



In Sunlight and in Shadow

By Mark Helprin

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In the summer of 1946, New York City pulses with energy. Harry Copeland, a World War II veteran, has returned home to run the family business. Yet his life is upended by a single encounter with the young singer and heiress Catherine Thomas Hale, as each falls for the other in an instant. They pursue one another in a romance played out in Broadway theaters, Long Island mansions, the offices of financiers, and the haunts of gangsters. Catherine's choice of Harry over her longtime fiancé endangers Harry's livelihood and threatens his life. In the end, Harry must summon the strength of his wartime experience to fight for Catherine, and risk everything.

“In its storytelling heft, its moral rectitude, the solemn magnificence of its writing and the splendor of its hymns to New York City, [*In Sunlight and in Shadow*] is a spiritual pendant to *Winter's Tale* and every bit as extraordinary . . . Even the most stubbornly resistant readers will soon be disarmed by the nobility of the novel's sentiments and seduced by the pure music of its prose.” — *Wall Street Journal*

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In Sunlight and in Shadow By Mark Helprin Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #122109 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Mariner Books
- Published on: 2013-10-01
- Released on: 2013-10-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x 1.75" w x 5.31" l, 1.25 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 720 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Q&A with Mark Helprin



Q. *In Sunlight and In Shadow* has been likened to both your *Winter's Tale* and *A Soldier of the Great War*. What do you say to that?

A. When I wrote *Winter's Tale*, I'd often walk ten or twenty miles a day through New York, taking in overwhelming rafts of imagery, sounds, views. And when I wasn't doing that, I virtually lived at The New York Historical Society, just as I had jeopardized my freshman year in college by sitting on the floor of the stacks at the New York section, mesmerized by one book after another.

The result of these obsessions was to live in the world of New York circa 1900 as if I were really there, as if it were still bustling invisibly right where it had been, and I could see and feel it. The book opens with, "I have been to another world, and come back. Listen to me."

With *In Sunlight and In Shadow*, the effect is perhaps stronger, and, for me, easier. It takes place not in a world I had to seek but one – New York in the 40s – into which I was born. The density and accuracy of the images, the onrush of memory, the stunning recollections of sound, speech, song, dress, all came easily. The people in *In Sunlight and In Shadow* are, with great poetic liberty, people I knew and/or loved – even the gangsters, the financiers, the actresses, intellectuals, soldiers, and factory workers.

When I finished *A Soldier of the Great War*, I gave it to several Italians to see if the pitch was correct, but with *In Sunlight and In Shadow* I didn't have to do that, because there is nothing I know better. The book is like *Winter's Tale* in that I have made it as obsessively truthful and beautiful as I could, in the hope that a reader may feel that he is in the book rather than where he is, and perhaps even wish to remain for a while, as in waking from a dream.

It's unlike *Winter's Tale* and more like *A Soldier of the Great War* in that in it one doesn't depart from the texture of reality, as exceptional and intense as that reality may be. When my father read *Winter's Tale*, which I had dedicated to him shortly before he died, he said, now you've got to write a book as enchanting as this but in which every element is possible in the real world in which we live. Then you would have something really marvelous.

That's what I've tried to do. Whether or not I've succeeded is not for me to judge, but I can say that writing the book gave me the same feeling, persistently over time, and always strongly, as falling in love. I'm not

quite sure what that means except that it's great to have a job that you would do even if you weren't paid for it.

Review

"In its storytelling heft, its moral rectitude, the solemn magnificence of its writing and the splendor of its hymns to New York City, the new novel is a spiritual pendant to *"Winter's Tale,"* and every bit as extraordinary...Even the most stubbornly resistant readers will soon be disarmed by the nobility of the novel's sentiments and seduced by the pure music of its prose...The harmonization of the dual climaxes results in passages so gorgeous and stirring that I was moved to read them out loud. That is fitting, because the writing throughout *"In Sunlight and in Shadow"* sounds as though it were scored to some great choral symphony. Harry himself says it best: "My view is that literature should move beyond opinion, where music already is, and old age, if we're lucky, may lead." -- Sam Sacks, *The Wall Street Journal*

"Helprin has written another expansive novel, as if no one has yet alerted him that the novel is dead. Here it is, a poetic and likely enduring rendering of New York just after the Second World War, a love story that pines for love but even more fervently for an industrious and ascendant America that is no more and maybe never was....*In Sunlight and In Shadow* matters. It is a novel, with all of the presumption and ambition and sense of transport that that word once carried when it was the boss...If his latest novel is a book out of time, perhaps it holds clues as to where the novel ought to go from here." --Mark Warren, *Esquire*

"New York, New York, it's a wonderful town! And Mark Helprin's new near-epic novel makes it all the more marvelous. It's got great polarized motifs — war and peace, heroism and cowardice, crime and civility, pleasure and business, love and hate, bias and acceptance — which the gifted novelist weaves into a grand, old-fashioned romance, a New York love story...Helprin does several things extraordinarily well: He fights for and wins our close sympathy for his characters, even as he delivers a full-throated rendering of life at war and life at peace (with a little of each in the other). He also pays wonderful attention to the natural world, such as that New York spring that opens the story, the changing of seasons, dawn in France and winter in Germany during the war, such domestic matters as 30 minutes of kisses, and the rue and wonder of a great love affair. I was desperately disappointed, though, by the end of this grandly charming and deeply affecting novel — but only because it ended." -- Alan Cheuse, *NPR*

