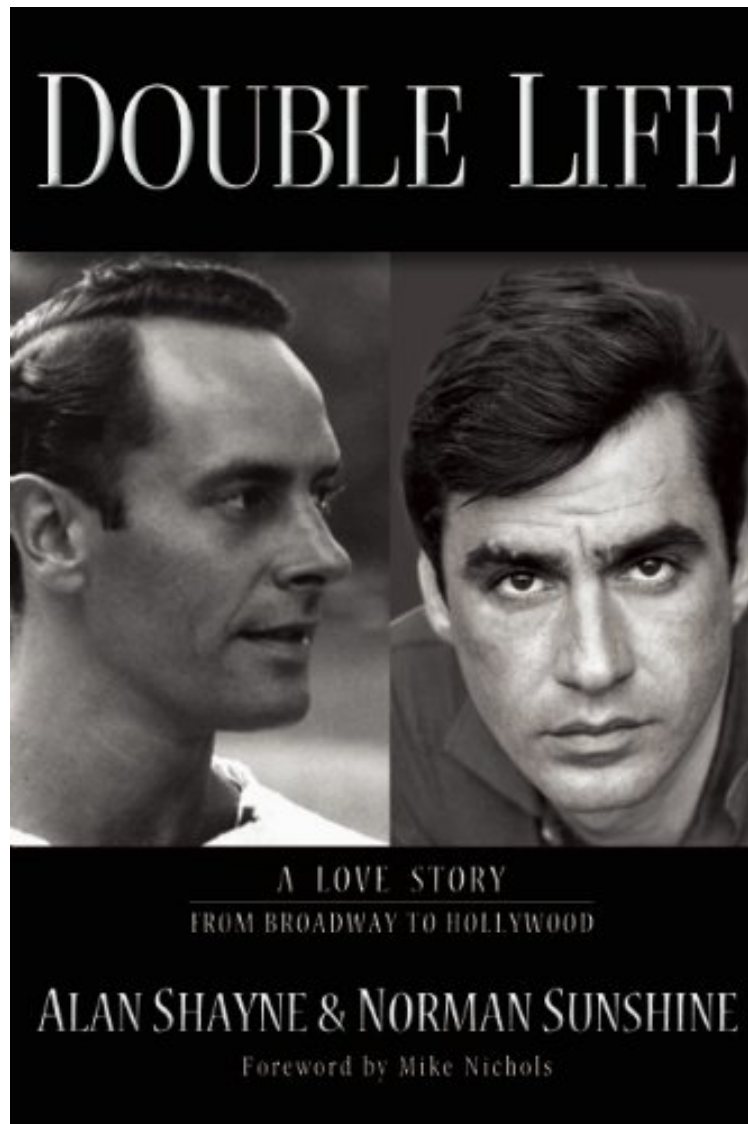


[Mobile ebook] Double Life: A Love Story from Broadway to Hollywood

## Double Life: A Love Story from Broadway to Hollywood

*Alan Shayne, Norman Sunshine*  
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**Alan Shayne, Norman Sunshine : Double Life: A Love Story from Broadway to Hollywood** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Double Life: A Love Story from Broadway to Hollywood:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Living proof: Generosity, creativity and love through a long and marvelous life.By Biggest FanA deep, thoughtful and moving account of two very full and complete lives; each made richer by the presence the another.It's one of the best reflections on marriage I have ever seen. Unblinking. Clear.

Determined to do it right and then set the record straight, full of love. The fact that this is a book about two men is, remarkably, tangential to the example of their lives. Their troubles may have been exacerbated by the prejudice of the culture in which they lived, but they don't posit that their problems were greater than other married couples - of any configuration. They have had creative lives which, within the demands of art and expression, are always challenging if there is to be any growth and depth. And they share how they've faced these difficulties; sometimes with grace, and sometimes with behavior that was less than graceful, less than fair, less than generous. But always they came home to the relationship. And always forgiveness, and insight, and huge wells of generosity. Alan and Norman are comforted by the other's care, made brave by the necessity to support the other, and seem fully alive within the gaze of the loved one. Looking back with them, we see their example not as the end of the imaginary rainbow, but real and possible and full of truth. There is, of course, in these pages a lot of social and professional success, and enough money to make a graceful life possible. But one can't explain away the lessons of giving, sharing, appreciating, caring and commitment to only the cushion of comfort or money. We all know too many people with both, who live lives of little personal success, values or standards. This is the story of an amazing life together. And in it are lessons of love and commitment that might apply to every one of us. But most of all, to those who also hope to love and live with generosity, courage and grace. Here is living proof it can be done and done beautifully through a whole, long and marvelous life. I was delighted to find this book.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Everlasting Love  
By Joe Ross  
An inspirational love story of two gay men who start out with nothing but who became wildly successful in their careers. One was an actor turned producer movie executive, the other an illustrator turned painter. Closeted because of the time in which they lived, after 50 plus years together, they marry for legal purposes. Told alternately in chapters by each, the account is absorbing reading. Not only are their lives interestingly detailed, but the lives of their friends, many of whom were famous, are fascinating reading.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Recommended.  
By Thomas Veregge  
There was much to learn in this book, and much that isn't taught in American History. Recommended.

