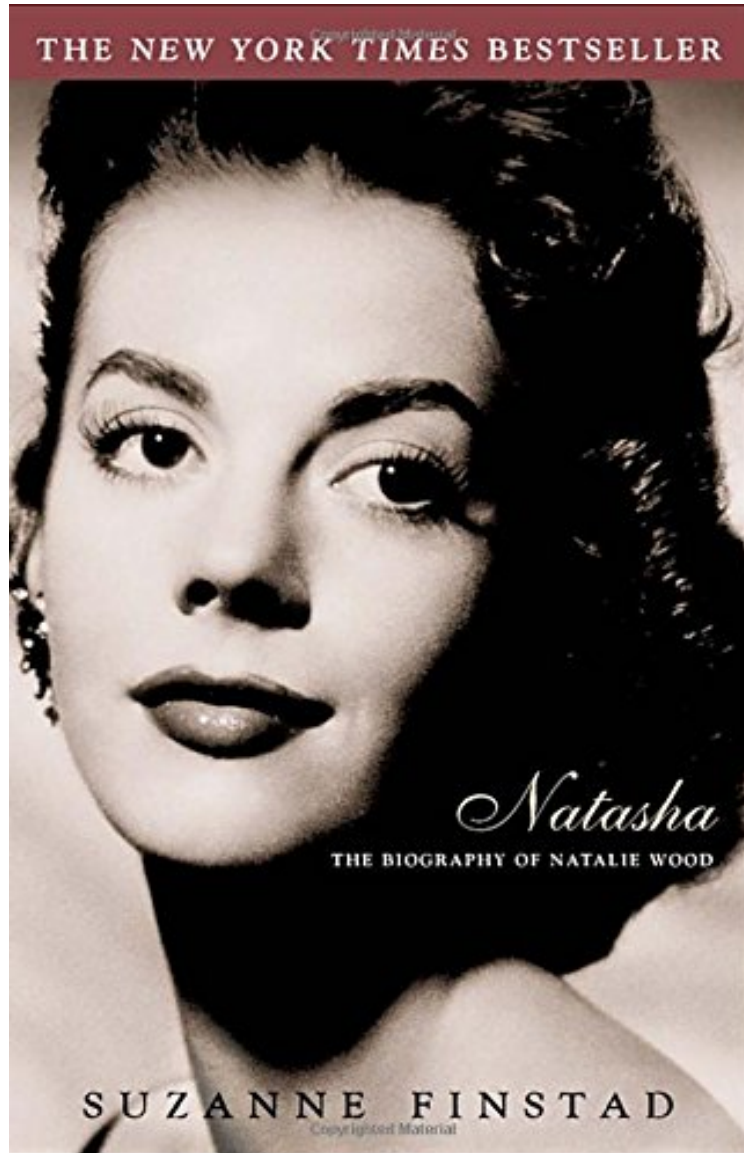


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Natasha: The Biography of Natalie Wood

Suzanne Finstad

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#253771 in Books Suzanne Finstad 2002-04-09 2002-04-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.98 x 1.16 x 5.15l, 1.19 #File Name: 0609809571544 pagesNatasha The Biography of Natalie Wood | File size: 24.Mb

Suzanne Finstad : Natasha: The Biography of Natalie Wood before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Natasha: The Biography of Natalie Wood:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Whether you are a Natalie Wood fan or not, this is worthwhile reading. By s, richardI did not follow Natalie Wood closely growing up. Probably the first time I saw Natalie Wood was in "West Side Story". I was reading this book to learn more about her, as well as to learn more about her tragic and untimely passing. Ms. Finstad wrote a biography about Warren Beaty as well, and if you liked her style of

