a Joy it is to experience JERRY SCHILLING's fully loving and grateful respect for ELVIS in his stirring book ..'A Guy Named ELVIS: My Lifelong Friendship with Elvis Presley'..!! ELVIS represents LOVE to so many around the world, particularly at Christmas Time it seems. As a 20 year joyfully dancin' Greeting 'ELVIS' SANTA, in our annual month long Chino Christmas Lights exhibition Season, I was blessed to receive back the LOVE of 1,000's for ELVIS nightly for 20 years. This all came from nightly incoming visitors from all over Southern California and beyond to enjoy our bright Christmas Lights neighborhood display. On starting out in my dancing for them in the early 1980's, in traffic of course, visitors kept thanking me for all we were doing for them every year. When I responded with .."You're welcome, VERY MUCH" ..like ELVIS would.. they gleefully opened up with "Oh, it's ELVIS!" For them ELVIS = LOVE in a Season of LOVE!!! And so his loving "ALOHA from Hawaii" TV Concert spirit just came alive in me, joyfully dancin' away for everyone in ELVIS's truly loving "ALOHA" Spirit way ..often without music. This helped shape my own joyful heart as well over the years. I have now learned that this same Season of LOVE spirit was ever present at Christmas Time with ELVIS and his close ones at Graceland back when he was alive ..and ever since. I was blessed, in the Mid-1990's, to personally share all this with a most graceful of men, one..JERRY SCHILLING. He was shipping ELVIS's 1st Mercedes Limousine to Hawaii via my Matson Lines Auto Shipping Terminal at the Port of Los Angeles. This ELVIS Limousine was going to be on exhibition for a month in a Museum in Honolulu and then be shipped back. This process resulted in JERRY and I sharing a couple of deep long conversations in my office about ..the meaning of all this LOVE for ELVIS we personally experienced in our own way, for we are all very dearly LOVED. For you see ..ELVIS helped us all really feel it, Man! Through this wonderful book, I now know that this was much like the comfortably deep long conversations JERRY SCHILLING often shared with ELVIS and his loving daughter LISA MARIE over the years, with JOHN LENNON,

with The Beach Boys' CARL WILSON, with BILLY JOEL, with JERRY LEE LEWIS, with U-2's BONO etc. It also fit his own gracefulness while visiting the White House Oval Office with ELVIS in 1970.Thanks, JERRY SCHILLING, for sharing your personal insights on some truly alive and loving American History for us all to enjoy ..1st person. Just for the LOVE of it!!! And.."E - Thanks for Everything.""**ALOHA RONNIE**" Guyer

It's honest, it's touching, it's funny, it's sad, and most of all it is very loving and respectful toward Elvis and the people around him. Really nice to read. But ofcourse also a little sad because of the ending.....

A very close friend gives a sensitive and intimate portrayal of Elvis, unlike many other sensationalist writers.

This was a very interesting look into the friendship between Jerry Shilling and Elvis Presley. Anyone who is a fan of Elvis will enjoy this book - I had a hard time putting it down! In my opinion, Jerry seems like a very level headed guy who was determined to make his own way, which seems like it may have been out of the ordinary among those who surrounded Elvis. As a bonus, the fact that he was a friend of, and worked for Elvis is only one of the interesting stories that Jerry has to tell. I thoroughly enjoyed his book!

Beautifully written book of friendship .you get to know what a wonderful Friend Elvis was to have in one's life

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