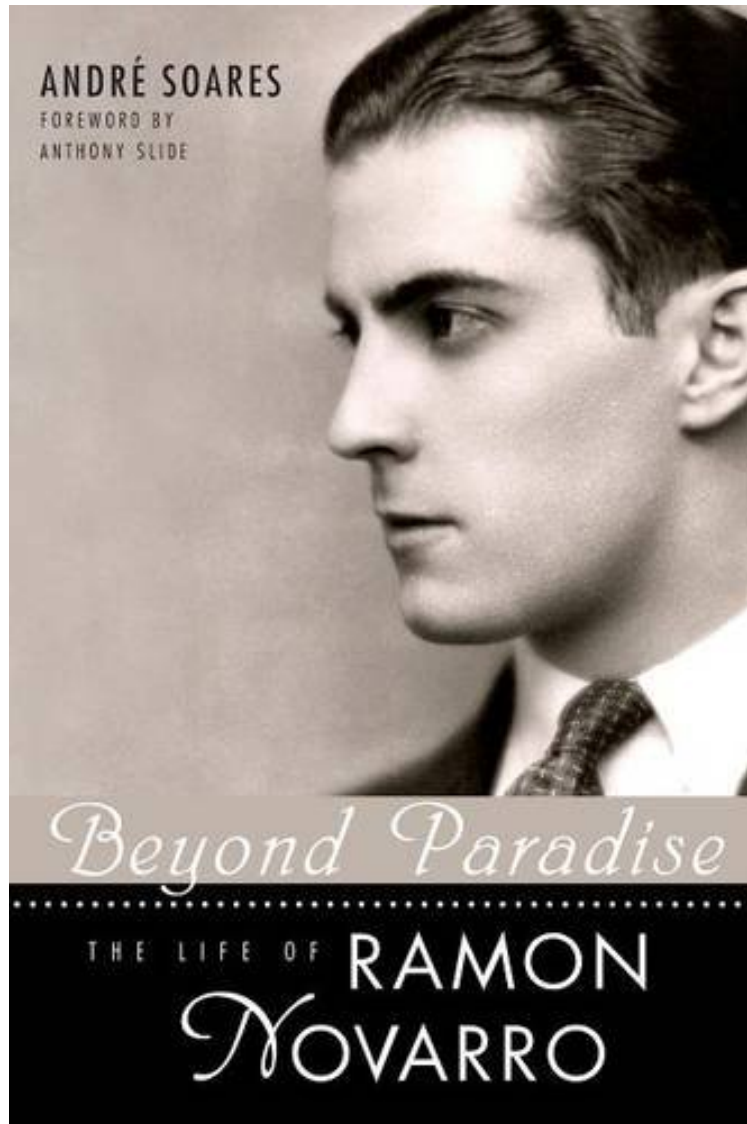


[Mobile ebook] Beyond Paradise: The Life of Ramon Novarro (Hollywood Legends Series)

## Beyond Paradise: The Life of Ramon Novarro (Hollywood Legends Series)

*Andr Soares*

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**Andr Soares : Beyond Paradise: The Life of Ramon Novarro (Hollywood Legends Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beyond Paradise: The Life of Ramon Novarro (Hollywood Legends Series):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Ramon - The first Ben Hur on screenBy CocoaWhile reading this biography I felt such a sadness for Ramon. I felt his pain in dealing with his homosexuality at a time when actors had

to be closeted. He struggled with his inner pain. He went to the church a lot and wanted to be a Franciscan brother. He wanted to be buried in a Franciscan frock. He also struggled with being an alcoholic. I've watched the movie with him as the original Ben Hur and he acted well in the movie. I've seen him in countless silent movies and talkies. I had heard about Ramon before reading this book. I knew that he came from Mexico but, I had no idea he came from a rather large family. Also I had no idea he was the eldest of his family and how he helped them financially. His death was brutal and I was saddened to hear that he died the way he did. I enjoyed reading this book. I felt a closeness to the fine actor that he was. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Sad end to an amazing life By pgh girl I wish all biographies were this thorough and interesting. I never cared for silent movies and I didn't know much about its stars, but one of the stories in "Crowned Heads" by Thomas Tryon is based on Ramon Navarro's murder. I was intrigued, read about Navarro on Wiki and bought this book. I'm so glad I did. The author details the silent movie era and Navarro's journey from Mexico to star-status. He was a kind, dignified man, a great actor and singer, and a Hollywood legend. He was also gay in a time when it was not only unacceptable, but dangerous to be gay. The conflict between his devout Catholicism and his homosexuality resulted in alcoholism and depression. The story of his murder at the hands of 2 hustlers was fascinating, but sometimes hard to read. I highly recommend this book to those who are interested in silent movies--or interesting biographies. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Book! By Blonde Blythe This book grabbed my attention from the get-go. I really like the author's writing style, which draws you in, making you want to know more. Very clear, concise, and to the point. The book, which is very well researched, by the way, debunked several inaccurate myths about Navarro. I also learned many interesting things about Navarro that I didn't know, such as Navarro's dream of joining the priesthood. One of the best biographies I have had the pleasure of reading!

