

Collecting Elvis

by

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INT. LIVING ROOM

Two elderly people are dancing in a living room. They are flailing their hands above their heads. They are singing the Elvis hit "Hound Dog". They are laughing and thoroughly enjoying themselves. The man is James Bugby; he is 60's, 5'9", 190 and is wearing a tourist hawaiian shirt and tourist shorts and sunglasses. The woman is Linda Monroe; she is also 60's, 5'4", 145, and is dressed in similar apparel.

A girl, Jodie Wallace, 15 years old wears a jean jacket; she is a runaway and street tough. Jodie likes the name "Chains" as a nickname.

On the floor beside them is a stack of Elvis albums.

Chains

(Look of impatience. Rolling eyes.)
Come on. You guys are gonna get us caught.

Linda

(Mocking.)
Ewwwwwww.

Bugby

(Mocking.)
Ewwwwwww.

Linda

(Mocking.)
Ohhh.

Bugby

(Mocking.)
Ohhhhh.

Linda and Bugby continue a swing dance and laughing.

Bugby

So does this mean we have to go to... to... to...to
Jail.

(Laughing Uncontrollably)
Ha. ha. ha. ha.

Linda

(Laughing uncontrollably)
Ha. ha. ha. ha.

Chains walks over and picks up the albums.

Chains
I'll be in the car.

Chains exits.

CUT TO:

EXT. DRIVEWAY

Chains is setting albums into the trunk of the car. Linda and Bugby are seen pulling the door to the house closed behind them. They float to the car. Each has various Elvis items in their arms. Chains gets in drivers side door. Slams it and waits for them to get into the car. They enter the car.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM

Chains is sitting in a chair at a table. In the background, arms crossed leaning against a wall near a coke machine is a Juvenile Officer James (black detective, white shirt and tie, badge over belt). Detective Smith (white shirt and tie, sleeves rolled up) cigarette in his mouth.

Det. Smith
So let me get this straight. You leave jewelry
and cash. And you only go for Elvis records.

Chains
(At table. Arms crossed. In monotone voice.)
And other collectibles.

Det Smith takes drag off cigarette. Looks at Officer James. Officer James shakes his head in disbelief.

Det. Smith
Unbelievable.

CUT TO:

INT. AUTOMOBILE

Car pulls into a gas station/convenience store. Chains exits and goes to gas pump. Bugby exits car and removes cash from his wallet.

Bugby
(Happy and Excited while exiting car.)
Fill it my good lady.
Time to wet the whistle.
I know what I am having. Cherrrrrry Cooola.

Linda exits and is leaning on the top of the car

Linda
Cherrry Coola here too.

Bugby
And for the Chauffer?

Chains
Anything but Cherry Cola.

Bugby goes into the store. Chains and Linda are alone.

Linda
Ms. Wallace how many miles to Knoxville.

Chains
I go by Chains. My name is chains.

Linda
Yes. Sorry.

Linda loolds tot he ground and holds her stomach.

Chains
You okay?

Linda
(Still holding stomach)

Yes. Just give me a second. I think a good nap would do me well. How did we do at the last one? (Wincing slightly).

Chains
Six Albums. All original covers. And two scarfs. (Looks at Gas pump, then back at Linda)
You sure you're okay?

Linda
How many names in Knoxville?

Chains
Ask Bugby. I don't remember. Two at least.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM

Detective Smith is towering over Chains.
Officer James is pacing.

Det. Smith
(taking drag on cigarette)
Okay and how pray tell did this over the hill gang acquire the names of these Elvis collectors?

Chains
Conventions.

Det Smith
(mocking and looking at James)
Uh huh. Conventions.

Off. James
(mocking)
Of course, Conventions.

CUT TO:

INT. ELVIS COLLECTORS CONVENTION
Several tables are set up with various merchants and collectors. At one table is Bugby and Linda with a display of memorabilia and a sign that says "SIGN UP TO WIN."

Camera pans to a large square box at the end of the table with ink pens and forms for contestants to fill out and insert into the slot in the top of the box.