"Helprin's delightful new novel is a 705-page mash note to Manhattan in the years immediately following World War II. Like *Winter's Tale*, the 1983 bestseller that made his name, it's a paean to women and their beauty — and above all to romantic love and its abiding power...Helprin paints a dazzling portrait of the city during a particular moment in history and evokes the universal, dizzy delight of falling head over heels in love...Wise, saturated with sensory detail and beautifully written, *Sunlight* celebrates the unquenchable bliss of existence." -- Robin Micheli, *People Magazine*

"Passionate, earnest, nostalgic, and romantic...Throughout the novel he splashes down paeans to virtue and beauty you'd have to be heartless not to enjoy..." -- Liesl Schillinger, *The New York Times Book Review*

"Prose seems too mundane a term for Helprin's extravagant way with words and emotions...Just when you think *"In Sunlight and in Shadow"* might float away into the ether, lofted by the sheer beauty of his sentences, he brings it down to earth with a shrewd comment on the speech patterns of Catherine's ultra-privileged social class, or a vividly specific account of the production process at the West 26th Street loft that houses Harry's high-end leather goods business..."*In Sunlight and in Shadow*" is at heart a romance, not just the romance of two attractive young people but the romance of life itself. --*Los Angeles Times*

" 'In Sunlight and in Shadow' is a sensational and perfectly gripping novel: a love story, a tribute to the fighting spirit of World War II, a hymn to the majesty of New York." --*The Washington Post*

"This flamboyantly anti-realistic novel is more symphonic prose poem than narrative. It is a paean to love, idealized, and also a love letter to New York City in all its rhythms, human and natural, its moods, weathers, changing colors of sky and water. The writing is so highly lyrical and lovely that sometimes my aesthetic receptors clogged with a surfeit of beautiful language. . . .I succumbed to its idiosyncratic spell.

--*Minneapolis Star-Tribune*

"Helprin is gifted at writing about war -- not just combat, but the vastly complex and contradictory world that surrounds combat -- and the passages describing Harry's wartime experiences are...lyrical, thrilling and at times astonishing..." "In Sunlight and in Shadow," like all of Helprin's novels, exists to remind us that...it is sometimes wiser and more fulfilling to cherish our deepest ideals than to mock them." --*Chicago Tribune*

"In the long sweep of his textured, absorbing look at life in New York City in the middle of the 20th century, Mark Helprin talks about many big issues, yet always gives them a human face. . . .Precise yet transcendent turns of phrase put readers right beside the couple as they deal with the circumstances...Helprin has demonstrated once again the ability to make readers experience what Harry tells Catherine everyone must have: 'the friction, the sparring with the world, that you need to feel alive.' " --*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

" 'In Sunlight and in Shadow' takes a huge bite out of one very complex Apple, blending aspects of its art and commerce into a story that pulses not just with romance, but also with an energy befitting America's most vibrant city. Helprin is a master of his material." --*Seattle Times*

"Helprin, acclaimed author of *Winter's Tale*, *A Soldier of the Great War* and many other works, creates a wonderfully rich picture of New York City and its environs, its social classes and its manners both before and during the postwar period of 1946-47." -- *Dallas Morning News*

From the Inside Flap

Can love and honor conquer all?

Mark Helprin's enchanting and sweeping novel springs from this deceptively simple question, and from the sight of a beautiful young woman, dressed in white, on the Staten Island Ferry, at the beginning of summer, 1946.

Postwar New York glows with energy. Harry Copeland, an elite paratrooper who fought behind enemy lines in Europe, has returned home to run the family business. Yet his life is upended by a single encounter with the young singer and heiress Catherine Thomas Hale, as they each fall for the other in an instant.

Harry and Catherine pursue one another in a romance played out in Broadway theaters, Long Island mansions, the offices of financiers, and the haunts of gangsters. Catherine's choice of Harry over her longtime fiancé endangers Harry's livelihood and eventually threatens his life. In the end, it is Harry's extraordinary wartime experience that gives him the character and means to fight for Catherine, and risk everything.

Not since *Winter's Tale* has Mark Helprin written such a magically inspiring saga. Entrancing in its lyricism, *In Sunlight and in Shadow* so powerfully draws you into New York at the dawn of the modern age that, as in a vivid dream, you will not want to leave.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Donald White:

The book untitled In Sunlight and in Shadow is the guide that recommended to you to read. You can see the quality of the reserve content that will be shown to a person. The language that publisher use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The copy writer was did a lot of study when write the book, so the information that they share to you personally is absolutely accurate. You also could possibly get the e-book of In Sunlight and in Shadow from the publisher to make you much more enjoy free time.

Justin Tran:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray an individual, why because this In Sunlight and in Shadow publication written by well-known writer we are excited for well how to make book that can be understand by anyone who read the book. Written throughout good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and creating skill only for eliminate your own personal hunger then you still skepticism In Sunlight and in Shadow as good book not only by the cover but also from the content. This is one publication that can break don't judge book by its handle, so do you still needing yet another sixth sense to pick this kind of!? Oh come on your looking at sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to yet another sixth sense.

Wanda Jacobsen:

Is it you actually who having spare time after that spend it whole day by watching television programs or just lying on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This In Sunlight and in Shadow can be the response, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are consequently out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this fresh era is common not a nerd activity. So what these ebooks have than the others?

Karen Huff:

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