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# Letters from Elvis

## *Shocking Revelations to a Secret Confidante*

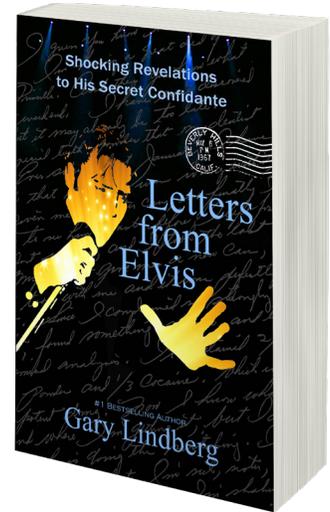
*Letters from Elvis* may be the most important and revealing book ever written about ‘The King.’ It is based on a cache of 265 handwritten and authenticated letters by Elvis Presley, Marlon Brando, Harry Belafonte and Tom Jones, to his secret spiritual guide, Carmen Montez.

Never has such a candid and intimately revealing collection of letters surfaced about such a well-known celebrity. *Letters from Elvis* is an explosive revelation of Elvis’s inner life, an exposé of heinous Hollywood crimes, a touching tale of friendship, a haunting ghost story, and sets in motion a series of new Elvis mysteries.

Taken together with the story of one man’s struggle to publish this material, these elements go a long way toward explaining Elvis Presley’s tragic decline.

To learn more, visit:

[www.calumeteditions.com/Elvis](http://www.calumeteditions.com/Elvis).

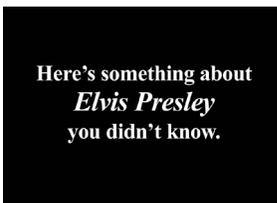


## Reaching a Huge Audience

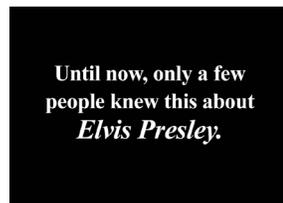
- Outreach to Elvis fan clubs—over 400 official Elvis Presley fan clubs worldwide
- Baby boomers and Rock ‘n’ Roll fans reached via local and national book store tour, radio and TV talk shows, blog tours, and major publicity events
- Electronically reach eventgoers such as those attending “Elvis – Live in Concert 2018 European Tour” produced by Graceland Events, creating a new generation of European fans: [www.graceland.com/events/calendar/eventdetails.aspx?id=86](http://www.graceland.com/events/calendar/eventdetails.aspx?id=86)
- Follow-up with viewers of the HBO documentary “Elvis Presley: The Searcher”
- Major Facebook ad campaign and intensive outreach to the proprietary Calumet Twitter Network with its 4,000,000+ Followers who are avid book readers

## *Sample Teaser Video Campaign*

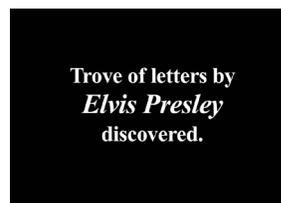
On YouTube and numerous social media channels, prior to launch, a series of high-impact short videos will promote interest in the book. Click on the icons below to view sample videos from the campaign.



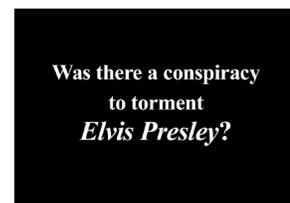
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[youtu.be/zrm7dSVWqnE](https://youtu.be/zrm7dSVWqnE)



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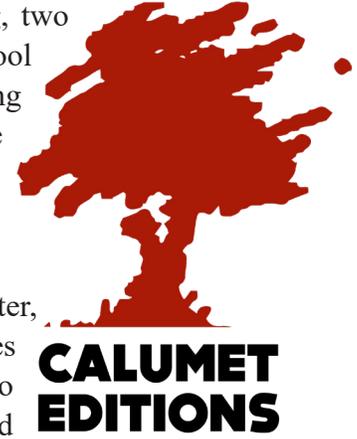
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## The Publisher

### *Calumet Editions*

Calumet Editions was founded by Ian Graham Leask and Gary Lindberg, two long-time admirers of great writing. Gary launched Calumet in 2009 as a tool to publish his own writing after suffering the chaos and irrational gate-keeping present in the traditional publishing system. He focused his research expertise on learning the details of online marketing and devised innovations for successfully promoting eBooks. Soon he started bringing a few others into his group of authors, and in the process sold a lot of books.