A nerdy looking man is filling out a form and looks to Linda.

Nerd
Why do you want to know what our top two items are?

Linda
We plan on selecting a worthy collector for our Grand Prize.

Nerd
What is the grand prize?

Linda
Its a BIG Surprise!

Nerd
That's good enough for me. (He finishes the form and slides the entry into the top of the box.)

Linda
Make sure your address is legible. Good Luck.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM

Off. James
And thiscouple....they met in a cancer ward?

Chains
(At table. Arms crossed. In monotone voice. Staring at table, head down.)
Cancer support group.

Det Smith
And out of the blue, they decide to rob houses.
You expect us to believe that?

Chains
(Looking up.)
Collect memorabilia, not rob houses.

Det Smith

Well do they OWN this memorabilia?

Chains
They said no one can own the King.

Det Smith
Well you can own a Jail Cell for awhile.

Off James
Be you're own king.

CUT TO:

INT. AUTOMOBILE

Chains is in driver seat. Bugby is in passengers seat. Linda in back seat. Chains is looking at an address on one of the contestant slips.

Chains
3934 Wyoming. This is the place.

Bugby
Okay. Synchronize watches.

Chains
(frustrated)
We are going to be in there all of 5 minutes.

Linda
(Looking at watch)
3:05 on the nose.

Bugby
(Tinkering with watch)
3:05. Got it.

Linda
Neighbors at work. Coast is clear.

Bugby opens a brief case with various locksmith items with Many keys dangling. He squints out the car toward the front door.

Bugby
Looks like that is most probably a West lock with Deadbolt.
(Turning to Linda)
Sweetie, how much time do we have?

Linda
Well if they left for the appointment, like she said. I
am guessing 20 minutes at least.

Chains
How about we make it 5 and cut the dance routine this
time.

Bugby
I feel a song coming on. Laaaaaaaaaaa

Linda
Laaaaaaaaaaa.

Bugby
(In Elvis style taunting Chains)
Only fools rush in.....(continues as he exits car.)

Linda
(Joining in Elvis style)
But I can't help falling in love....

Bugby and Linda continues to sing as they exit the car.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM

Det. Smith
I get it. That was the beauty of the plan. You only
took the few pieces that were treasured.

Chains
Uh huh.

Det. Smith
And with no signs of entry, the victims think
they just misplaced some valuables.

Chains
Bugby said most collectors are in it for the money.
They don't appreciate the King. They collect for the
wrong reasons. They put it away and won't even notice.

Det. Smith

Some of that stuff is supposedly worth a lot of money, I suppose. Although who would buy it. James, I've got to get some air. You deal with Juveniles, see if you can find out where they stashed Elvis's cape.

Det. Smith Exits the room.

Off. James

So tell me. Did they ever sell any of this stuff?

Chains

(Looking down)
Sometimes.

Off. James

(Putting change in soda machine)
What are you drinking?

Chains

Do you have any Cherry Cola?

Off. James

(Looking at machine)
Nope. Not an option kid.

Chains

Anything then.

Off. James

(Pushing button on machine)
Is that stuff worth very much?

Chains

Bugby sold an original autographed 45, for \$10,000.

Officer James takes the Soda out of machine and placing it in front of Chains.

Off. James

From what you described a couple could party pretty good on that kinda loot.

CUT TO:

EXT. DRIVEWAY

Chains is setting items into the trunk of the car. Linda and Bugby are seen pulling the door to the house closed behind them in similar fashion to earlier. They are humming "All Shook up." They enter the vehicle and drive off.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM

Det. Smith re-enters the room. He has Chains backpack in his hand. He sets it on the edge of the table.

Off. James

And a decoy baited the victim to leave the house?

Chains takes drink of Soda.

Det. Smith

Baited?.....And how exactly did that happen?

Chains

Persuasion.

Det. Smith

Persuasion.

Off. James

Persuasion

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL ROOM

Bugby and Chains are playing with various Elvis Memorabilia. They gingerly touch and set down each item.

Bugby

(Holding and staring at an Elvis item) There we go.
This is what its all about.

