Elvis Presley

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**Elvis Presley**

Elvis Presley was born on 8th January 1935, in Tupelo, Mississippi (Hopkins, 2014). Presley hailed from a tremendously humble background and went on to become a legend of rock ‘n’ roll.

**Early Life and Interest in Music**

Elvis’s parents had little money and they kept moving frequently. However, his mother raised him with an immensely strong faith in God. Presley was first influenced by gospel music in a church.

In 1946, Elvis’s mother gifted him a guitar for his 11th birthday (Hopkins, 2014). He went to Humes High School in Memphis where he came first in a talent show, tasting first-ever musical success.

Elvis graduated in 1953. He pursued his passion for music while working numerous jobs. Elvis recorded his first ever demo in Sun Studio that year. During 1954, Elvis’s first ever single was released under the title “That’s All Right” (Hopkins, 2014).

**The First No. 1 Hit**

In 1955, Elvis Presley had developed a significant amount of fans following due to his unique musical style and attractive looks. It was the same year in which Presley struck a deal with RCA Records. In 1956, "Heartbreak Hotel" became his first-ever No. 1 hit (Hopkins, 2014). Paramount Pictures was able to sign a movie contract with Presley in the same year. With each passing day, Presley got famous.

**Military Service**

In 1956, Elvis Presley's first-ever film "Love Me Tender" was a hit (Jorgensen, 2000). In 1957, Presley was inducted in the US Army (Jorgensen, 2000). Presley’s mother breathed her last before Presley could leave to serve in the Military. Presley served in Germany for well over a year. In Germany, Presley found the love of his life in a girl named Priscilla Beaulieu. On 1st May 1967, the couple eventually married in Las Vegas, Nevada (Jorgensen, 2000).

**Movies and Songs**

In 1960, Elvis Presley left the army to resume his career. Soon, his songs were back at the top of the chart. Although his movies did not appeal to critics and audiences sometimes, his songs brought in a significant amount of profit. In 1968, some thought Presley was losing his appeal. To prove the doubters wrong, Presley recorded a TV show the same year. The show is often called “68 Comeback” (Jorgensen, 2000).

**Divorce Daughter and Drugs**

Presley became a dad to a daughter and named her Lisa Marie (Jorgensen, 2000). In 1973, Presley and Priscilla divorced. Priscilla was made the custodian of Lisa Marie. After this, Presley lurched towards drug addiction. In 1977, Presley appeared in his last concert at Indianapolis, Indiana (Jorgensen, 2000).

**Death and Legacy**

Unfortunately, Presley breathed his last on the morning of 16th August 1977 (Jorgensen, 2000). Presley was only 42 years old and died due to heart failure. Later, it was revealed that Presley had overdosed on his prescription drug. Presley's grave is alongside his mother, father, and grandmother at eh Graceland house in Memphis, Tennessee (Jorgensen, 2000).

Each year, thousands of fans gather at the Graceland house to commemorate the legacy of Elvis Presley. It was the year 2012 when Lisa Marie and Priscilla appeared together at the death anniversary of Presley at the Graceland house.

In 1986, Presley was inducted in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. It was 1998 when Presley was inducted in the Country Music Hall of Fame. And three years later, Presley was inducted in the Gospel Music Association's Gospel Music Hall of Fame. All these inductions came posthumously (Hopkins, 2014).

**References**

Hopkins, J. (2014). *Elvis: the biography*. Plexus Publishing.

Jorgensen, E. (2000). *Elvis Presley: A Life in Music*. Macmillan.