When Gary met Ian, an experienced publisher, literary consultant, and writer, he immediately discovered a fellow traveler. Together they saw opportunities for writers and a new kind of publishing entity and fused their operations into Calumet Editions—a publishing company dedicated to the development and success (both artistic and financial) of authors.



[CalumetEditions.com](http://CalumetEditions.com)

## The Author

### *Gary Lindberg*



Gary Lindberg has spent forty years as a filmmaker and the last ten years writing and publishing books. As an author, he has written four consecutive Amazon #1 bestselling novels: *The Shekinah Legacy*; *Sons of Zadok*; *Deeper and Deeper*; and *Ollie's Cloud*. With his mother, Elayne Lindberg, he co-authored a nonfiction book entitled *The Power of Positive Handwriting*. He is the co-founder of Calumet Editions, a publisher of fiction and nonfiction.

As an award-winning filmmaker, he has written, produced and/or directed countless corporate films, TV commercials, music videos and entertainment movies. He co-wrote and produced *That Was Then, This Is Now*, a Paramount feature film starring Emilio Estevez and Morgan Freeman. He has won over 100 national and international awards for his work in media, including two Grand Awards from the New York International Film Festival.

## Author Interview

Video at <https://youtu.be/4-cvz9vCZUw>

### **What is your personal goal in telling this story?**

During Elvis's later years and after his death, Elvis became the object of considerable contempt and ridicule. Despite his continued reign as the undisputed King of rock 'n roll, popular opinion seems to be that he wasted his enormous talent and untapped capacity by consuming vast

quantities of drugs and allowing his health to deteriorate. He had become a bloated and unhealthy parody of himself. These letters help explain the reasons behind Elvis's decline and reveal an immensely abused person who was physically and psychologically tortured over many years. My goal, very simply, is to present the unknown story of Elvis and seek new understanding and respect for a man who was one of our country's greatest cultural icons.

### **When did you learn about the letters from Elvis?**

In 1988 I received a phone call from an artist friend who also collected celebrity memorabilia. He had become involved with a cache of handwritten celebrity letters that he believed could be the basis of a book and asked me to participate in the development of that project.

### **How were the letters discovered?**

All the letters, written between 1966 and 1972, were addressed to the same recipient, a woman named Carmen Montez who had become a spiritual advisor to the letter writers. When Carmen died with no heirs, the state of California sold her possessions at auction. Carmen's best friend bought several items, including three unopened suitcases supposedly containing garments. One of these suitcases contained the celebrity letters, some still with postmarked envelopes.

### **Why were the letters handwritten?**

Carmen Montez asked the individuals she assisted spiritually to communicate with her mainly through handwritten letters. She seldom talked to them in person or on the telephone—and, of course, there was no email or text messaging in those days. Carmen believed that she could gain greater insights if those she served wrote out their messages, an action that requires some focus. I suspect that she also believed she could intuitively decipher moods and perhaps even personality traits from their script. Regardless of how the act of handwriting messages may have helped her mission, it is fortunate for us. If these conversations had taken place electronically today, when virtually no one writes letters, we would not have the authenticated paper trail that we have with these five correspondents.

### **Who was this secret spiritual guide?**

Carmen Montez is a genuine mystery woman. Historical records we have discovered show that she was born outside the U.S.—she claims in Spain. She worked for a time in the Hollywood film industry until a serious accident caused her to undergo a spiritual transformation and shift gears to assisting in the spiritual development of people in the industry—actors, stunt people, producers, musicians, et cetera. Eventually she became an ordained minister in the Universal Church of the Master, a small California-based faith that believed in direct communication between the spiritual and physical worlds. Carmen seemed to possess a rare combination of authenticity, charisma, intelligence and spirituality that attracted people looking for a spiritual guide.

### **How did Elvis meet Carmen?**

It is widely known that Elvis was a true spiritual “seeker” and throughout his life aligned with many different spiritual gurus and movements including his hairdresser, Larry Geller; the Self-Realization Fellowship in Pacific Palisades founded by Paramahansa Yogananda; and many

others. Elvis evidently met Carmen through a mutual friend, Harry Belafonte, another spiritual seeker, whose letters to Carmen are among those that served as the basis for this book.

### **You mentioned that there were 265 letters. How many of those did Elvis write?**

We have sixty-five written to Carmen by Elvis Presley. The actor Marlon Brando wrote over a hundred letters. The remainder were written by singers Harry Belafonte and Tom Jones.

