

Little People, **BIG DREAMS**™

Elvis Presley



Written by Maria Isabel Sánchez Vegara

Illustrated by Ana Alberro

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**Frances Lincoln
Children's Books**

Little Elvis was born in a shack in North Mississippi, a place where opportunities were rare. Still, he felt that someday, somehow, something amazing would happen. He daydreamed about what it could be...









At that time, his country had unfair rules that separated people by the color of their skin. But for Elvis, music had no color! He loved listening to his mom's country songs and the voices of his neighbors singing blues on the porch.

Flamingo Room



He was 13 when his family moved to Memphis, a big city where blues, gospel, pop, and country met. After school, he listened to the music playing in record stores and coming from bars. Then, back home, he took his guitar and mixed it all together.



The day he won first prize at the school talent show, he realized that singing was all he wanted to do in life. With just a shake of his hips, he went from being the weird kid at the back of the class to an artist who set the stage on fire!









He had just finished high school when he armed himself with courage and walked through the doors of Sun Studios, ready to record his first song. He loved country as much as he loved blues, and wanted to mix the two sounds.

When “That’s All Right” started playing on the local radio, it became a hit overnight. Many people had never heard a sound like it before. It wasn’t blues, but it wasn’t country either. It was... ROCK ‘N’ ROLL!

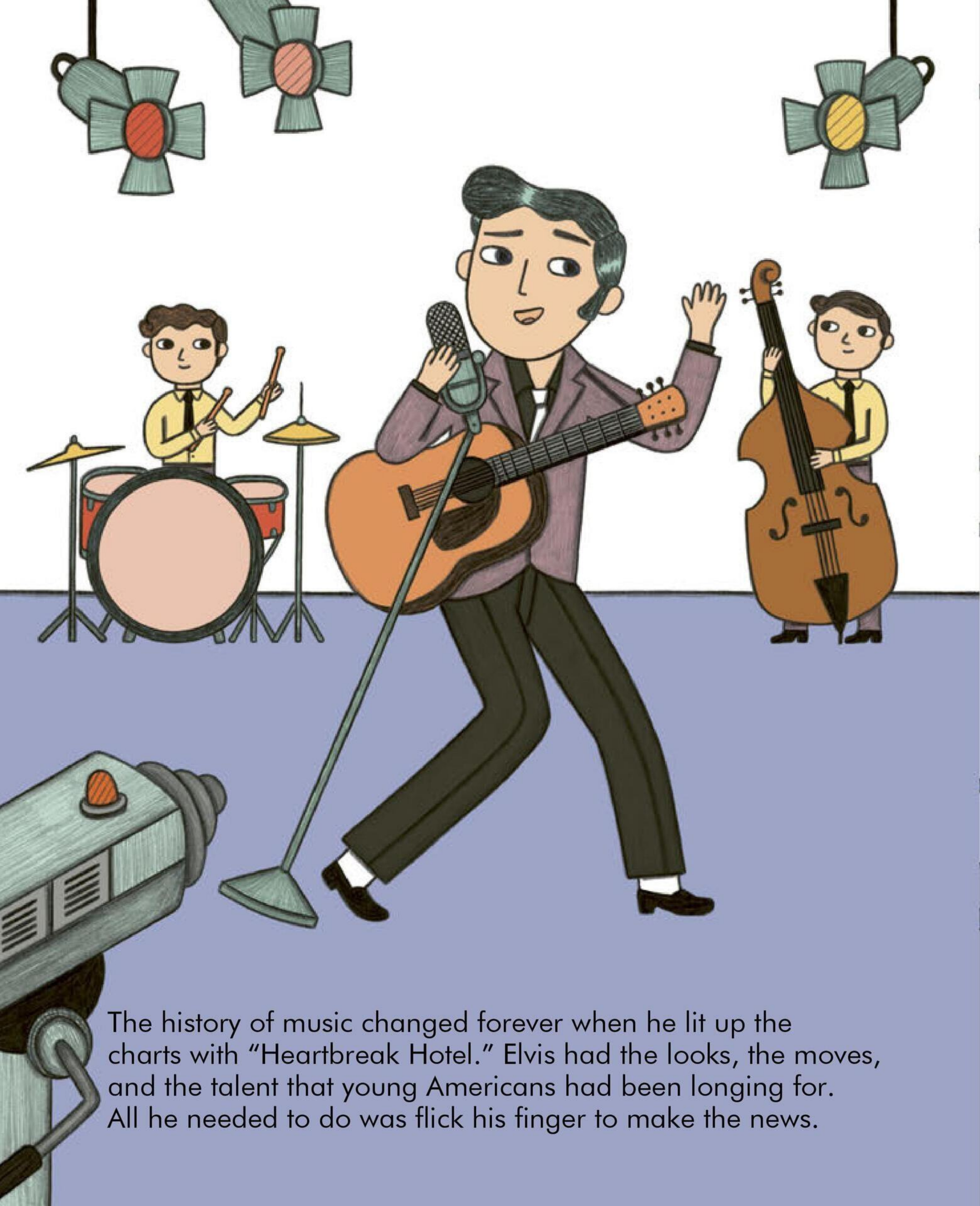




Elvis joined a band called The Blue Moon Boys, and together they played almost every night. The audience was very different from place to place. Still, once Elvis started singing and jiggling his legs, everyone went crazy... one way or the other!







