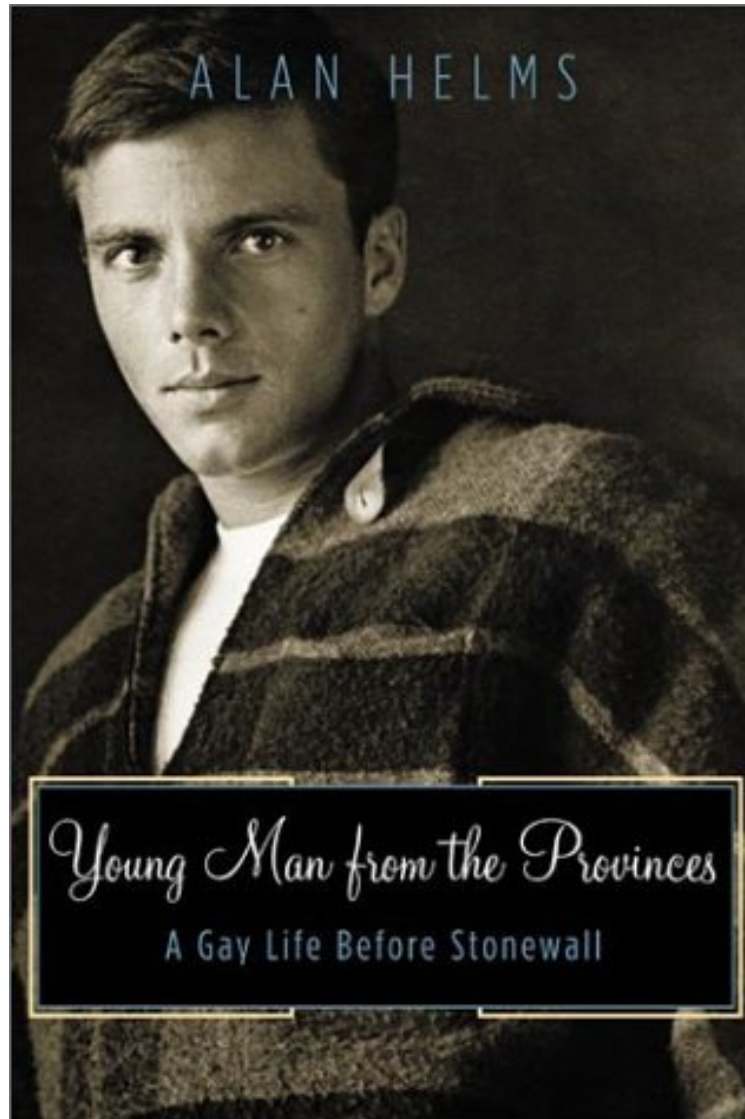


(Get free) Young Man From The Provinces: A Gay Life Before Stonewall

Young Man From The Provinces: A Gay Life Before Stonewall

Alan Helms

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#1717738 in Books Univ Of Minnesota Press 2003-04-22Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 1.20 x 6.00l, .71 #File Name: 0816642680224 pages | File size: 68.Mb

Alan Helms : Young Man From The Provinces: A Gay Life Before Stonewall before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Young Man From The Provinces: A Gay Life Before Stonewall:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A touching memoir from the 50's and 60'sBy Geoff PuterbaughActually, the memoir goes beyond the 60's, but the 50's and 60's were the time when the author was the "Golden Boyman" -- the most attractive sexiest gay man in New York. Although few people knew it, Alan was also an emotional wreck: not only did he have an extremely abusive childhood, like every other gay man at the time he was