### **Of the letters written by Brando, Belafonte and Jones, which group of letters most intrigued you?**

Each of these individuals wrote deeply personal, sometimes confessional letters, and all of them contributed fascinating and often startling facts. But I was most captivated by the letters that Marlon Brando wrote to Carmen. These letters not only reveal a true and previously unknown friendship between Marlon and Elvis, but reveal some behaviors that are quite shocking. At times during the writing of a letter, Marlon “channels” the spirit of a cherished girlfriend of Elvis who had died, as well as the spirit of an Indian chief. Marlon’s handwriting changes during this “channeling” and he signs those passages with the “spirit’s” name. In the book I discuss various explanations for this behavior, but the reading of letters composed by multiple personalities was an eerie and memorable experience.

### **How can you be certain these letters are authentic?**

Original letters from the cache were submitted to a world-renowned handwriting analyst, Charles W. Sachs, who became famous as the authority who testified in a famous legal case involving documents purportedly signed by Howard Hughes. His opinion settled the case. We have his written opinion of authenticity.

### **Do you believe the shocking events described in this book are true?**

In the sense that I believe Elvis, Marlon, Harry and Tom reported real events and beliefs as best they could, yes. I believe no one intentionally lied or made anything up. In many cases, letters from one writer corroborate events reported by another. But in the sense that the very act of remembering and later recording events that often occurred while traumatized, it seems inevitable that some reported details may be incomplete or wrong. In some cases, such as Marlon’s “channeling” of a deceased person or seeing a “ghost” at a going-away party for Elvis, I have explored alternative explanations in the book. I am content in leaving conclusions about these things up to the readers.

### **Why would Elvis fans or Elvis historians be interested in this book?**

Someone once said that no history of the United States would be complete without the mention of Elvis. Whether literally true or not, the statement points to Elvis’s importance in the evolution of American culture. But his impact cannot be properly assessed if his life and death are based on ignorance. This book fills in many of the blanks, and that is the job of historians.

## Where can listeners/readers purchase the book?

Beginning November 1, 2018, *Letters from Elvis* can be purchased as a trade paperback or Kindle at Amazon.com and as a paperback in all good bookstores.

# *Letters from Elvis*

## *Timeline of Events*

### 1901

July 7 Sam Katzman is born.

### 1926

March 11 Carmen Rayburn is born.

### 1930

June 9 Carmen Montez is born.

### 1935

January 8 Elvis Aaron Presley is born to Vernon and Gladys Presley in a two-room house in Tupelo, Mississippi, the second of identical twins. His brother was stillborn. In a letter to Carmen Montez, Elvis claims that his father was not Vernon but Vernon's identical twin brother, Virgil, who died when Elvis was very young.



### 1946

January 8 Elvis receives his first guitar purchased by his parents for \$7.90 at the Tupelo Hardware store. He had wanted a rifle for his eleventh birthday, but his parents couldn't afford one.

### 1953

July 18 After moving to Memphis, Tennessee, Elvis makes a demo of "My Happiness" and "That's When Your Heartaches Begin" at Sun Records.

### 1954

January Elvis makes a demo acetate at Sam Phillips' Sun studio.

### 1955

August 15 Elvis signs a management contract with Colonel Tom Parker for one year plus renewals.

### 1956

January 27 Elvis' first RCA single, "Heartbreak Hotel," is released, becoming the first Elvis single to sell over 1 million copies. The lyrics were inspired by a newspaper article about the suicide of a lonely man who jumped from a hotel window.

- Sept 9 Elvis makes the first of three appearances on television's Ed Sullivan Show, attracting the highest ratings ever for a television variety show.
- Nov 15 "Love Me Tender," Elvis's debut performance in a movie, opens and is the only time that Elvis doesn't receive top billing, which went to Richard Egan and Debra Paget.

**1957**

- March 19 Elvis buys Graceland Mansion in Memphis, Tennessee.
- Unknown Elvis is physically assaulted and suffers permanent scars on his face.

**1958**

- March 24 Elvis is drafted into the US Army and then posted to Germany.

**1960**

- March 5 Elvis is discharged from the army and soon begins shooting his first post-Army movie "GI Blues" for Paramount.

