

## Elvis Takes a Back Seat Book Club Kit

Start with a rockin' playlist:

All Shook Up  
It's Now or Never  
(Let Me Be Your) Teddy Bear  
Hard Headed Woman  
A Little Less Conversation  
Unchained Melody  
Love Me Tender  
Hound Dog  
Jailhouse Rock  
Can't Help Falling in Love  
Don't be Cruel  
Heartbreak Hotel  
Crying in the Chapel  
The Wonder of You  
Blue Suede Shoes  
Such a Night  
Fever  
Pledging My Love

Food and Beverage Ideas:

Elvis loved Pepsi Cola! A big pitcher of sweet iced tea is always a good idea.

Southern food is best:

Banana and Peanut Butter sandwiches

Fried pickles

Biscuits and gravy

Cornbread and beans

Cheeseburgers

Deviled Eggs (You're the Devil in Disguise)

Banana Pudding

Have a Photo booth with Hawaiian leis (Elvis loved Hawaii) and other Elvis-themed items like a Teddy Bear or a hound dog (if you have one lying around).

Have your book club wear costumes, either dressing like Elvis or Priscilla or from the 50s, 60s or 70s. You choose. Or have a contest with costumes and everyone guesses what year the outfit is from.

Have a karaoke competition with Elvis' most popular hits.

### Readers' Discussion Questions

1. Which character did you identify with the most: Claudia, Rae or Ivy? Which personality trait or aspect of her life did you relate to?

2. What 'idol' did each woman cling to? Were they each able to let go of their idols?
3. What did each woman need in her life?
4. Have you ever been to Graceland? What was your experience like? What was the most unusual thing you saw? What surprised you about Elvis?
5. How was Claudia trapped in her life? Did Elvis seem trapped in a similar way?
6. How does the American culture idolize those in the limelight? What are perks and pitfalls for both the 'idol' and fan?
7. Do you think attitudes toward American idols have changed since '77 when Elvis died and since American Idol has become such a hit show?
8. What do you think Elvis' impact on our culture has been?
9. How did each woman's faith change during the course of the novel?
10. How do you think the women will handle their changing roles in future years?

11. Multiple mother/daughter relationships are shown in this book. How will the mother/daughter relationships between Claudia, Rae and Ivy change, grow and heal in the future?

12. What role will forgiveness play in these relationships?

--Claudia and Rae?

--Ivy and her mother and Ben?

--Claudia and Stu?

--Claudia and her mother?

13. What role do you think Claudia will now have with Ivy? Will she become a stand-in Mother for this teen?

14. What challenges and joys will Claudia face as she starts over mid-life?

15. Have you ever learned something which contradicted what you thought you knew your whole life? How did that change you?