

What's on the Shelf?

By Helen Marketti

Elvis & Ginger

Elvis Presley's fiancée and last love finally tells her story.

(Excerpt from *Elvis & Ginger*) "Ginger, I've been searching for love for so long," Elvis said, "and never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would find it in my own backyard. I've been sixty percent happy and forty percent happy but never a hundred percent. I've loved before but I've never been in love. Ginger, I'm asking you: Will you marry me?"

Ginger Alden first met Elvis Presley when she was 20 years old. Tagging along with her sister Terry, who was a Tennessee beauty queen, had been invited to visit Elvis at his Graceland home. It was Ginger who Elvis felt a strong attraction. She became his constant companion until he passed away on August 16, 1977. Their whirlwind relationship lasted nine months but was set to last a lifetime.

In her autobiography, *Elvis & Ginger* (Penguin Publishers, Sept. 2014), she has finally set the record straight about her relationship with the King of Rock and Roll. It has been 37 years since the music world was turned upside down by the passing of Elvis Presley at the age of 42. Ginger's presence in his life helped to keep him rooted in the real world without becoming one of the "yes" people that made up his constant entourage.

This book is difficult to put down once you start turning the pages. It paints a true and realistic look at one of the world's most significant entertainers. We are given a warm and loving view into the generous heart of Elvis as well as the spoiled super star who sometimes threw temper tantrums to great extremes.

Elvis was fascinated and interested in spirituality, the metaphysical and visualization. He felt he had the power to heal people. He was a ninth-degree black belt in karate. He often purchased cars and homes for friends, loved ones or sales clerks. He also knew to some degree that some of the people working for him were there for a paycheck. He knew he could not call them his true friends. He often kept to himself in his bedroom or a hotel room, reading or watching television. His popularity kept him in seclusion.

His growing relationship with Ginger strengthened trust, devotion, honesty and love. He knew in his heart that Ginger was there for *him*.



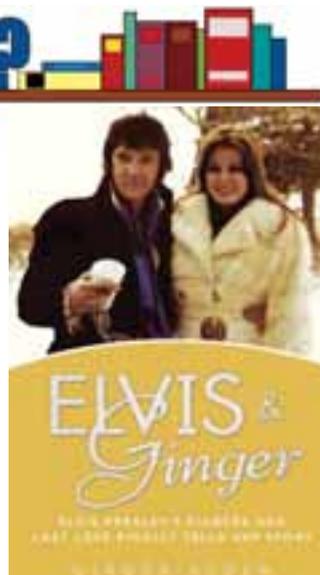
(Excerpt from *Elvis & Ginger*) "There will be a lot of people jealous of you," Elvis went on, "but you should always be a lady and if negative things are ever said just bow out gracefully."

Ginger kept her life with Elvis quiet until recently. She is married with a son who is now in college. She felt the time was right to share how her life was with Elvis. It is a story that is written with sincerity and detail.

(Excerpt from *Elvis & Ginger*) "No one can explain love, but I had an amazing story to tell about one of history's most influential performers and a complex and wonderful man. Just as you can't capture lightning in a bottle and just as a photo is only a two-dimensional representation of a multidimensional moment,

I knew it would be almost impossible to portray what it was like to be in love with, and loved by Elvis Presley... Whatever I wrote would surely fall short of the mark. Yet, I felt I owed it to him, to myself and to his fans to try...as a way of honoring him and the love we shared."

"Elvis & Ginger" by Ginger Alden is available through Amazon.com as well as area bookstores.





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