The first Latin American actor to become a superstar, Ramon Navarro was for years one of Hollywood's top actors. Born Ramon Samaniego to a prominent Mexican family, he arrived in America in 1916, a refugee from civil wars. By the mid-1920s, he had become one of MGM's biggest box office attractions, starring in now-classic films, including *The Student Prince*, *Mata Hari*, and the original version of *Ben-Hur*. He shared the screen with the era's top leading ladies, such as Greta Garbo, Myrna Loy, Joan Crawford, and Norma Shearer, and he became Rudolph Valentino's main rival in the Latin Lover category. Yet, despite his considerable professional accomplishments, Navarro's enduring hold on fame stems from his tragic death: his bloodied corpse was found in his house on Halloween 1968 in what has become one of Hollywood's most infamous scandals. A lifelong bachelor, Navarro carefully cultivated his image as a man deeply devoted to his family and to Catholicism. His murder shattered that persona. News reports revealed that the dashing screen hero had not only been gay, but he was dead at the hands of two young, male hustlers. Since then, details of his murder have achieved near-mythic proportions, obscuring Navarro's professional legacy. *Beyond Paradise* presents a full picture of the man who made motion picture history. Including original interviews with Navarro's surviving friends, family, co-workers, and the two men convicted of his murder, this biography provides unique insights into an early Hollywood star whose heart was forever in conflict with his image and whose myth continues to fascinate today.

From Publishers Weekly Mexican heartthrob Ramon Navarro (1899-1968) was one of early Hollywood's leading romancers. He got his big break in 1923's *Scaramouche*, went on to play the title role in 1925's *Ben-Hur* and later appeared with Greta Garbo in 1932's *Mata Hari*. However, despite these sizeable roles, today Navarro is chiefly remembered for how he died: he was beaten to death by two thieves. Now screenwriter and translator Andre Soares offers the thoroughly researched biography *Beyond Paradise: The Life of Roman Navarro*. Soares skillfully covers the actor's Mexican upbringing, his ascent to fame, his relationship with publicist and entertainment journalist Herbert Howe and the difficulties he encountered as a gay man. This is a straightforward and insightful account of one star's difficult life. 16-page photo insert not seen by PW. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal One of the most popular leading men of the 1920s, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer player Navarro had a dark secret: he was gay. The Mexican-born star of such lushly romantic films as *The Student Prince* and *The Pagan*, as well as the worldwide sensation *Ben-Hur*, he tried to walk the fine line between concealing his homosexuality and refusing to play the Hollywood game (including a sham marriage) for the sake of appearances. A sensitive actor, he soon rose above the "Latin lover" stereotype and entered talking pictures with his stardom intact, especially in demand for roles featuring his pleasant singing voice. (He had hoped to be an opera singer.) Although his accent was not intrusive, his fame declined after a few years of poor roles, and he was forced to look to lesser studios and foreign countries to extend his career. In the early 1950s, Navarro returned to Hollywood for a few character roles and then was largely relegated to a life of wealthy retirement until his sordid 1968 murder by two hustlers. With this carefully researched, well-balanced, and intelligently written book, screenwriter Soares has probably produced the definitive Navarro biography. Recommended for all libraries. Roy Liebman, California State Univ., Los Angeles Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist To the recent spate of books detailing the history of gays in Hollywood's golden age (e.g., William J. Mann's *Behind the Screen* [2001] and Diana McLellan's *The Girls* [2000]) comes a worthy

addition, Soares' chronicle of one of the biggest silent stars, Ramon Novarro, whose fame was parabolic, soaring to a Douglas Fairbanks-like peak when he played the title role in *Ben-Hur* (1926) and peaking again with his grisly demise some 40 years after his first perihelion. In between, after sound dispelled the silents, his was largely a name from the past, a la Norma Desmond in *Sunset Boulevard*, though he made the transition to talkies far better than fellow top-of-the-heap silent star John Gilbert. Still, his career spiraled down into cameo appearances and the like. By the time he was beaten to death by a couple of cruisers who may have intended only to steal some money, Novarro had been a customer of "escort services" for men for many years. However, Soares specifically accuses Hollywood sleazemonger Kenneth Anger of fabricating the lead "art-deco dildo" supposedly stuffed down the dead Novarro's throat. Dildo or no dildo, no Hollywood collection should be without a biography of Novarro, and Soares' story of this prototypical cinematic "Latin lover" fills the bill in excellent form. Mike Tribby Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved