

Graceland: Going Home with Elvis | 1996 | Karal Ann Marling | Harvard University Press, 1996 | 9780674358898 | 258 pages

Elvis often shared Graceland with "the guys"--an entourage of relatives, assistants and school pals--"like a teenager whose parents weren't home" and was not above putting a bullet through the television when he saw something he didn't like. Marling argues that through conspicuous consumption, compulsive refurbishing of rooms and garish decor, Presley knew he was thumbing his nose at good taste and consciously cultivating his own legend.Â The liveliest and most intriguing of the new books [on Elvis] is Graceland: Going Home with Elvis, a sometimes funny, often thoughtful rumination on the place of Elvis and his super-kitsch mansion in the American iconography. (Linda Deutsch Los Angeles Times). This work analyzes what Graceland says about Elvis himself, and what it says of the people who go to visit it. It argues that what made Elvis a visual icon was his concern for style. The book interprets the places and the look of Elvis's life, and examines the tourism it has fostered. Product Identifiers. Publisher. Harvard University Press. ISBN-10. 0674358899. ISBN-13. The liveliest and most intriguing of the new books [on Elvis] is "Graceland: Going Home with Elvis", a sometimes funny, often thoughtful rumination on the place of Elvis and his super-kitsch mansion in the American iconography. - - Linda Deutsch "Los Angeles Times". Synopsis.Â Reconstructing the changing interior of Graceland during its owner's lifetime, the book describes the cultural geography of Elvisness - his self-created material world - and of American mobility in the postwar era. In Marling's book we have a portrait of the materialist ideal of "home", created in the commercial decadence of post-World War II America and fed by rock 'n' roll. See all Product description. No customer reviews.