

WHY ROBERT WAGNER MARRIED NATALIE WOOD

Robert Wagner lived in my closet the summer I was 14. Between movies, bored with *Bel Aire* and the *Riviera*, he lived amongst my skirts and sweaters and pedal pushers, and sat with me next to my shoes on the floor and talked to me about being grown up where the summer before I'd talked to my dolls about castles and everafters.

One day my father found Robert Wagner in my closet, his photograph actually, from Photoplay tacked to the closet door, and my father saw the lipstick kiss (Cutex's "Roses In The Snow") next to Robert Wagner's smile. My father didn't know what to think of me, he said, and neither did I, feeling strange and dreary as I would years later from postpartum blues, so I removed Robert Wagner from the closet and glued him in a scrapbook and didn't look at him again for 15 years.

That's why he married Natalie Wood.

Joan Jobe Smith