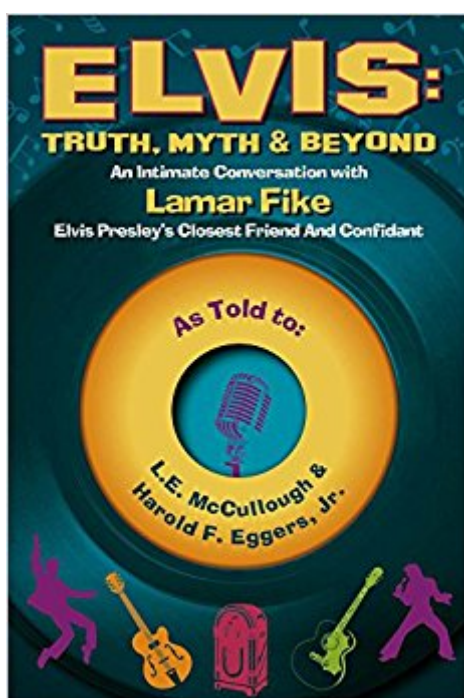


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# Elvis: Truth, Myth & Beyond: An Intimate Conversation With Lamar Fike, Elvis' Closest Friend & Confidant



## Synopsis

NEARLY 40 YEARS after his death, Elvis Presley remains one of the most intriguing human beings of the last century. Millions of people still want to know intimate details of Elvis's life: What did he think about his music? What did he really do behind the gates of Graceland? What were his final thoughts the day he died? We have the answers here. What will you learn from these 400 questions about Elvis answered by Lamar Fike? First, that it took guts to be Elvis. As bizarre as today's Elvis impersonators might appear to current audiences, imagine the mental pressure cooker the Real Elvis endured as he underwent the sometimes rapturous, sometimes strained metamorphosis of an average face-in-the-crowd Memphis teenager into The King of Rock & Roll. Number Two, that being Elvis required the dedicated help and support of a close circle of friends and family who believed in him. As a performer. As a person. Lamar Fike was one of those friends. Sit down here a while, and he'll tell you about the Elvis Presley you thought you already knew. At the peak of his popularity. At the depth of his despair. You'll also learn about that little bit of Elvis we carry around inside, each and every one of us. Elvis may have left the building, but his voice is still in our soul.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

L.E. McCULLOUGH is a native of Speedway, Indiana, and has worked as a journalist, musicologist, script and stage writer with 49 books published in fiction, non-fiction, drama, essay and audiobook fields. He has published hundreds of articles on music and the music industry in Billboard, Vista, Living Blues, Singout, Texas Highways, Goldmine, La Prensa, New Groves Dictionary of Music in

the U.S. and served as music columnist for Austin American-Statesman, Austin Chronicle, 901 Magazine and Music Row. His stage play on legendary blues pianist Leroy Carr, "Blues for Miss Buttercup", debuted in New York City in June, 1995, and won the Urban Stages Emerging Playwrights Award. Dr. McCullough holds a Ph.D. in ethnomusicology from the University of Pittsburgh.

I so enjoyed this book! I always did enjoy seeing and hearing Lamar with Elvis and in the later years after Elvis' passing. I happened to find this book and so glad I did. I have searched for a while now. Through Facebook, I was able to connect to Marty Lacker, Memphis Mafia member and good friend to Lamar. Lamar had a video on you tube about the book he was working on of his Elvis memories. I questioned Marty about this book and shared how much I would like to see it be published . I wanted to read what Lamar wrote. Marty heard me and said he would contact the family to let them know the Elvis fans wanted this book published. I am so happy that the family followed through for Lamar's voice to be heard of his special times with Elvis, his family, Gladys and Vernon, and his Memphis Mafia brotherhood. Thank you to Lamar's family and Marty Lacker. I am sure Lamar and Elvis are together again and happy to know their brotherly love story has been shared with the fans. It is a heart warming read. I recommend it highly!

As I read this book about the bond shared between Elvis and Lamar, I returned to a previous time in my life when Lamar allowed Tommy McDonald and I, the exciting adventure of a lifetime, to spend time with the gentle and talented King Of Rock and Roll. As I read and the memories became vivid once again, I had to pause and wipe my eyes. Lamar provided me an adventure few people will ever be able to participate in during their life. The extraordinary writing skills of L. E. and my good friend Harold Eggers, brought life into every word I read. Thank you both! To Elvis fans, this will hit home, answer questions you've had, and give you insight into what a small town Texas boy was invited to participate in. Everyone of those names you'll see here and read their comments on Lamar, grew up dreaming; and knowing Elvis and Lamar, their dreams were fulfilled! Enjoy this book. I did!

I enjoyed this book but it's really not that much different, as far as information, as the Elvis and the Memphis Mafia book that he participated in with Marty Lacker and Billy Smith. I question why so many books. My count, this was his 3rd book. The first being the book with Albert Goldman and the second book with Alanna Nash.

Great read and detailed new information about the King of Rock and Roll. A great book about a man who was like Elvis' brother. Great details about Elvis the regular guy and not the star. Shows a new side of the star who just wanted to be a regular guy.

I sat down and read it all night.. lol

If you don't know much about Elvis or Lamar this might be an OK place to start but if you are a big fan of Elvis and have read a lot about him, been to Graceland, etc., this is a disappointment. There is a great deal of repetition in this book - by Lamar and in the questions he was given (just rephrased and re-answered in many places.) He contradicts himself in places in this book and definitely contradicts some things he's said in other publications (such as *Elvis and the Memphis Mafia* - a much more interesting and detailed book.) I wonder if, because so many years have passed between the *Memphis Mafia* book and this telling of his story, some of his memories had faded or perhaps he wanted to soften some things he had said in the past. I would have given fewer than three stars if I wasn't so fond of Lamar and such an Elvis fan. But I did pick up a couple of bits of info I hadn't heard before and Lamar's story emphasizes how much PTSD those closest to him suffered.

good book by a friend

Very enjoyable light reading

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