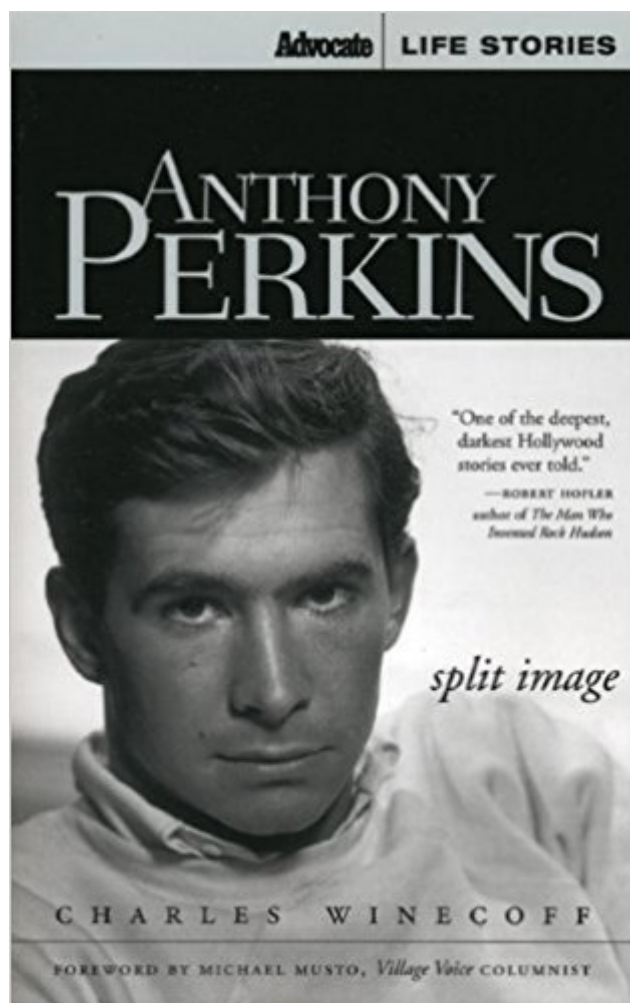


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# Anthony Perkins: Split Image (Advocate Life Stories)



## Synopsis

Paramount groomed him to replace the late James Dean and become Hollywood's hottest heartthrob. But his landmark performance as Norman Bates in Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho* killed that—and spawned an image of Anthony Perkins that eerily paralleled his conflicted, fractured off-screen life. *Anthony Perkins: Split Image* insightfully and comprehensively documents the life of this great actor, who was forced to act the part of ladies' man while privately struggling with his own homosexuality, and chronicles his complicated search for acceptance. Newly revised and updated for this tenth anniversary edition, *Anthony Perkins: Split Image* is both a harrowing look at life in the Hollywood closet and a poignant human drama that will change your vision of Anthony Perkins forever.

• Riveting...With his laser-beam of an eye, Winecoff lights up the hidden corners of Hollywood's golden age, as well as a dark age of homosexuality that needs to be understood by anyone who didn't live through it. It's a page-turner.

• "James Gavin, author of *Deep in a Dream: The Long Night of Chet Baker*—Charles Winecoff is a clever biographer. With his inside, creepy examination of Anthony Perkins, I was mesmerized by a dude I never thought I'd be able to stomach for more than a paragraph. Well done.

• "El's Ted Casablanca"Anthony Perkins: *Split Image* is one of the deepest, darkest Hollywood stories ever told.

• "Robert Hofler, author of *The Man Who Invented Rock Hudson*—Told with empathy and a sagacious eye for detail, Winecoff's lively chronicle of one of the screen's more formidable, if underrated, leading men perhaps should have been called *Brokeback Hollywood Hills*.

• "Stephen M. Silverman, author of *David Lean and Dancing on the Ceiling: Stanley Donen and His Movies*—An important chronicle of a time when gay was still the ultimate taboo, one that Hollywood had especially little use for as it aggressively sold illusion and lies.

• "Michael Musto, from his Foreword

## Book Information

Series: Advocate Life Stories

Paperback: 480 pages

Publisher: Advocate Books (May 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1555839509

ISBN-13: 978-1555839505

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 1 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,011,943 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #79 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > LGBT > Gay #1770 in Books > Gay & Lesbian > Nonfiction > LGBT Studies #7569 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Actors & Entertainers

## Customer Reviews

Charles Winecoff has written for many magazines, including Entertainment Weekly, Vogue, and The New Yorker. He currently works as Senior Writer on the long-running TV series E! True Hollywood Story. He lives in Los An