storytelling in that book, you will like this book as well. Ms. Finstad has many details and accounts of the same story from different points of view, and will re-introduce the same idea at different times in the book. Without hitting you over the head with a point or opinion, the author will leave the accounts where they fall, and let you the reader make up your mind. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. In-Depth, informative, but very sad By traveler77 This is a very in-depth biography of actress Natalie Wood. The author explores her childhood and dysfunctional and unhealthy relationship that Natalie had with her mother, and her life growing up in show business through her tragic death. I found this book to be very interesting and informative, although I will admit it's a bit depressing. I don't expect every film actor or actress to have a bubbly fairy tale existence because they don't but Natalie's life is particularly tragic. A good read for anyone interested in her life. Gave good insight to her films and her experiences making them and working with fellow actors and directors. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. One of the finest, most complete books I have read about the ... By Bruce Morrison One of the finest, most complete books I have read about the life and times of a very beautiful and very talented actress. I could not put it down. The research Ms. Finstad put into this book is beyond belief. It seems that no stone was left unturned and no detail left out of her biography. I loved this book. After reading it I felt as though I knew Natalie Wood better than I ever thought I could know someone who I had never met but admired very much.

The New York Times bestselling definitive biography of Natalie Wood, *Natasha* is the haunting story of a vulnerable and talented actress whom many of us felt we knew. We watched her mature on the movie screen before our eyes in *Miracle on 34th Street*, *Rebel Without a Cause*, *West Side Story*, *Splendor in the Grass*, and on and on. She has been hailed along with Marilyn Monroe and Elizabeth Taylor as one of the top three female movie stars in the history of film, making her a legend in her own lifetime and beyond. But the story of what Natalie endured, of what her life was like when the doors of the soundstages closed, has long been obscured. *Natasha* is based on years of exhaustive research into Natalie's turbulent life and mysterious drowning. Author Suzanne Finstad conducted nearly four hundred interviews with Natalie's family, close friends, legendary costars, lovers, film crews, and virtually everyone connected with the investigation of her strange death. Through these firsthand accounts from many who have never spoken publicly before, Finstad has reconstructed a life of emotional abuse and exploitation, of almost unprecedented fame, great loneliness, poignancy, and loss. She sheds an unwavering light on Natalie's complex relationships with James Dean, Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, Raymond Burr, Warren Beatty, and Robert Wagner and reveals the two lost loves of Natalie's life, whom her controlling mother prevented her from marrying. Finstad tells this beauty's heartbreaking story with sensitivity and grace, revealing a complex and conflicting mix of fragility and strength in a woman who was swept along by forces few could have resisted.

.com Natalie Wood (1938-81) came from the last generation of movie stars shaped by the Hollywood studio system, and Suzanne Finstad gives her life the all-out showbiz celebrity bio treatment in this compulsively readable book. As Finstad sees it, Wood was tortured by the conflict between her real self, born Natasha Zakharenko to Russian immigrants, and the glamorous "Natalie Wood" persona created by her ambitious mother. Wood admired rebellious actors like James Dean, her co-star in *Rebel Without a Cause*, but she wanted the mink coats, sexy cars, and huge salaries Warner Brothers doled out for appearances in forgettable pictures like *Sex and the Single Girl*. Working in films from age 6, she learned early that the way to get ahead was to please the grownups, a lesson she never really unlearned, even in her wild teens. She ditched a fiancé deemed unsuitable by the studio, to marry suave rising star Robert Wagner, despite warnings from friends that he was bisexual; their first marriage ended when she found him "in a compromising position with another man," but they reunited in 1972 to become Hollywood's golden couple once more. But her attraction to more challenging artists remained; her friendship with *Brainstorm* co-star Christopher Walken sparked the drunken quarrel that in Finstad's account led to Wood's drowning off Wagner's boat. (Chillingly, she had a lifelong fear of water.) Numerous quotes from practically everyone who ever knew Wood evoke Tinseltown's gossipy atmosphere, and Finstad's overwrought prose (she describes Wood as "bound to her mother, as if Maria were a snake coiled around her neck") sustains an appropriately high-pitched mood. Suicide attempts, reckless driving, excessive drinking, rape by an unnamed Hollywood star are all chronicled in detail that might be distasteful if the author weren't so sympathetic towards her vulnerable heroine. --Wendy Smith From *Library Journal* Finstad (*Child Bride: The Untold Story of Priscilla Beaulieu Presley*) also served as producer of *Natasha*, an ABC-TV film that aired in January. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Booklist* A Hollywood legend is revived in this responsible biography. Brad Hooper Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved