

BEING ELVIS

(sequence sample)

Written by

J Darin Wales

INT. SEEDY MOTEL ROOM -- AFTERNOON

Crebs with his laptop computer, talks on his cell phone.

JOE CREBS

He's the real thing. I'm telling you. Yes, I'm getting the proof. I just need a little more time. You'll have the article in a couple of weeks along with all the proof you need. Get the Pulitzer ready.

Crebs hangs up and pushes a button on his COMPUTER.

The computer plays back Aron's voice from the golf course.

ARON (V.O.)

Thank ya. Thank ya vera much.

Crebs pushes a button and plays an original Elvis voice.

ELVIS (V.O.)

Thank ya. Thank ya vera much.

The GRAPHIC COMPARISON CHART on the computer reads out "Compatibility: High"

EXT. ARON KING'S HOUSE - DAY

Charlie rings the DOORBELL to a large modern luxury home.

A large BURLY MAN #2 answers the door.

BURLY MAN #2

Mr. MacArthur. Mr. King has been expecting you. Please come in.

INT. ARON KING'S HOUSE/FOYER - DAY

Charlie gazes at the surroundings, which seem familiar. Aron comes out from his media room.

ARON

Charlie! Welcome to my home. Come on in here. Can I get you a drink? Pepsi Cola? Water? A beer?

CHARLIE

Water will be fine.

KITCHEN

Aron retrieves a bottle of water.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Quite a place you have here. You were able to build all this impersonating Elvis?

ARON
No, not really. Mostly from residuals, investments. But now I'm retired and I just play golf and pursue other interests. But never mind all that, let's get to working on your "inner Elvis"!

MEDIA ROOM

Aron and Charlie enter a room that has one whole wall of flat screen TV's, tuned to various stations.

CHARLIE
Wow. This is quite a set up.

With the click of the remote, all the TV's flicker to blue.

ARON
Okay, let's see what ya got!

Aron powers up a karaoke player complete with video on the bank of TV's.

ARON (CONT'D)
So, what's your best Elvis song?

CHARLIE
Ah, maybe "Don't Be Cruel"?

ARON
Nice choice, but let's start out simple. How about "Row Row Row Your Boat"?

CHARLIE
What? That's not an Elvis song.

ARON
But if you can make it sound like one, you can do any Elvis song!

EXT. SEEDY MOTEL ROOM -- DAY

Crebs talks on his cell phone outside his hotel room.

JOE CREBS

Yeah. I've got him! Ninety-five percent sure. The cash backing is still good?... All right. All I need is one good sample... You'll have the article soon.

INT. ARON KING'S HOUSE/MEDIA ROOM -- DAY

Aron hits a button and stops the karaoke machine.

ARON

Hmm... no, that's not it. Charlie you gotta feel it!

CHARLIE

Okay. Let me try it again.

Aron restarts the song and Charlie puts on his Elvis face.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(singing)

Row row row your boat, gently down the stream. Merrily, merrily,...

Aron stops the song again.

ARON

Charlie, you sort of sound like Elvis, but you're not "channeling" Elvis. You got to be Elvis!

Charlie shakes his head.

ARON (CONT'D)

Look. Be Charlie as if Elvis were Charlie. You've got to feel the boat, feel the water under you. You've got to feel the oars in your mighty hands and just let out everything, every pent up sexual feeling inside your manly body and just let it all come on out, man! Do you know what I mean?

CHARLIE

Ah, not exactly.

Aron contemplates as he looks at Charlie.

ARON
Let me show you.

Aron starts "Row Row Row Your Boat" again.

From the start Aron is Elvis as if he were 33 years old.

The hips sway and arms move as he sings a sultry rendition.

Charlie watches but becomes entranced with Aron's natural ability to be Elvis with a silly song.

Aron finishes a stanza to a speechless Charlie.

ARON (CONT'D)
Thank ya vera much.

Charlie is stunned.

ARON (CONT'D)
You got to make the song yours.

CHARLIE
You should be the one entering this contest, not me.

ARON
Look, you just worry about helping me break a hundred in golf and I'll make sure you're Elvis!

CHARLIE
Is that a hundred for nine holes or eighteen?

Aron chuckles and gives Charlie a quick Elvis stance and points his index fingers at him.

ARON
Treat me right!

INT. CHARLIE'S HOME-KITCHEN -- NIGHT

Charlie sits at the dinning room table and opens the mail.

He opens a second letter from the bank. More bad news.

O.S. a DOOR OPENS AND SHUTS. Christine enters the room. Charlie sits up.

CHRISTINE
Hey, Dad!

Christine gives Charlie a peck on the cheek and notices he is a bit misty-eyed.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)
You okay, Dad?

CHARLIE
Fine. A letter came for you today.

Christine looks at a large envelope and picks it up.

CHRISTINE
The University of Texas.

Christine opens the letter, reads it.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)
I got accepted to Texas.

CHARLIE
You don't seem so excited.

Christine gives Charlie hug.

CHRISTINE
Wherever I end up and when I actually go, I am going to make you and Mom proud. I'm going to study to become the best cancer researcher ever.

Charlie separates from the embrace.

CHARLIE
What do you mean "whenever"?

CHRISTINE
Dad, you gave me our tax forms. We're not doing so well are we?

Charlie turns from Christine.

CHARLIE
Today I got a letter from the bank. I may lose the barber shop.

CHRISTINE
The shop? Daddy, I didn't know it was--

CHARLIE
I know. I haven't said anything. I should have but I didn't want you to worry.

Christine pauses.

CHRISTINE

I've already decided I'm staying home to help you.

CHARLIE

No! You have to follow your own path!

CHRISTINE

College can wait. Or at the very least, I can take out loans or just start at the local community college.

CHARLIE

I am so sorry.

Charlie and Christine embrace.

CHRISTINE

It's going to work out, Dad. I just know it is.

CHARLIE

That's something your mother would have said.

EXT. HONEYBEE GOLF COURSE/#9 TEE BOX -- DAY

Charlie tees off over water, perfectly driven.

Jorge prepares to tee off. Charlie, Willie and Booker stand behind.

WILLIE

Seventy-seven last week. How come you played so bad Charlie?

CHARLIE

The guy I was paired with was really bad. I was distracted.

BOOKER

You always say how bad we are and you still manage to shoot in the low seventies.

WHACK! SPLUSH! Jorge drives the ball straight into the water in front of the tee box.

JORGE

Ay yi yi!

Jorge pulls out another ball and tees it up.

CHARLIE

No, this guy was really bad.

WILLIE

For our sake, maybe you should play
golf with him more often!

WHACK! SPLUSH! Jorge drives a second ball into the water.

JORGE

¡Ay, caramba!

Jorge tees up a third ball.

CHARLIE

I will be. He's my Elvis coach.

BOOKER

You found a coach? Does he know
anything about being Elvis?

WHACK! Jorge drives his ball across the water into a tree.

KLOK! And BLOOP! The ball ricochets back into the water.

JORGE

No mas! No mas!

CHARLIE

He says he was the best in his day.

WILLIE

What do you think?

CHARLIE

We had our first lesson last night.
There's something about him I can't
quite put my finger on.

BOOKER

What's he charging you?

CHARLIE

I'm trading him free golf lessons.

WILLIE

Sounds fair.

CHARLIE

But it means I won't have the time
to play golf with you guys every
week.

WILLIE

Ah, that's a cryin' shame!

Jorge walks up to the group.

BOOKER

Jorge, did you ever tee off, man?

JORGE

Straight down the middle.