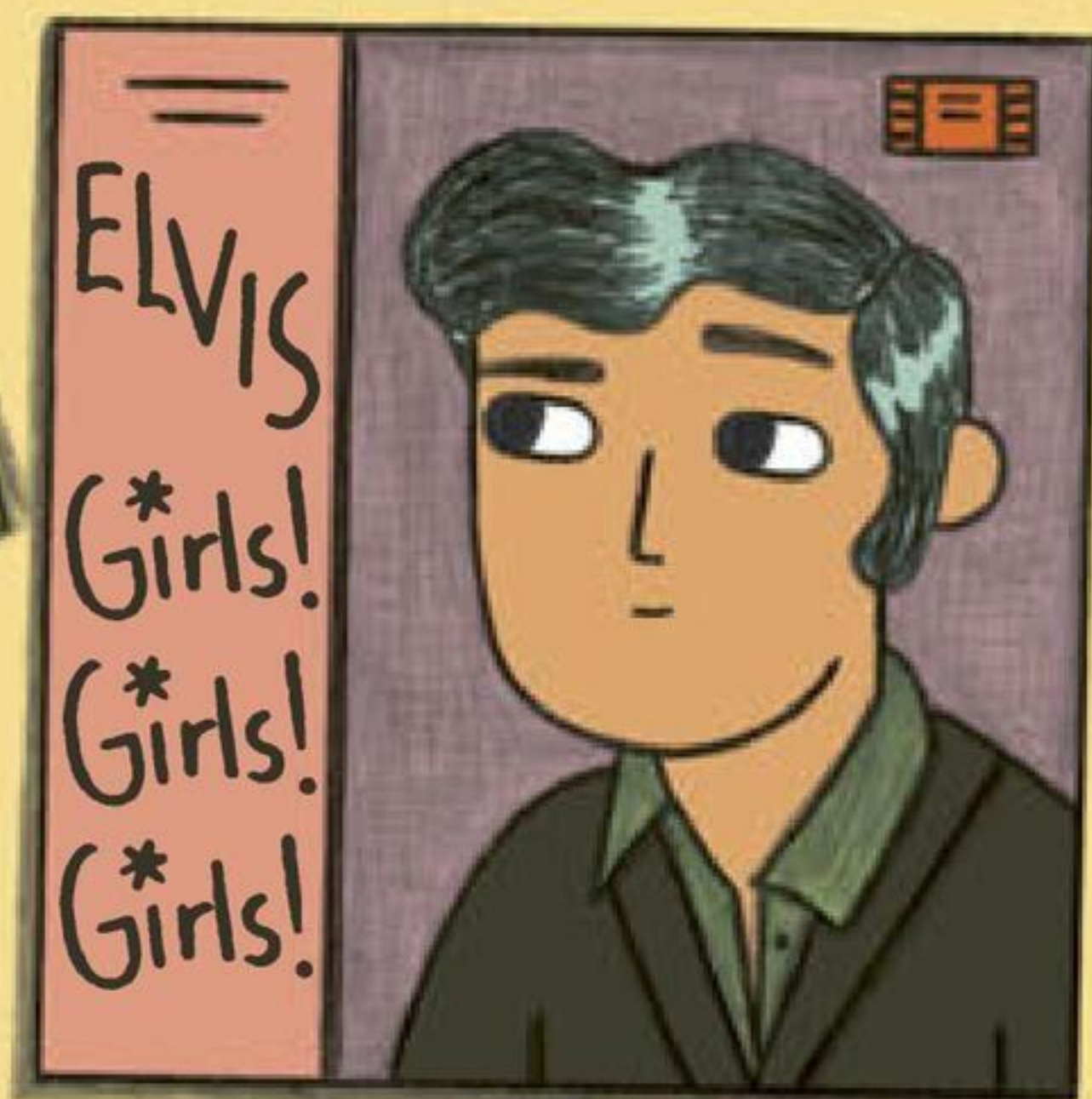
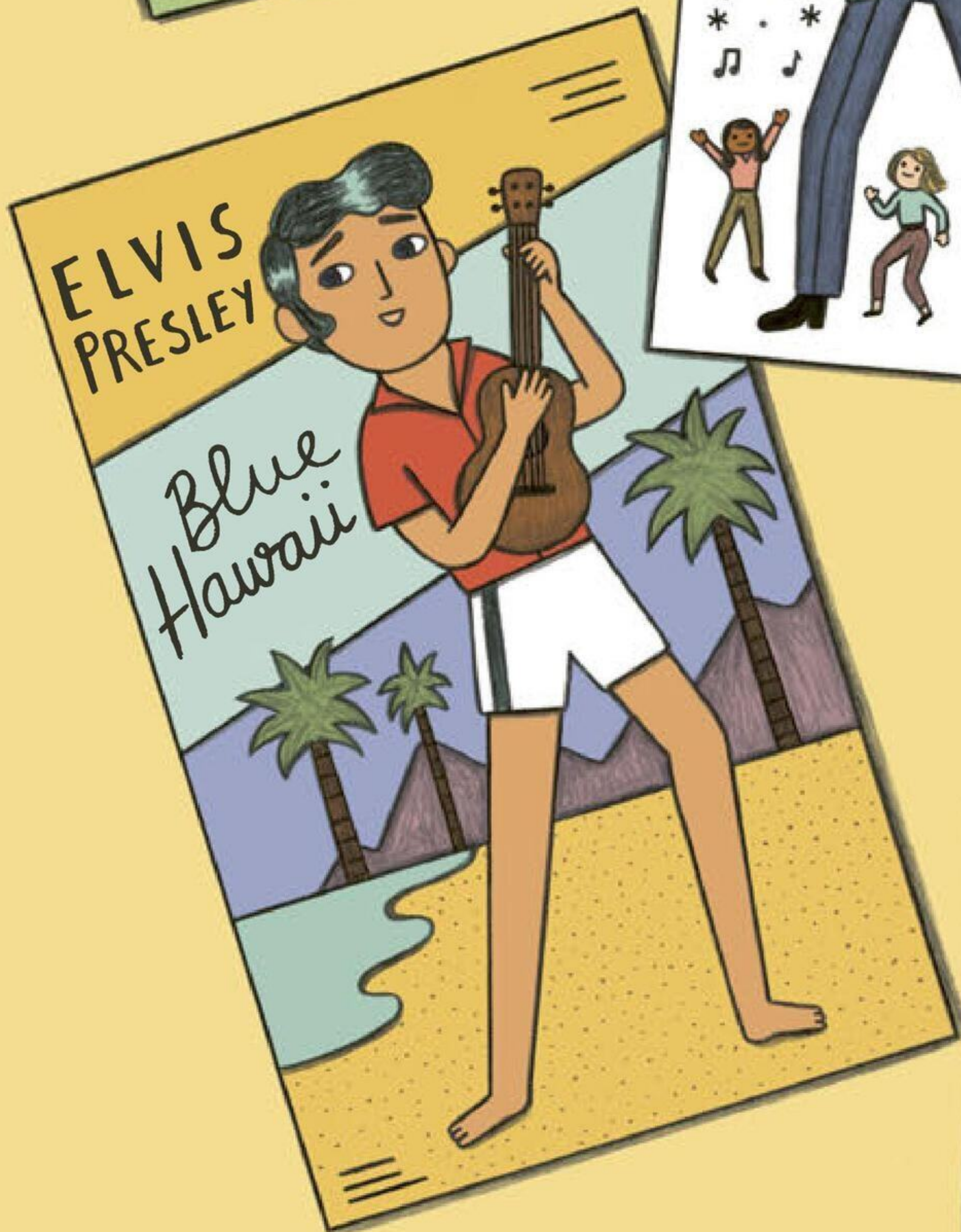
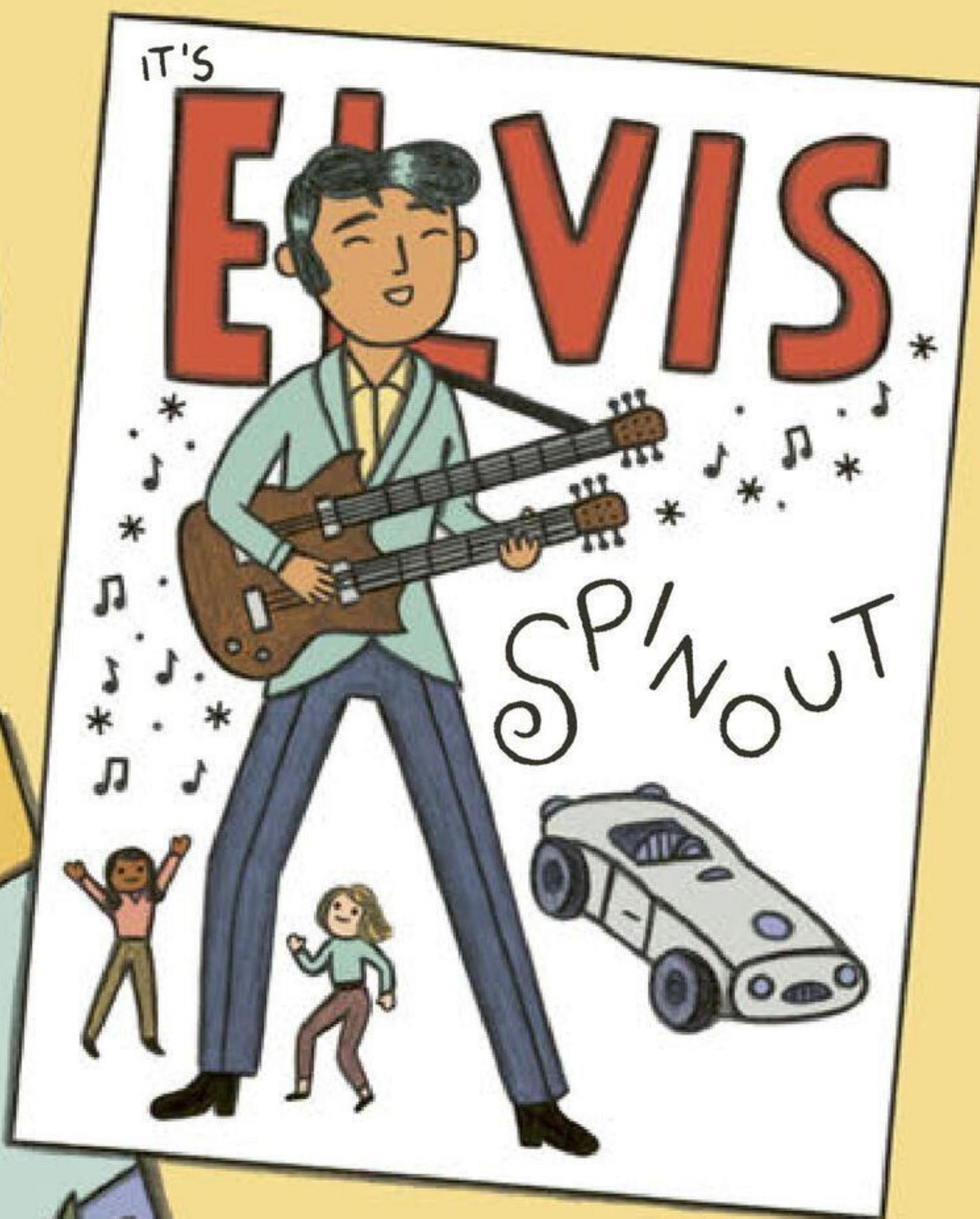
