

Natalie



A Memoir by Her Sister

Lana Wood

G. P. Putnam's Sons
New York



Natalie at her best, during the years of her Warner Brothers contract.



Irving Pichel discovered her and wanted to adopt her.

Pop took this during a visit to San Francisco. Natalie's pout is out of character—she loved having her picture taken.



A backyard full of Russians. Left to right, Aunt Zoia, Mom, Pop (holding me), Aunt Hazel, Natalie, our brother-in-law Alexis Viripaeff, and our sister Olga.





Every star has her own swimming pool—this one was for Natalie and me at our family's home in Burbank.

My favorite picture of us as children.





Miracle on 34th Street, which has become a classic holiday film. John Payne, Maureen O'Hara, Edmund Gwenn, and the little girl who wouldn't believe in Santa Claus. *Memory Shop*



Natalie, Shirley Temple curls and all, with Barbara Stanwyck in *The Bride Wore Boots* (1946). That year Natalie got a little sister too.



In the early days Mom pulled all the strings.



Natalie in New York with Liz Taylor, two of the few child actresses to grow into adult stars.



In *The Silver Chalice* Natalie—her hair dyed blond—played the young Virginia Mayo. Paul Newman wasn't the only one embarrassed by the film.



On the set of *The Burning Hills* with Natalie.



Rehearsing *Rebel Without a Cause*. From the left, Jimmy Dean, Sal Mineo, Corey Allen, and Natalie. Only Corey is still alive.



The "Gigi" look was IN.



Natalie's first—and favorite—car, a pink Thunderbird. She had a close call in it on Mulholland Drive.



She made two films with Tab Hunter, but the chemistry wasn't right on-screen, although off-screen they were close friends.

Natalie's affair with Elvis didn't last long. He was constantly hiding from fans, while Natalie was constantly hiding from Momma Presley. *The Neal Peters Collection*





The premiere of *Giant*. Natalie's date was Dennis Hopper, then of *Giant*, later of *Easy Rider*, my date was Dennis's little brother.



Christmas 1956. We had just made *The Searchers*. She developed a crush on John Wayne's son, and I was terrified of Indians.



A publicity shot for *The Searchers*. I played Natalie as a young girl.



My adoring look was supposed to be an exhausted look. The studio had a photographer shooting pictures while I "helped" Natalie get ready for a date.



Natalie with one of her beloved pets. In later years she had so many we called her backyard a minefield.



Natalie had a genius for looking good—all of the time.



With Mom on Van Nuys High School graduation day. She was furious that the studio sent photographers.



Natalie's first wedding to R.J. I wept because I was afraid of losing her.



After the reception Natalie and R.J. proceeded by private train to Florida for the honeymoon.



And then came Warren. By the time *Splendor in the Grass* was released in 1961, they were more than co-stars.
Wide World Photos



They looked gorgeous together but the explosions at home were big ones. At the *West Side Story* premiere.
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