**1963**

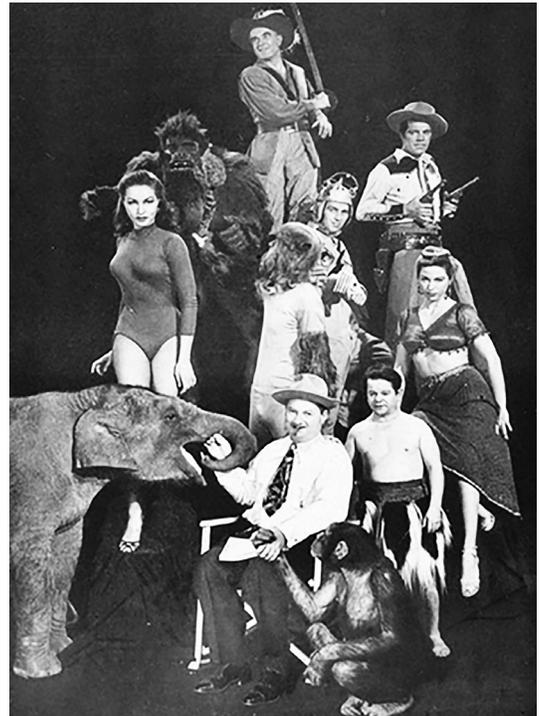
- October The roots of an intense feud between Elvis and Sam Katzman, producer of the movie Kissin' Cousins, began sometime during the seventeen-day shooting of the movie.

**1967**

- May 1 Elvis marries Priscilla Beaulieu in a private ceremony in Las Vegas.

- June Carmen Montez is introduced to Harry Belafonte to discuss a screenplay written by her protégé "Joi Sommers." The growing relationship with Harry helps facilitate relationships between Carmen and Marlon Brando, Tom Jones and Elvis Presley.

- October Sometime during the location filming of the movie "Stay Away, Joe," Elvis attempts suicide. In his letters he credits Carmen, whom he has never met, with saving his life through a kind of psychic influence.



Magazine photo of "Jungle Sam" Katzman

**1968**

- February 1 Elvis's daughter, Lisa Marie, is born.
- July 8 Elvis begins pre-production on Charro! the only movie in which he wears a beard and does not sing a song.

August 28 Elvis completes audio looping for the movie *Charro!* and it is released. The historical record is dark about this period, claiming simply that he spent the next several weeks relaxing at his Palm Springs home. His letters to Carmen Montez, however, tell a different story. Now we know that he was abducted, tortured, sodomized and then secretly spent time recovering in an L.A. hospital. The extremity of the assault was kept from the public because during this period in history male-on-male rape would have sullied any machismo star's standing with fans and industry executives.



Elvis's secret confidante Carmen Montez and her dog "Marlon"

September While recovering from the assault, a hospital nurse reported interrupting a semi-conscious Elvis who appeared to be attempting suicide in his room.



Publicity photo of Elvis in *Charro!*

December 3 His career waning, Elvis appears on an NBC special that becomes known as "The '68 Comeback Special." It became NBC's highest rated show of the season with 42 percent of the total viewing audience.

### 1969

January In early January, according to letters written to Carmen, Elvis attempted suicide for a second time.

July 31 Elvis begins a series of shows at the International Hotel in Las Vegas, setting attendance records and spinning off his first live album. Tom Jones and Elvis arrange tickets for Carmen Montez and "Joi Sommers" who drive to Vegas for the show but are never able to meet Elvis.

September After completing his series of Concerts at the International in Las Vegas, an exhausted Elvis checked into a hospital under an assumed name, then disappeared and woke up in Nancy Sinatra's hotel room with no memory of how he had gotten there.

**1970**

- July 18 Early in the morning, two men invade Elvis's Palm Springs home and assault Elvis and Priscilla in their bed.



- Nov 11 "Elvis, That's the Way It Is," a documentary of Elvis on tour, opens to good reviews. He begins wearing the famous jumpsuit and cape outfits on stage.

**1972**

- Feb 23 Elvis and Priscilla separate, and she moves out.

**1973**

- January 14 Elvis makes television and entertainment history with his "Elvis: Aloha from Hawaii" TV special via satellite. It is seen in about 40 countries by up to 1.5 billion people. The concert album hits No. 1 on the Billboard pop album chart, his last No. 1 album on that chart.

- August 4 Sam Katzman dies.

- October 9 The divorce between Elvis and Priscilla Presley is finalized.

- No date Toward the end of the year, Elvis is hospitalized in Memphis with serious health problems including an increasing dependency upon prescription drugs. He is back in the hospital in early 1975 and also in April 1977.

**1977**

- June 26 Elvis makes his last concert appearance in Indianapolis.