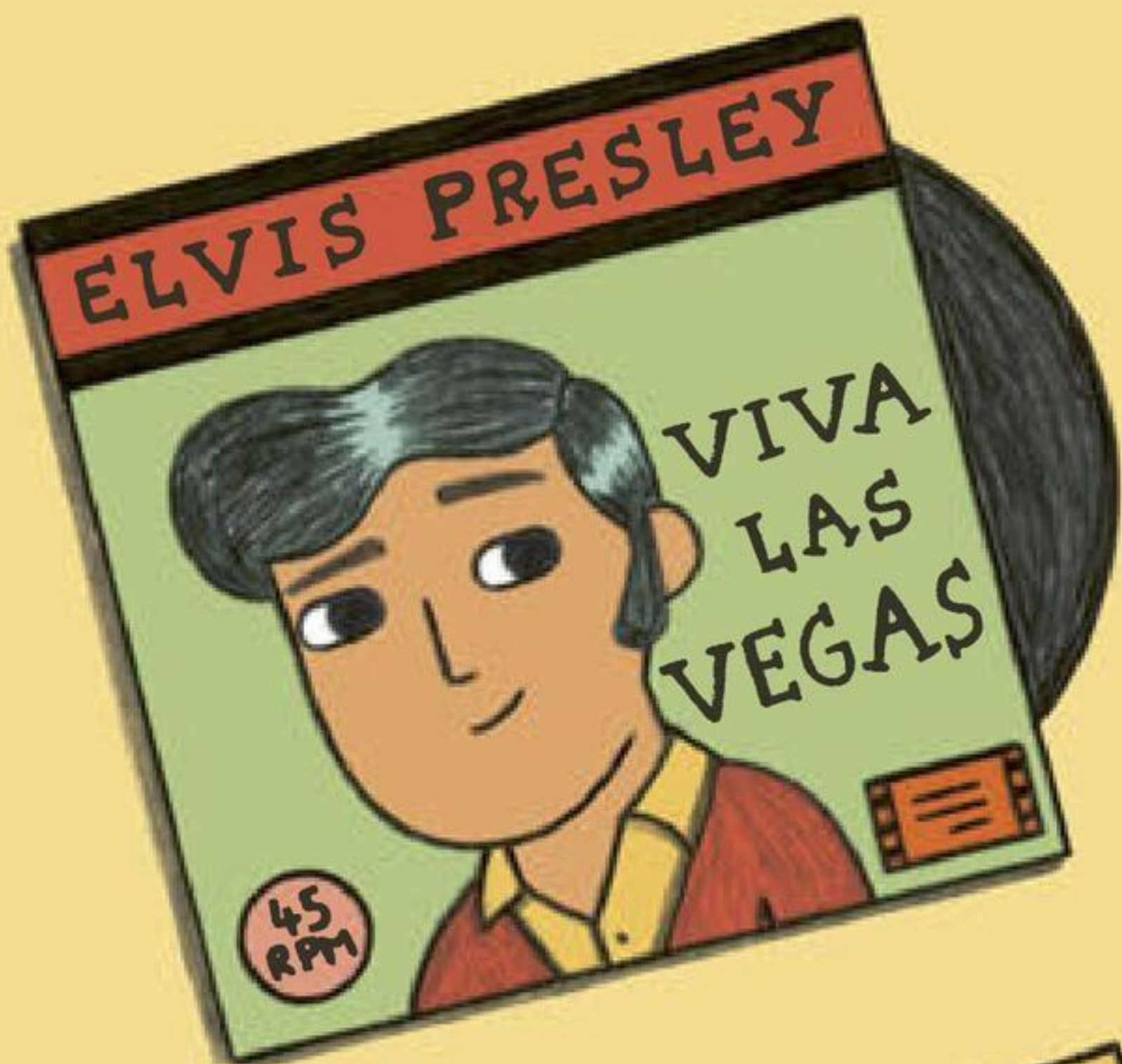
The history of music changed forever when he lit up the charts with "Heartbreak Hotel." Elvis had the looks, the moves, and the talent that young Americans had been longing for. All he needed to do was flick his finger to make the news.

