
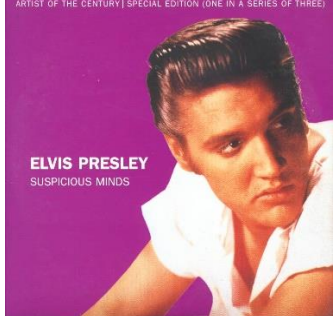



Stories about songs

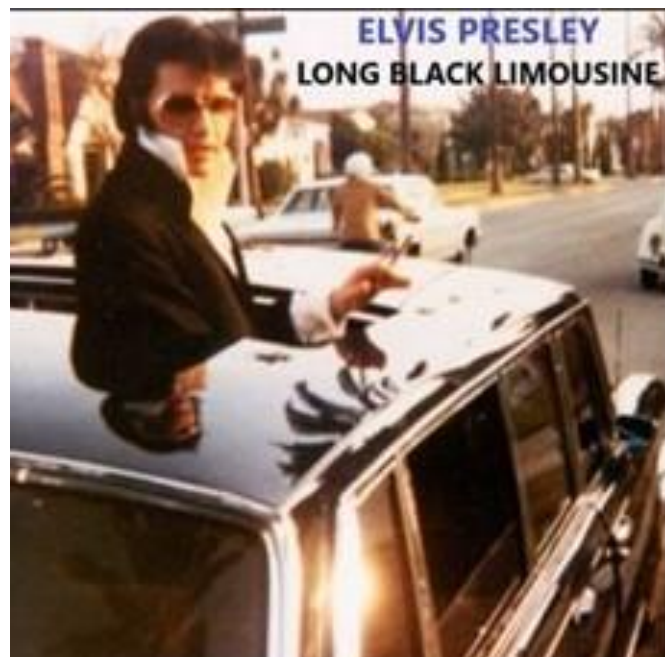
Those close to Elvis, including his producers and fellow musicians, have noted that he had a strong affinity for songs with meaningful stories. This is probably why people feel like he wrote songs or collaborated in the writing process because they seem to match his life circumstances so well – and he sings them with such deep emotion. Here are some of the favourites – with some interesting facts about the songs that you may not know! Also included is what Elvis had to say about the song, if it was publicly recorded.

Song	Back story	What Elvis thought about it
Heartbreak Hotel	<p>"Heartbreak Hotel," released in 1956, was inspired by a newspaper article about a man who committed suicide by jumping from a hotel window. The man left a note saying, "I walk a lonely street." "The song has enjoyed a long life, infiltrating pop culture as the title of a best-selling novel, a major motion picture, an actual hotel (in Memphis of course), the name of several restaurants around the country and a journalist expression (when Lisa Marie Presley and Nicolas Cage split, CNN said "It seems to be heartbreak hotel for the couple")."</p>	<p>He once remarked, "It's where I first found my sound."</p> 
Hound dog	<p>The story goes that Elvis first heard the song performed by Freddie Bell and the Bellboys in Las Vegas and decided to create his own rendition, which became one of his signature songs.</p>	<p>Elvis reportedly loved "Hound Dog" for its energy and raw rock 'n' roll vibe. In an interview, he mentioned, "I liked the way it moved, and I liked the lyrics."</p>
Suspicious minds	<p>The song tells the story of a mistrustful and dysfunctional relationship, reflecting the troubled state of Elvis's marriage to Priscilla Presley at the time. The recording session for "Suspicious Minds" was notable for its intensity, with Elvis pouring raw</p>	<p>Elvis was enthusiastic about "Suspicious Minds" and recognised its potential right away. He felt a strong connection to the song's emotional depth and believed it was an important part of his comeback in the late 1960s. He performed it</p>

 <p>ARTIST OF THE CENTURY SPECIAL EDITION (ONE IN A SERIES OF THREE)</p> <p>ELVIS PRESLEY SUSPICIOUS MINDS</p>	<p>emotion into the performance. The song was nearly halted over a copyright dispute. Read this: The story of Suspicious Minds</p>	<p>frequently in his live shows, indicating his affection for the song.</p>
<p>Love me tender</p>	<p>Adapted from the Civil War ballad "Aura Lee". The lyrics were rewritten by Ken Darby, who credited his wife, Vera Matson, and Elvis for the adaptation. Listen to Aura Lee here: Aura Lee</p>	<p>He often spoke about how the song's gentle melody and heartfelt lyrics connected with audiences, saying, "It's a song that touches people."</p>
<p>Can't help falling in love</p>	<p>The melody was based on "Plaisir d'amour," a French love song from the 18th century. Listen to the original song here: Plaisir d'amour</p>	<p>Elvis held "Can't Help Falling in Love" in high regard, often using it to close his concerts. He appreciated its romantic sentiment and timeless quality, noting, "It's one of those songs that stays with you."</p>
<p>Blue suede shoes</p>	<p>The inspiration for the song came from a dance floor incident where Carl Perkins overheard someone telling his date not to step on his blue suede shoes.</p>	<p>Elvis stated, "It's a great song with a great beat, and Carl did an amazing job with it."</p>
 <p>COLLECTOR SERIES RECORDED 1956-57</p> <p>BURNING LOVE STEAMROLLER BLUES</p> <p>ELVIS</p>	<p>Elvis was initially reluctant to record the song. Watch this video: The story behind Burning Love</p>	<p>Elvis grew to appreciate its powerful energy and became quite fond of it after seeing its success. He enjoyed performing it live and appreciated the enthusiastic response it received from audiences.</p>
<p>It's now or never</p>	<p>Based on the Italian song "O Sole Mio". Elvis heard "O Sole Mio" while stationed in Germany during his military service and wanted to record a similar song.</p>	<p>He mentioned, "I loved the way it took 'O Sole Mio' and gave it a whole new feel."</p>

<p>Are you lonesome tonight?</p> 	<p>Recorded at the request of Colonel Tom Parker, whose wife loved the song. Elvis recorded this song at the end of an all-night session at RCA Studio B in Nashville that started on April 3, 1960. He recorded eight songs before taking on "Are You Lonesome Tonight" in the early morning of April 4.</p>	<p>Elvis had a deep emotional connection to "Are You Lonesome Tonight?" and often delivered it with great feeling. He appreciated the song's introspective quality and how it resonated with listeners. He once said, "It's a song that makes you think and feel."</p>
<p>A little less conversation</p>	<p>The song didn't achieve significant success at the time of release but gained immense popularity when it was remixed by Junkie XL in 2002. The remix reached number one in multiple countries, introducing Elvis to a new generation of fans. Watch the Junkie XL version here: https://youtu.be/Zx1_6F-nCaw?si=Fo6XtSsp6g8yzwPX</p>	<p>Although it wasn't a major hit during his lifetime, he enjoyed performing it and recognised its catchy nature. He once commented, "It's got a good groove."</p>
<p>Kentucky rain</p>	<p>Written by Eddie Rabbitt and Dick Heard. Interestingly, future country star Ronnie Milsap played piano on the recording.</p>	<p>He appreciated the song's evocative lyrics and often spoke about how it painted a vivid picture. He said, "It's a beautiful song with a great story."</p>
<p>Polk salad Annie</p>  	<p>Tony Joe White, a Louisiana native, wrote "Polk Salad Annie" based on his own experiences growing up in the rural South. Polk salad (or poke sallet) is a dish made from the leaves of the pokeweed plant, which needs to be boiled several times to remove its toxins. The song captures the essence of Southern life and culture, painting a vivid picture of a poor, tough girl named Annie.</p>	<p>Elvis didn't often verbalize his thoughts on "Polk Salad Annie," but his enthusiastic and energetic performances spoke volumes about his feelings toward the song. He clearly enjoyed performing it live, often using it to showcase his dance moves and stage charisma. His vigorous performances, filled with intensity and fun, demonstrated his genuine enjoyment of the song.</p>

Long black limousine	The song was inspired by stories of small-town girls who moved to the city in search of fame and fortune but met tragic ends. Watch this: Long Black Limousine - From First Take To The Master	Although Elvis didn't provide specific public commentary on "Long Black Limousine", the song's themes of fame, fortune, and the ultimate price of success likely resonated with his own experiences.
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Additional reference: <https://performingsongwriter.com/heartbreak-hotel/>