Gay marriage is at the forefront of America's political battles. The human story at the center of this debate is told in *Double Life: A Love Story*, a dual memoir by a gay male couple in a 50 plus year relationship. With high profiles in the entertainment, advertising and art communities, the authors offer a virtual timeline of how gay relationships have gained acceptance in the last half-century. At the same time, they share inside stories from film, television and media featuring the likes of Marlon Brando, Katharine Hepburn, Rock Hudson, Barbra Streisand, Laurence Olivier, Truman Capote, Bette Davis, Robert Redford, Lee Radziwill and Frances Lear. We both grew up at a time when homosexuality was not even spoken about, the couple writes. There were certainly no books that could help a young person understand that two people of the same sex could build a happy, productive and loving life together. When we entered our 50th year, another same sex couple told us we were an inspiration, so we began to feel we had the responsibility to make what we've experienced available to others. We also wanted to show people who were not gay that our life was not unlike theirs. We are all pretty much the same, so we deserve equal protection under the Constitution. Alan Shayne retired as President of Warner Brothers Television in 1986, following a career that included Broadway, playing opposite Lena Horne and spanned forty years. As a leading casting director, he worked on such films as *Catch 22*, *All the President's Men* and many others. At Warner Brothers, he shepherded such long-running television series as *Alice*, *Night Court* and *The Dukes of Hazard*. Norman Sunshine was a successful magazine illustrator in New York who went on to be a painter and sculptor whose works are in museums and in important collections. In the early years of his career, he was vice president, creative director of an advertising agency, and coined the phrase, *What Becomes a Legend Most?* as well as *Danskins* are not just for Dancing. He interrupted his painting career when Frances Lear asked him to spearhead *Lear's Magazine* in the 1980s. Upon the two men meeting in New York in 1958, We didn't want to live together, says Shayne. We didn't have any examples of what a good love relationship between two men could be. And there was always the problem of hiding so no one would know we were gay. There was no question that if I were known to be gay, living with another man, it would make it more difficult for me to get work as an actor. As an artist, Sunshine was able to maintain a moderately out lifestyle. But when the first exhibition of his paintings in New York brought on a profile in *The New York Times* in 1968, he was photographed in the apartment that he admitted sharing with Shayne. At both his advertising agency and Shayne's television production company, the article was met with absolute silence. Even in the 1970s, when Sunshine won an Emmy for the graphics and title design he had created for one of Shayne's television productions, Alan and I agreed it was not a good idea for us to be seen together at an industry event, he remembers. Alan, after all, was one of the very few homosexuals who had such a powerful, high profile job, and who lived openly with a man. Homophobia had its adherents and some ruthless climber up the executive ladder would certainly love an opportunity to use it... Better to be seen with a woman, we were advised by a very trusted friend, Makes everyone more comfortable. Happily, in 2008, the State of Massachusetts allowed the opportunity for the couple to be married on a beach in Nantucket. We were like a long, empty, closed-up house where the windows have just been opened, writes Shayne. The fresh air thrilled t

Advance Praise  
Though *Double Life* is a perfect plea for equal rights, it never preaches but merely looks candidly at

the terrific, if at times turbulent, relationship of two fabulous, sexy men who dared love each other openly. I laughed and gasped at its inside-show-business stories and was intrigued by the cutthroat advertising and art worlds. Brilliantly written, filled with humor and occasional heartbreak, *Double Life* follows a fifty-year marriage, revealing its love and wars. Joan Rivers "A love that once dared not speak its name sings freely and beautifully in *Double Life*, a fascinating, frank and page-turning memoir about the life-long love affair of two extraordinary men. Candace Bushnell "How exceptionally fine at this precarious moment in our history to be able to read the moving story of a lifelong love affair between two men, spanning some fifty years of faithful togetherness, utter and complete devotion and responsible and fulfilling achievement. Alan Shayne and Norman Sunshine have written a valuable document to show the world that yes, we can do it too. Larry Kramer "I read the Alan Shayne and Norman Sunshine's *Double Life* in one big gulp. This memoir becomes their legends most! Liz Smith "Anyone living in a long term relationship, gay or straight, will find him/herself in the pages Alan Shayne and Norman Sunshine have written. They know what it's like to be together for a long time and they tell it like it is, with wit, courage, honesty and tenderness. From Broadway to the Village to Madison Avenue to Hollywood they have tales to tell and they tell them brilliantly. I love this book! Alfred Uhry, Pulitzer Prize and Academy Award-winning author of *Driving Miss Daisy* "A life well lived does not always make a book well written, but here, in this truthful and affecting work, are two carefully maintained lives without a mortgage, paired by fate and synchronized from two points of view like a pair of mated butterflies. Reading about their lives has taught me a lot about my own one riveting, wisely observed revelation after another by two extraordinary men with a lot to give. When I grow up, I want to be just like Alan Shayne and Norman Sunshine. Rex Reed "What gives the book additional measure of depth is the consistently strong melody of the love story that plays underneath almost every incident, and provides the various pressures, cultural and otherwise, that challenge its survival. A.R. Gurney, author of the play *Love Letters* "Publishers Weekly "This entertaining, invigorating story of Shayne and Sunshine's enduring relationship seems like something from off the silver screen. Their relationship began in 1958 when homosexuality was considered a disease; at the time of their first meeting, the divorced Shayne was trying to cure himself of his homosexuality via deep analysis. Shayne, an aspiring actor at the beginning of the book, became a casting director, and, eventually, the president of Warner Brothers Television. Sunshine started out as a freelance illustrator in New York and developed into an accomplished painter, media consultant, and Emmy Award winner. Despite their career successes, the couple lived a less-than open life. In 1968, when Sunshine admitted to a New York Times reporter that he lived with Shayne, they were met with deafening silence from colleagues and friends. The authors include entertaining stories about stars, from a young Marlon Brando, to a generous Rock Hudson, to a bitter Lena Horne. As much a love letter as a look at how society's views on homosexuality have changed over the last 50 years, this is a fascinating book. (Oct.)