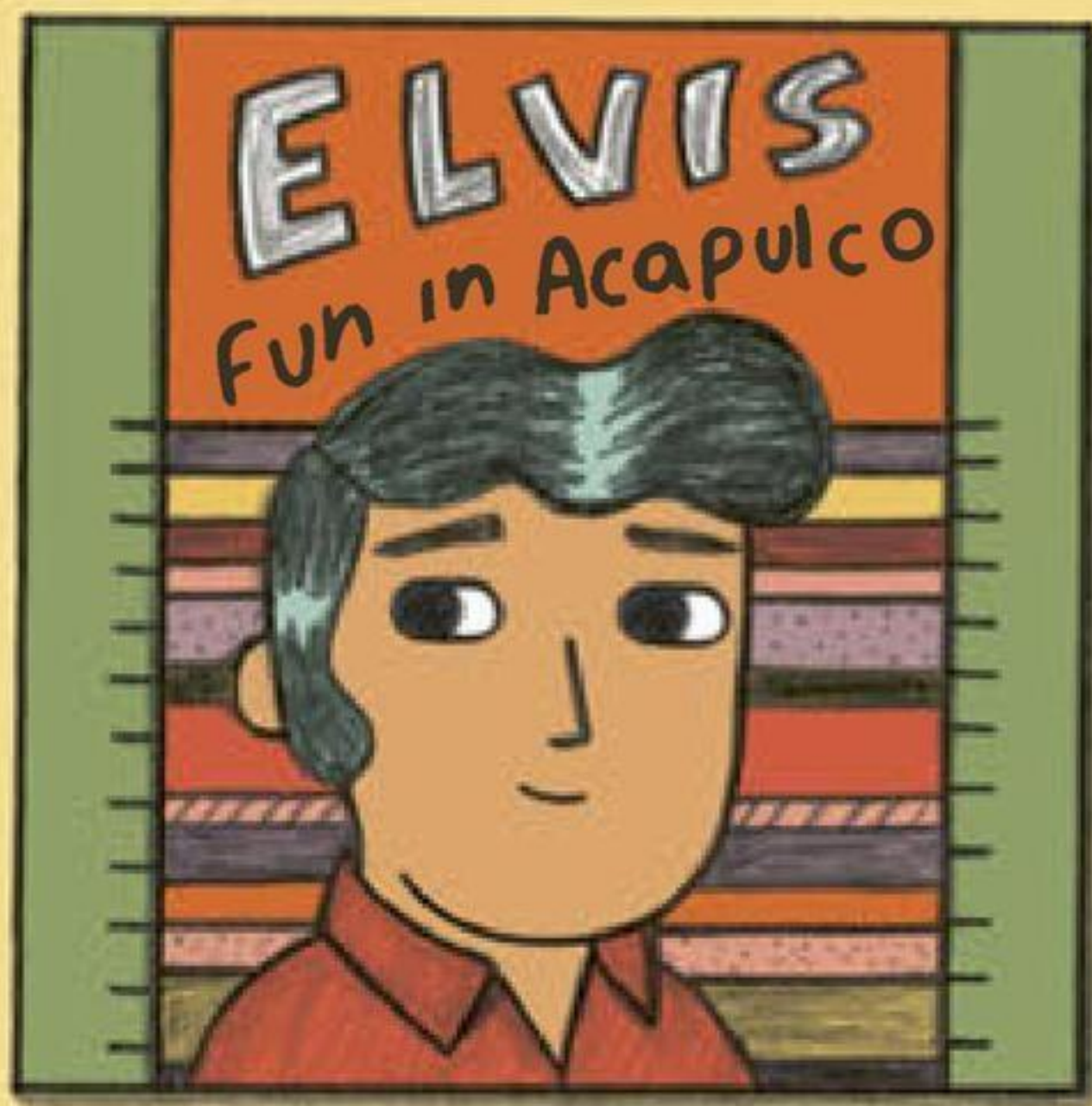