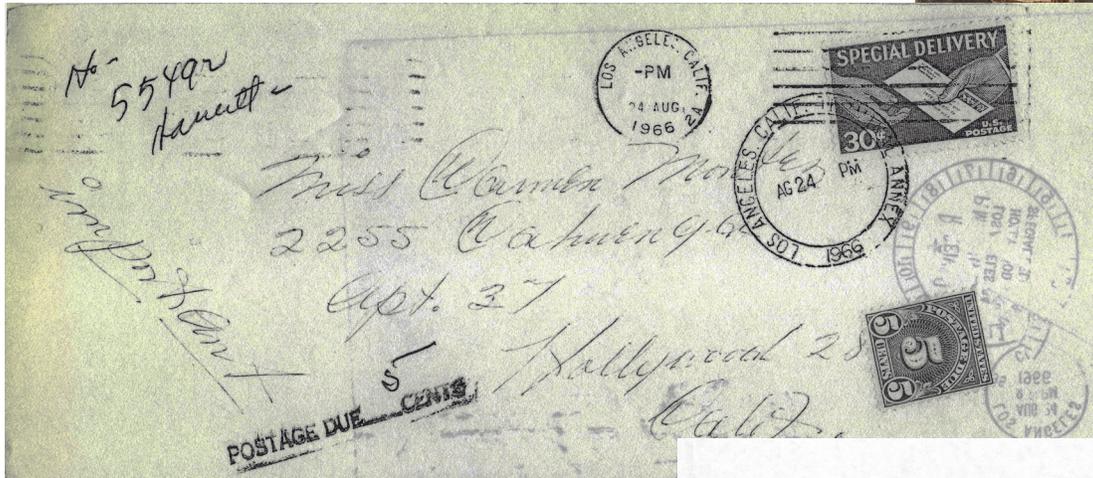
- August 16 Elvis Presley dies at Graceland, found on the floor of his bathroom by fiancée Ginger Alden.

**1982**

- May 8 Carmen Montez dies.

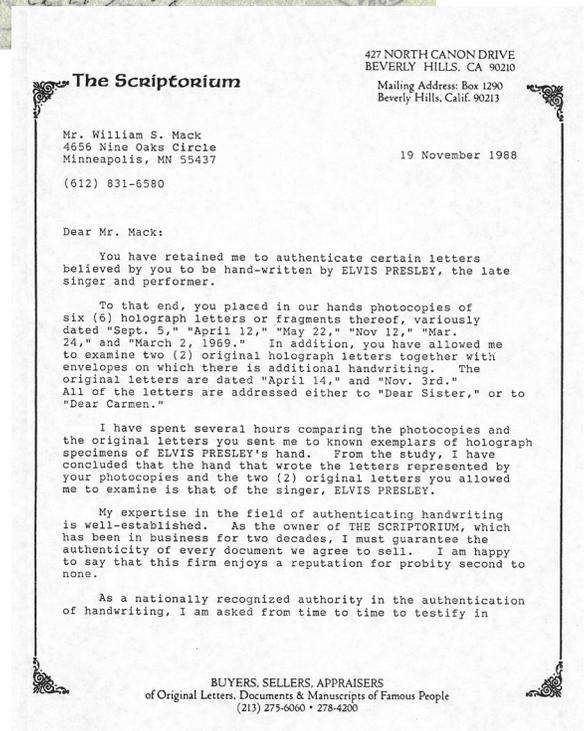
**1984**

March 17 Carmen Rayburn buys three suitcases at an auction of Carmen Montez’s personal belongings and in one of them discovers personal letters of Elvis Presley, Harry Belafonte, Tom Jones and Marlon Brando.



**1988**

February Gary Lindberg receives a call from a friend, Bill Mack, asking him to participate in a writing project based on the letters from Elvis and other celebrities. The letters are authenticated by world-renowned handwriting expert Charles W. Sachs of The Scriptorium.



**1992**

April 9 Gary Lindberg and Bill Mack collaborate on a massive book proposal and visit New York to present to major publishing firms.

**1993**

April 9 Gary Lindberg and his wife travel to Apple Valley, California, to visit Carmen Rayburn at her ranch. It is the first time that Gary meets Carmen face-to-face. The purpose of the meeting is to gather additional information from personal interviews that will facilitate publication of the book without a major New York publisher. Unfortunately, funding the project proves to be impossible.

- 1997**  
July 6 Carmen Rayburn dies. The project collapses.
- 2004**  
July 1 Marlon Brando dies.
- 2015**  
June Having co-founded a publishing company, Calumet Editions, Gary Lindberg and Ian Graham Leask decide to resurrect the Elvis book project. It will still take over three years to complete the manuscript and find a legal path to publication.



Carmen Rayburn with her niece

## Publication Information

### Format

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978-0-9987319-6-4

### Retail price

\$16.99

### BISAC

BIO005000 Biography & Autobiography / Entertainment & Performing Arts

### Trade Discount

40% Returnable / 50% Nonreturnable

### Ordering information

[www.calumetedititions.com/Elvis](http://www.calumetedititions.com/Elvis)