I was very excited to get this book. After what seemed like forever, I would finally read about the late great Anthony Perkins. For the most part it was interesting and I did learn many new facts about Perkins especially his marriage to Berry Berenson, information about his movies and his childhood. I loved that. Except, the author really makes Perkins in a bad light. Throughout the book, he's obsessed over his sexual preferences (personally I thought he was bi but I'm not getting into that). At just about every page the author makes it necessary to say he slept with this man, that man etc... it's tiring. I get it--he had encounters with men. He just makes Perkins out to be a jerk and I do believe some of these stories are exaggerated to make it more interesting. Especially when his "friends" (and I say that loosely) told their tale. Not for nothing, if they had so much negativity towards Perkins, why did they wait till now to spill it? It could have been much easier just to ruin his life. I'm glad they didn't as he is my favorite actor but the point is I think some of it is BS. I'm not denying that some of it happened but still. And we have no way of knowing since Perkins died 21 years ago (may he rest in peace). And you know, he wouldn't be the first actor who at some point would be a jerk. Look at today's standards. Compared to what I read, Perkins alleged actions are far mild. I just believe the author was making Anthony Perkins to be a bad guy, as if he caused a lot of his own troubles. Anyway, it still is an interesting read and worth for any Perkins fan. Just be warned that it is in a negative light so keep an open mind about it and don't believe everything you read. This isn't even an official biography--even the author said that. From other interviews I read, they say that Perkins was a great guy. Maybe he did have bad times of not getting along with others, but who hasn't? The author just makes it seem like Anthony Perkins is the only one who does this. If you want movie facts, a little personal life or just try to soak up as much information as you can about this man, then this is your book!

Mr. Winecoff presents the life of Anthony Perkins in all its twists and turns beginning with the sudden death of his esteemed father Osgood Perkins. And he does so with great sympathy and admiration. Mr. Perkin's life is full of contradictions, kindness, cruelty and by today's observation, self-loathing. After his long term partner left him and married a woman, Mr. Perkins did the same. And he married a woman who had worshipped him as any teenager becomes infatuated with a good looking Hollywood star. Berry Berenson decided that what he engaged in outside the home was not of her business. In the author's account, there are plenty of engagements. We can all appreciate Mr. Perkins' legacy. He may have become defined by his role in "Psycho" but Mr. Winecoff successfully makes the case that Perkins' contribution to the art of theater and cinema is much greater

Cautious, revealing and tragic. Perkins was tormented by his homosexuality and sought refuge with one night stands, hustlers and hangers on. Much like Montgomery Clift. Perkins great achievement was of course "Psycho" and he wasn't even nominated for an Oscar though Janet Leigh was but didn't win. A shocking oversight though movies like "Psycho" don't win awards just attain greatness. Surprisingly, 20 years later "Psycho II" was pretty good. The rest of the franchise sucked. There was a television pre-quel that was pretty gone. "Psycho" also ruined Perkin's career because no one could forget Norman Bates.

Thanks to this marvelous writer, this is the best bio I've ever read. It is so detailed that it wouldn't surprise me to learn the author followed Perkins around, taking notes, from birth to death. Yet, it is never boring. This book covers everything in Perkins' life---movies, Broadway, music, relationships, friends, travels, etc. I wasn't a huge fan of Perkins, but now, after reading this book, I want to see and read everything about him. Not that I find him likeable! I don't. But now I find him fascinating, weird and talented. Mr. Winecoff is such a perfect descriptive writer that every word he writes is flawless in its usage. I've been hoping that someone would write a bio of my favorite celebrity---Thomas Tryon. Now I just hope Mr. Winecoff will write it.

This is one of the best Hollywood bios around. While numerous authors rehash the tired stories of Bette Davis, Joan Crawford, and others (for the 10th or 11th time - and who cares) this book opens new, original territory by looking at the life and times of Tony Perkins. The author first published the book ten years ago and this is a great update - no one else has come along to do a better job either. Tony Perkins lived on the cusp of the social revolution, balancing between the uptight propriety of

the 50s with the psycho/sexual upheaval of the 60s and 70s. Winecoff meticulously lays out this world, and Perkins difficult and often troubled, sometimes comical, walk through it. Tons of interviews and vivid descriptions of people and places makes Tony pop off the page in this "true Hollywood story" that is hard to out down. Winecoff's timing is impeccable - the book is a fast, fun read as well as an informative one. The reissue is more tightly woven (I read the first version when it came out ten years ago). The author has grown more sophisticated and observant with passing years, as all good writers should. The final scene, September 11th and all, is a fitting tribute to changing times and the end of an era.

In depth account of his life

Terrific bio of a complicated man. There are some major people in Perkins' life that it would appear did not co operate in the bio, and that is a bit of a detriment to the overall coverage, but still detailed enough to form a comprehensive portrait.

Wow! This book tells the whole story as much as one can write a whole story about someone.

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