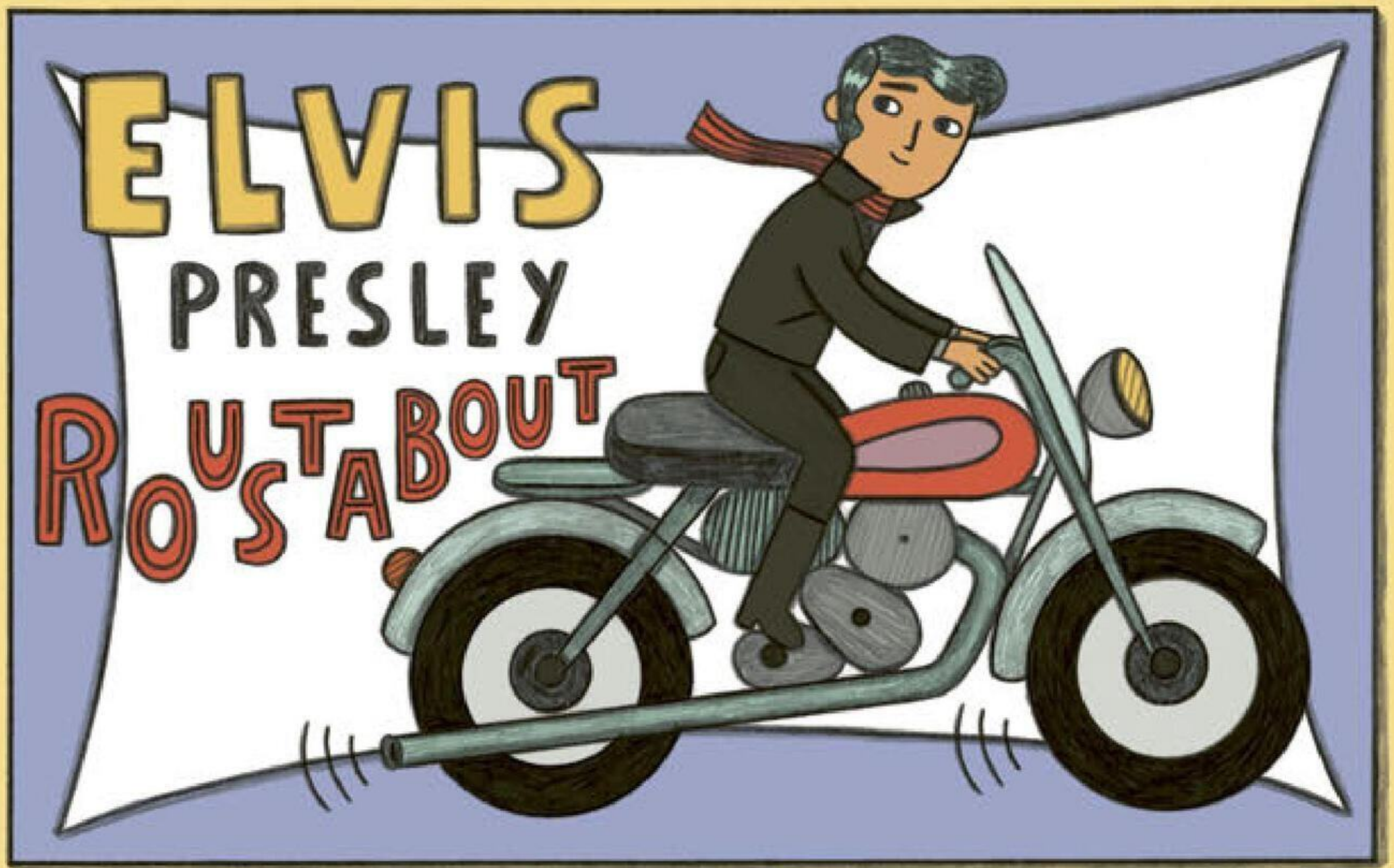




