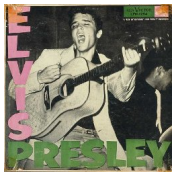
Elvis Presley – Elvis Presley (1956)



Side A *1. "Blue Suede Shoes" Carl Perkins 1:58 2. "I'm Counting on You" Don Robertson 2:24 3. "I Got a Woman" Ray Charles and Renald Richard 2:23 4. "One-Sided Love Affair" Bill Campbell 2:09 5. "I Love You Because" Leon Payne 2:42 6. "Just Because" Sydney Robin, Bob Shelton and Joe Shelton 2:32* Side B *1. "Tutti Frutti" Dorothy LaBostrie and Richard Penniman 1:59*
play
2. "Trying to Get to You" Rose Marie McCoy and Margie Singleton 2:33 3. "I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Cry (Over You)" Howard Biggs and Joe Thomas 2:05 4. "I'll Never Let You Go (Lil' Darlin')" Jimmy Wakely 2:25 5. "Blue Moon" Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart 2:43 6. "Money Honey" Jesse Stone 2:36
play

Personnel: Elvis Presley – vocals, guitar, piano Scotty Moore – guitar Chet Atkins – guitar Floyd Cramer – piano Shorty Long – piano Marvin Hughes - piano Bill Black – bass D. J. Fontana – drums Johnny Bernero – drums on "Trying to Get to You" Gordon Stoker - backing vocals Ben Speer - backing vocals Brock Speer - backing vocals

Today it all seems so easy -- RCA signs up the kid from Memphis, television gets interested at around the same time, and the rest is history. The circumstances surrounding this album were neither simple nor promising, however, nor was there anything in the history of popular music up to that time to hint that Elvis Presley was going to be anything other than "Steve Sholes' folly," which was what rival executives were already whispering. So a lot was unsettled and untried at the first of two groups of sessions that produced the Elvis Presley album -- it wasn't even certain that there was any reason for a rock & roll artist to cut an album, because teenagers bought 45s, not LPs. The first of Elvis' RCA sides yielded one song, "Heartbreak Hotel," that seemed a potential single, but which no one thought would sell, and a few tracks that would be good enough for an album, if there were one. But no one involved knew anything for sure about this music. Seventeen days later, "Heartbreak Hotel" was released, and for about a month it did nothing -- then it began to move, and then Elvis appeared on television, and had

a number one pop single. The album Sholes wanted out of Elvis came from two groups of sessions in January and February, augmented by five previously unissued songs from the Sun library. This was as startling a debut record as any ever made, representing every side of Elvis' musical influences except gospel -- rockabilly, blues, R&B, country, and pop were all here in an explosive and seductive combination. Elvis Presley became the first rock & roll album to reach the number one spot on the national charts, and RCA's first million dollar-earning pop album. ---Bruce Eder, AllMusic Review

Nikt nie mógł się spodziewać, że wydany 23 marca 1956 roku album Elvis Presley na zawsze zmieni historię muzyki popularnej. Sesje nagraniowe, podczas których zrealizowano ten kultowy już materiał zajęły zaledwie kilka dni (choć rozciągniętych w czasie). Łącznie na płycie zmieściło się 12 numerów, które łącznie trwały nieco ponad 28 minut. Tyle jednak wystarczyło, by zachwycić Amerykanów, Amerykanki zaś doprowadzić do ekstazy, którą przeżyją potem jeszcze tylko raz – podczas Beatlemanii.

To właśnie z Elvis Presley pochodzą takie hity Króla, jak Blue Suede Shoes (gdzie od razu daje się poznać jako zawadiacki typ, który ostrzega, by nie deptać jego niebieskich zamszowych butów), Tutti Frutti (wzięte później na warsztat m.in. przez Queen) czy Blue Moon. Najważniejsza w tym dziele jest jednak szczera, młodzieńcza energia, która przebija się przez każdy akord zagrany na gitarze i zaśpiewany wers. W momencie nagrywania płyty artysta był bardzo młody (miał zaledwie 21 lat) i chociaż mało wiedział o świecie, to umiał czarować swoją osobowością i zarażać wszystkich optymizmem.

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