considered a sinner, a criminal, mentally ill to boot. Well, how would you react if the great mass of your fellow citizens thought you were scum, and highly disposable scum at that? Alan's incredible beauty led him on a wild roller-coaster ride in the gay world, where he was introduced to such people as Noel Coward (a neighbor), Leonard Bernstein, Steven Sondheim, Marlene Dietrich, Edward Albee...well, the list could be extended with another hundred names, many of them "scum" just like Alan. Of course, beauty fades like the rose, and inevitably Alan had to deal with his lost looks and try to lead some sort of normal life -- very difficult with a monkey on his back (booze). He survived, and became a professor of English. But what a life! What a story! Highly recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. **A BRILLIANT AND HANDSOME YOUNG MAN GROWS FROM TRICK TO ACADEMIC TRADE IN A SUBSTANCE ABUSED LIFE** By robert m friedman A fascinating chronology of a young man who is blessed with good looks and high intelligence but burdened with an alcoholic father and dysfunctional family from an unsophisticated mid-Western background. It is the story of how he escapes the homophobia and narrow mindedness of his background to wallow in the overly free gay world of pre-Aids New York of mid-Century. He barely escapes HIV (preceding it by several decades) but his friends do not, and along the way encounters the highly sexualized, promiscuous and talented world of an earlier New York City, befriending and becoming intimately involved with many of the literati and gliteratti of the period, among whom are the likes of Noel Coward, Stephen Sondheim, Anthony Perkins, Leonard Bernstein, Lucino Visconti and others. He ultimately struggles with his reputation of being "the most famous piece of ass of my generation" and realizes that his destiny has higher goals, gets a PHD in English, moves to Boston, and settles into a more sedate but arguably safer and saner academic world of Professorship. Through all of this he moves from the purely physical world of youth and gay culture into the more mature but challenging world of ideas and learning. He learns too late to appreciate the love given him by his family of origin. The book is an honest appraisal of a gay life marked by opportunity, tragedy and ultimately deep insight into the human condition. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Remarkable.. By Melissa M. Shook I am introducing this book on [...], a site for and about memoir. The introduction will appear in June. It would be hard for me to be more enthusiastic about this book which gives a full sense of the author's life as a golden boyman in the days before Stonewall, when he was famous and desired. And it gives a rich sense of how coming from a brutal home life, with an alcoholic father and a beleaguered mother, effected his very shaky sense of self-worth, how this became the basic for many of his choices and how long it took, how hard he worked, to become a very different person. I think it's an essential read for anyone interested in recovery, and for those interested in the pre-Stonewall history.

Returning to print, this insider's view of pre-Stonewall high class homosexual lifestyles retraces the author's journey from his backwards Midwestern town to Manhattan in the 1950s. Reprint.

From Publishers Weekly In his 20s and early 30s, Helms was at once the most privileged and self-destructive of men, at the giddy peak of his career as "the most celebrated young man in all of gay New York." The Manhattan of the 1950s and '60s embraced the Columbia student as a "U.T."? a "universal type," or "someone everybody wants," photographed by Avedon, directed by Edward Albee and pursued by any number of men. Repudiating the drab miseries of his Indiana boyhood, Helms pursued those who pursued him: his more celebrated lovers included Anthony Perkins, Larry Kert and Luchino Visconti. Leonard Bernstein wooed him ardently, and chum Noel Coward helped Helms reconcile with a lover. But the relationships were doomed to fall apart, as Helms (held aloft by adoration, alcohol and drugs; brought thuddingly to earth by excess? bulimia; alcoholism; joyless, frenetic promiscuity) began to self-destruct. Self-acceptance came with the more temperate joys of work as a college professor and with counseling from the Harvard psychologist Robert Coles. As he grew older, Helms was better able to distance himself from the past. Because Helms is neither an elegant nor a modest writer, the reader is less willing to repudiate his glittering excesses; Helms's vigorous name-dropping has more charm than the somber self-reproaches that accompany his sobriety. This self-described "D student in the school of life" depicts a New York that, after the Stonewall riots, would never be as closeted? or as cozily familiar? again. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Even if you don't recognize Helms as the epitome of New York's and Europe's golden "boymen" during the late 1950s and 1960s, you will appreciate his poignant, picaresque memoir, which vividly captures with humor and insight the chronicle of his journey: from the unhappiness of his abusive, alcoholic family life in Indianapolis and an overwhelming need for acceptance, seemingly fulfilled by becoming a cynosure in the world of the beautiful people, to his aborted careers as a model, actor, and writer. Among the many names dropped are friendships with Noel Coward, Leonard Bernstein, and Luchino Visconti and affairs with Larry Kert, Tony Perkins, and scores of other famous and/or handsome young men. But after years of addiction to the gym, cigarettes, adulation, booze, sex, dope, and later drugs and bulimia, Helms finally faces his fears and creates a new life as professor of literature at the University of Massachusetts in Boston. For gay studies collections. James E. Van Buskirk, San Francisco P.L. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Extraordinary and elegantly written. A record of a gay world that has virtually disappeared over the past twenty-five years of liberation and fifteen years of AIDS." "A beautifully written memoir. Helms sped through the celebrity-packed fast lanes, but he has learned how to stand back and get

some perspective." "Sublimely funny, engaging, pathetic, highly literary, and painful to read. Helms seems like a gay Everyman whose quest for self-knowledge, respect, and contentment in this contemptuous world mirrors that of many other marginalized people."