Graceland was the name of the beautiful house he bought for his family. They had just moved there when Elvis had to say goodbye to his beloved mother—he had been called up for military service in Germany. Sadly, she died soon after he left.



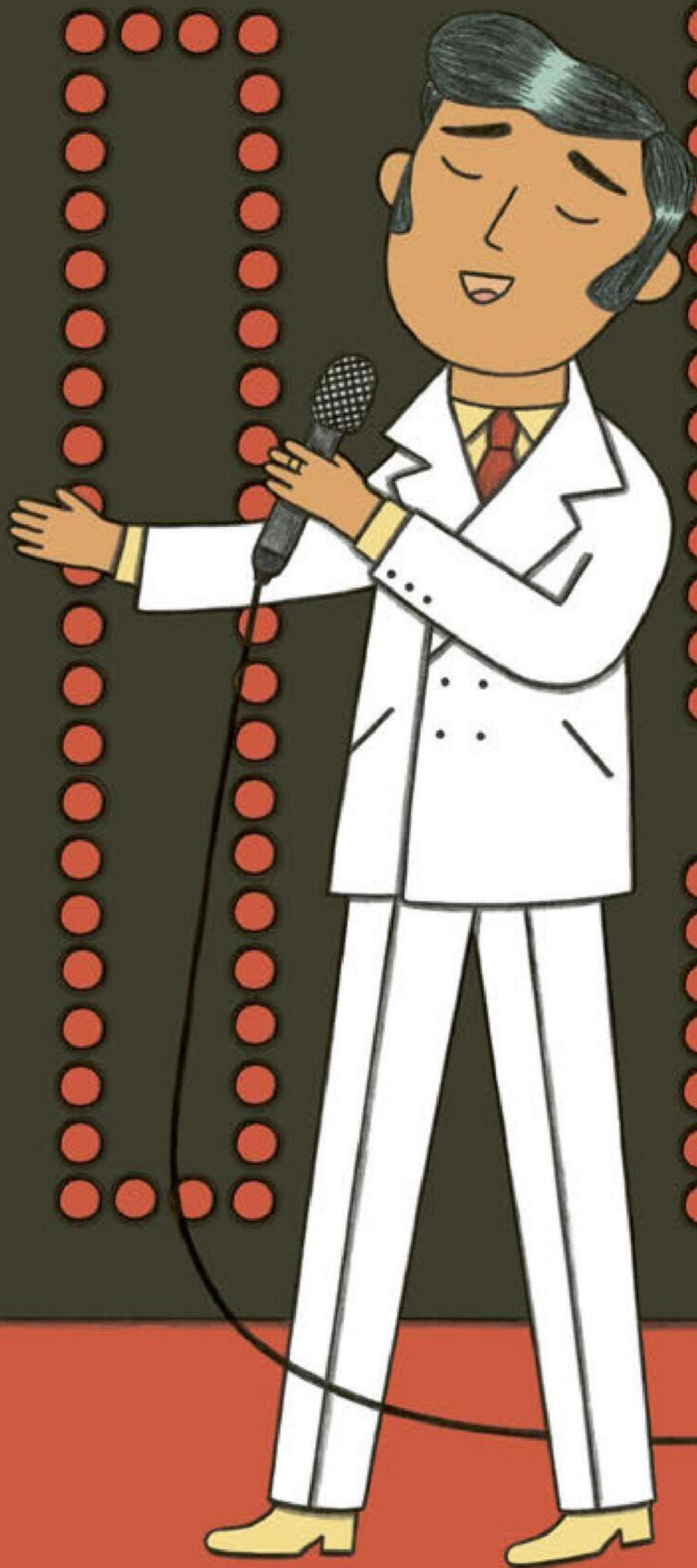




Two years later, Sergeant Presley was discharged from the army. Back home, he focused on his acting career. For the next eight years, he made dozens of musical movies, but he missed the excitement of performing live and the closeness of his audience.



His comeback to the stage was in a television special where he sounded better than ever. The show ended with "If I Can Dream," a moving tribute paid to Martin Luther King, Jr., the civil rights activist Elvis so much admired.



Elvis was only 36 when he received a Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to music. Yet he still had much more to offer! He kept giving his best, dressing in stunning jumpsuits and even adding karate moves to his show.







And all the great musicians that came after him
still look up to little Elvis, King of Rock 'n' Roll,