Linda

Nineteen sixty three. I remember it like yesterday. Who was on the other side of that 45?

Chains is fondling various records and looking at each. She swipes her hand over the top album on the stack.

Chains
Dust. (She looks at her hand, palm up).

Linda
They didn't play that one much.

Chains
(Looking at palm of her hand)
Why have an album if you're not going to play it?

Bugby
(Pointing at Chains in a Fatherly manner).
Exactly my point. What have I been telling you.

Linda
In fact he recorded that in.....Shssssss I hear it ringing.

Linda cups phone and waives hand at others to be quiet.

Chains
Oh Yeah. (Staring at item) Solid Gold.

Linda
Never Mind that it's the memories.

Linda is on the telephone.

Linda
(Dialogue with telephone receiver to her face. Her tone is soft and friendly).
Yes. Mrs. Ellis. Hi this is Linda Monroe with Elvis collectors. I have some good news for you.
OH Yeeessss. You remember. Thats right. The GRAND PRIZE. Well I couldn't be happier for you. Do you know where the (looking over at Chains and Bugby.)

Chains hands her a local city tourist map and points.

Linda (CONT.)
The North Mall is? Good. We will be there from 3:30 to 4:00 at the entrance by the.....theaters.
Oh.....Yes, you're right. Silly me. I didn't mean the theaters, I meant the.....Yes, the book store.
Yes. Yes that's it. Well I just guess you are lucky. We selected the 10 worthiest and then a random drawing. Now dear if you don't see us at first wait a few minutes, we have to get our tables loaded and unloaded.
Okay. See you then. Bu..byeee.
(Excited)

Lets Rock and Roll.

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM

Det. Smith

So they get their kinky little Elvis fix. But what about you hot shot? What's in it for you?

CUT TO:

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE

Chains finishes pumping gas and puts handle into pump slot. Bugby appears with three fountain drinks and hands Linda hers, then hands Chains his. Then pulls out a wad of bills and hands it to Chains.

Bugby

Your stipend me lady.

Chains riffles through the cash, then puts it in her pocket. All three get into the car and begin sucking on the straws of their drinks. Chains gives a grimacing sour expression, then looks at the drink.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM

Off. James

But why the fascination with Elvis.

Chains

They both were big Elvis fans. They just wanted to have some fun before they died.

Det. Smith

Uh huh. With Elvis? By becoming common thieves?

Chains

It gave them excitement. I don't know. They knew they were dying and it gave themsomething.

CUT TO:

EXT. GROCERY STORE PARKING LOT

Bugby and Linda each have a shopping cart they are riding in the quiet end of a parking lot. At the edge of the lot are two 2 liter soda bottles set up as a finish line. Chains is exiting the store cradling a grocery sack.

Chains

Oh No.

Chains begins running after them

Linda

(Riding on back of shopping cart).
Weeeeeeeeee.

Bugby

(Riding on back of shopping cart).
And he is gaining gaining.

Linda

(Riding on back of shopping cart).
Ohhhhhhh. Ohhhhhhh.

Bugby

(Riding on back of shopping cart).
Wooooooo. Hooooooo.

Linda and Bugby are catching their breath laughing. They are face to face.

Bugby

You are quite a racer Linda Monroe.

Linda

You ride pretty good yourself James Bugby.

They softly kiss each other.

Bugby

If I had only met you when I was younger.

Linda

I feel the same way sweetheart If only you had met me
when you were younger. Hee hee.
They kiss again.

Chains
Store Security said no teenage petting in the parking
lot.

Chains turns and walks toward the car. She is smiling. Linda and
Bugby are hand in hand walking toward the car.

Bugby
Jealous. They are just Jealous.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM

Chains
(Pointing at pack of cigarettes in Det's pocket)
Can I have one of those?

Det Smith
(Taking drag off cigarette)
How old are you?

Chains
Old enough.

Det Smith
Well 15 is not old enough. Let your father decide that
when he gets here.

Chains
My father?

Off James
How long you been on your own?

Chains
Long enough.

