

SEBASTIEN LIFSHITZ

THE INVISIBLES

Vintage Portraits of Love and Pride



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A charming collection of vintage photos. This volume is a unique collection of photographs of LGBTQ and/or cross-dressing people from 1900 to 1960. While this is a time many now regard as the deeply closeted "dark ages," these photos show LGBTQ who were clearly out (at least for a moment)-some camping it up for the cameras while others in loving or clearly domestic poses. These photographs were discovered and collected by the author at flea markets and garage sales, the names of the subjects and their photographers lost to time. He was intrigued by the fact that the pictures show couples posed hand in hand, revealing happiness, serenity, and a surprising air of freedom.

This unique collection inspired Sébastien Lifshitz to restore to these nameless couples their voices in his documentary movie The Invisibles for which he was awarded the Cesar Award for Best Documentary in 2013.

The Invisibles: Vintage Portraits of Love and Pride Details

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From Reader Review The Invisibles: Vintage Portraits of Love and Pride for online ebook

Shawn Thrasher says

I thought this book was quite amazing and beautiful, vintage photographs of gays and lesbians and various gender benders from the past, culled from antique stores and flea markets. Sometimes, modern GLBTQ folk think the past was a dungeon of repression and suicidal sadness; and for some it probably was. But these pictures - which, mind you, had to be sent away to be developed, thus publically exposing the relationships depicted in the pictures - prove that the queer past also contained rollicking good fun. Almost every picture made me want to crawl up into them and find out what's going on, befriend these people, ask them questions, share a drink with them, a cry with them, and especially a laugh with them. I really loved this book.

Michael says

A book of photographs from 1900-1960s that truly lets the images doing the talking. No text with the photos during a time when certain relationships were 'hidden'. The simplicity is the beauty.

It also forces the viewer to personally transcribe the happy moments within each captured scene.

Although their stories may be long forgotten, may their love and struggles leading to where we are in today's day-and-age of being out-and-open never be.

Jessica says

Amazing. Inspiring. Thought provoking.

Cailey says

Very sweet photos found at flea markets and such. It shows gay couples through time, depicting happy couples in times traditionally thought of as very restrictive for them. Connected to the film "Les Invisibles," which I now need to see.

M. Donner says

Beautiful collection of vintage LGBTQ+ photographs. Perhaps what is even better is the message the collector wants to spread: a look into the existence of happiness in queer lives, past & future.

Arthur says

<3

Alina says

Each October we celebrate LGBT History Month, but how much do we really know about this history? Truth is that the story and history of the LGBT community did not start with the Stonewall Riots, in June of 1969; nor with the murder of Matthew Shepard, in October of 1998. And, as important issues as they may be, DADT, DOMA and the ongoing fight for marriage and other kinds of equality, these issues are not the only ones defining the LGBT community.

As contemporary artist and filmmaker Sebastien Lifshitz proves in his documentary, *The Invisibles*, the LGBT community has been around for many years, decades, and even centuries. To reiterate the message, his book, *The Invisibles: Vintage Portraits of Love and Pride*, offers a unique collection of photographs he picked up at flea markets, over a period of time. These images of gay couples and individuals from pre-Stonewall twentieth century (1900-1960)--a time when being gay or lesbian "meant belonging to a genealogy of suffering," to a dramatic and even tragic destiny, these images shed light on the LGBT community and life at that time, through surprising stories, invisible until now. Images of "the invisibles" offer a glimpse into the lives of their subjects and, with that, some of the intimate, tender, loving and peaceful moments they shared secretly, in spite of the difficulties of the times in which they lived.

The Invisibles makes visible a vital part of LGBT history often left untold. It adds the missing pieces to complete the puzzle that defines the community we celebrate each October. It also helps us discover and understand an important chapter of the LGBT story, one definitely worth learning about any month of the year.

Frederic says

One needs to be careful in projecting contemporary meanings onto historical images, and I would question whether some of those here are actually what would be considered "gay couples". But many probably are reasonably understood in that set of meanings, and even those that are something else (cross-dressing for parties and plays, for example, and general horseplay) are important historical documents of playing with gender and gender roles. Interpretation is complicated by the usual lack of any information about the individual photos -- and here there is no identifying text, just a brief introduction by the collector. But it's a good collection, and well presented here.

Kazia says

Beautiful and heartwarming. I do wish there had been any information at all about at least some of the photographs (although the author's explanation was valid enough), and I also really wish there had been some/any photographs POC in the collection.

willowdog says

Collection of found photographs from the early 20th century to the 1960s that testify to the love of the subjects.

Lawral says

The pictures are fabulous, but I wish there had been more textual information. I understand that the pictures are flea market finds, but bringing in information from the interviews in the documentary (referenced in the author's introduction) would have been great. This really is supplemental to the film; it does not stand on its own well.

***JEN the booknerd* says**

What a beautiful book! No captions, no words just vintage pictures of LGBTQ folks showing their love. Lots of gender bending photos, which I personally love.

Mills College Library says

770.92 L7229 2014

Rodrigo says

Great, and sometimes moving, collection of (candid) images that really make us experience what is like to be in love, not being able to express it. Men and women, brave enough to face a world of intolerance, proudly saying to each other "I love you". Beautiful. Courageous. Inspiring.

marcelle pépé says

Beaux clichés, j'aurais aimé quelques textes cependant.