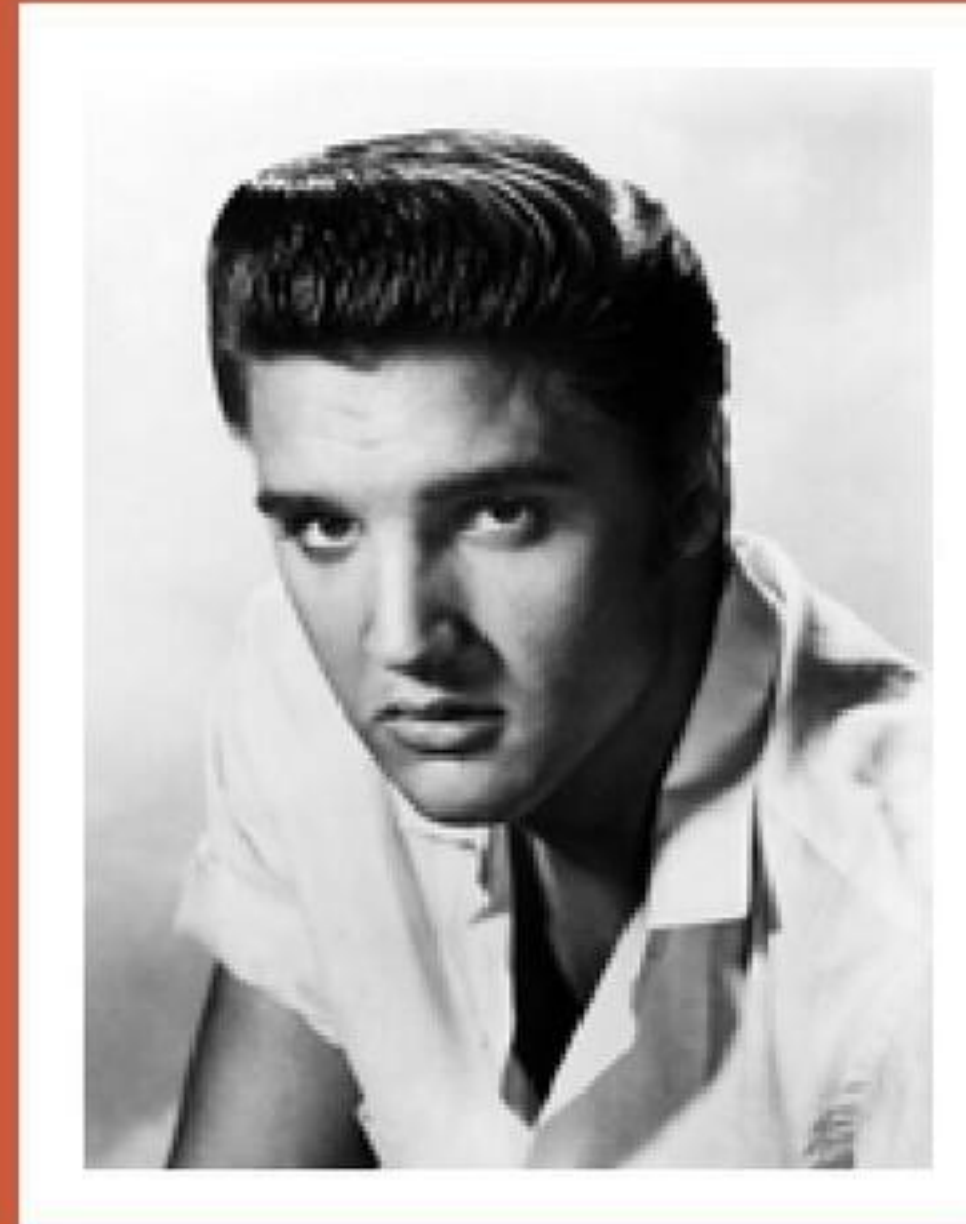
the irreplaceable artist who changed the course of music history and made sure that no song would be black or white ever again.

ELVIS PRESLEY

(Born 1935 – Died 1977)



1938



1950

Elvis Aaron Presley was born on January 8th 1935 in Tupelo, Mississippi. His twin brother, Jesse, died at birth, and Elvis grew up with his parents in a tiny two-bedroom house built by his father. He fell in love with music at age 11 when he was gifted his first guitar. Influenced by the music he heard in church and the country songs his mother would play, he began listening to Black R&B musicians on the famous Beale Street when the family moved to Memphis, Tennessee. At 18, Elvis recorded "My Happiness," which was picked up by an executive at Sun Studios, a local record label. From there his career took off, and he introduced Rock 'n' Roll to the world, opening doors for both white and Black artists. Although he was adored by many, he was criticized by others who thought his music and dancing were too



1968



1973

different and radical. Nonetheless, his music dominated the charts from 1956 to 1958, and he was followed by fans wherever he went. Elvis was forced to put his career on hold when he was drafted by the US army, and he spent time in Germany during his service. When he came home in 1960, he picked up where he left off, starring in many movies over the next eight years including *Blue Hawaii* and *Viva Las Vegas*. He kept performing for the rest of his life, returning to his home, Graceland, when he wasn't on the road. Elvis died prematurely at the age of 42, but to this day he is one of the biggest artists of all time, with over 1 billion records sold globally. The King of Rock 'n' Roll changed history forever, showing the world that music can be color blind.

Want to find out more about **Elvis Presley?**

Have a read of this great book:

Who Was Elvis Presley? by Geoff Edgers

If you're in Memphis, Tennessee, you can visit Graceland.



Brimming with creative inspiration, how-to projects, and useful information to enrich your everyday life, quarto.com is a favourite destination for those pursuing their interests and passions.

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Any faults are the publisher's who will be happy to rectify for future printings.

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Little People, **BIG DREAMS**™

Elvis Presley

Discover the lives of outstanding people,
from designers and artists to scientists. All of
them achieved incredible things, yet each began
life as a child with a dream.

Little Elvis didn't have a lot growing up, but he treasured music. He listened to everything, from the country songs his mom played, to the blues sung by his neighbors. When he realized that performing was what he wanted to do in life, he made his first record at Sun Studios. He became a sensation, topping the charts and changing history forever with just a shake of his hips.

This inspiring story of the King of Rock 'n' Roll
features a fact and photo section at the back.

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