Det Smith
You're just lucky we had a tip to pick you up.

Chains
A tip?

Det Smith
Yeah. Anyway. So how did you meet these supposed
characters anyway? Did you answer an ad
seeking juvenile delinquents?

CUT TO:

EXT. TRUCK STOP

Chains and Billy are sitting on the curb at the side of a truck
stop. Billy is blowing bubbles. Chains is staring aimlessly.

Chains
How many miles is it from here to New York?

Billy
(Heavy Brooklyn Accent)
I don't know. Just two weeks is all I know.
(Pauses and blows more bubbles)
How many miles is it from here to South Pako, Takoko.

Chains
South Dakota.

Billy
Yeah.....that.

Chains
A month. More or less.

Billy
You miss it?

Chains
(Blank stare as her mind is elsewhere)
No.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM

Chains
They needed a driver.
I wasn't going to judge them.

Det Smith
(Sarcastic)

Ohhhhh. How moral of you. And you get to travel and learn the tricks of the trade.

Off James

(Sarcastic)

See the country. Learn new music and cultures.

Chains

They did other things. It wasn't like that.

Det Smith

Well old people dying of cancer don't go on stealing rampages and they don't act crazy like you are describing.

Off James

(Beginning to anger)

I have known people on their last days. They spend them in the hospital and they don't act like kids.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWIMMING POOL

Bugby and Linda are poolside in swimming suits. Linda stands at edge of pool. Her back toward the pool.

Linda

I call this one the cheerleader dive.

Linda acts like a cheerleader and falls into the pool while doing it.

Bugby

Okay. Okay. I got one. This one is called saddle up.

Bugby does a John Wayne walk up to the edge of the pool, acts as if he is mounting a horse while he goes into the water. Linda laughs then begins to squeal as Bugby is tickling her unseen under the water. Bugby pop up right next to her.

Bugby

Hey know what?

Linda

What?

Bugby

I don't think that was suntan lotion.

Lifeguard begins to walk to edge of pool.

Oh. Linda

I think it was Viagra. Bugby

Ha ha. Ohhhhhhh. Linda

Lifeguard walks up and gives both a stern look.

Excuse me. The adult section of the pool is over there. Lifeguard

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM

Interesting story. (Opens can of soda.) Very touching. And the ending? Det. Smith

Camera does a long close up of Chains who looks at her hands then back up to the camera.

CUT TO:

EXT. COUNTRY GRAVEL ROAD

The car is parked and chains is finishing duct taping a tube from the exhaust pipe into the back seat. Bugby walks around the car and hands Chains a back pack.

Your welcome to count it. Bugby

No. No. I trust you. Chains

Thanks for everything. You are going to do just fine. Linda

Chains

Listen. Maybe we should think this whole thing over again.

Linda
Sweetie. You promised us.

Chains
(Frustrated. Beginning to tear up)
I mean they have medical breakthroughs everyday and

Bugby
(interrupting)
Now kid, you said no questions asked. We didn't ask you about your life.

Linda
She means well dear.

Chains
I know I said that. But....

Both Linda and Bugby are staring at Chains. There is an awkward silence.

Chains
Okay.

Chains begins to walk toward a field. She steps over a fence.

Bugby
We will wait until you are out of sight.

Chains
Okay....Uh....Bye.

Chains climbs over the fence and walks into the field.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM

Det. Smith
I got two problems with that story. Princess.

Chains
Quite frankly. Detective I don't care if you have a problem with it or not.

Det. Smith.
Maybe it isn't our problem at all.

Off. James
(Opening backpack)
But maybe you can tell us. Why did they give you a back
pack full of play money?

Detective dumps over contents of the back pack on the table. The
contents is toy money. Chains is obviously started and surprised.

Det. Smith
And last but not least. Why isn't there a vehicle
at the location you gave us?

Chains looks up at Detective. Her eyes are wide open.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAR TRAVELING ON HIGHWAY

Linda and bugby are in the car and they pass a sign that reads,
"Entering Las Vegas."

Music Cue for "Viva Las Vegas" by Elvis Presley.

THE END