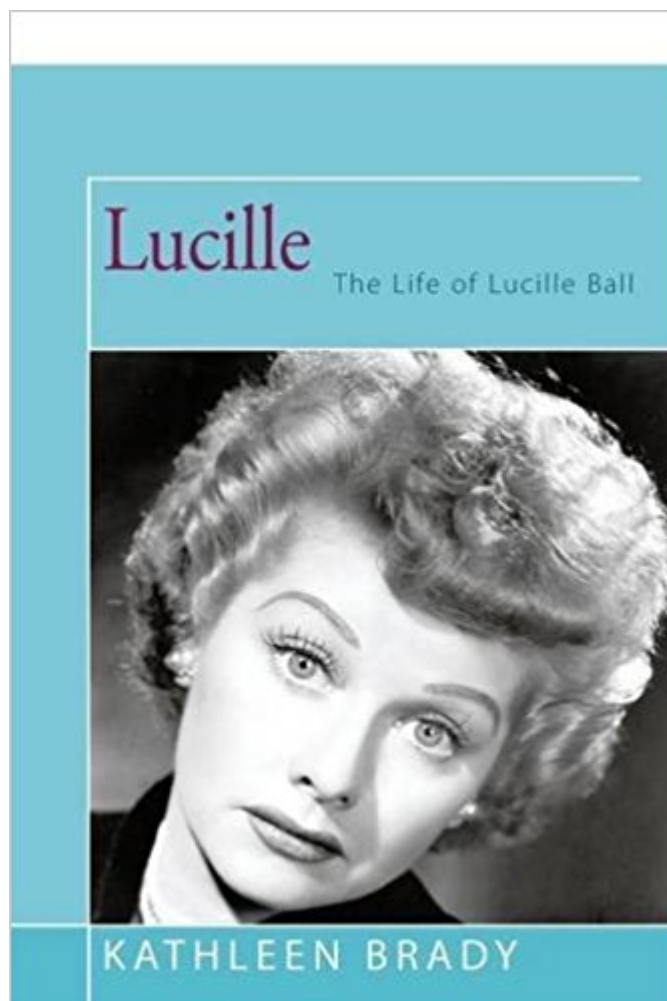


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# Lucille: The Life Of Lucille Ball



## Synopsis

Everyone loved Lucy, the scheming, madcap redhead who ruled television for more than twenty years. In life, however, Lucille Ball presented a far more complex and contradictory personality than was ever embodied by the television Lucy. In *Lucille: The Life of Lucille Ball* Kathleen Brady presents the actress as a fully rounded human being, often at odds with the image she presented as an entertainment icon. Brady has gone far beyond the typical celebrity biography to present a funny, unflinching and ultimately moving portrait of Lucille Ball as a performing artist, daughter, mother, friend, colleague, and television mogul. Many think they know the story of Lucille Ball's life, but Brady provides new details and a fresh perspective on this complex woman through a wealth of anecdotes and firsthand accounts. Lucille Ball is revealed not only as a television archetype and influential icon of postwar American culture, but as a driven yet fragile human being who spent her life struggling to create a life of normalcy, but ultimately failed—even as she succeeded in bringing laughter of millions of fans. In researching Lucille, Brady interviewed more than 150 people from her hometown to Hollywood. She spoke with her grade school classmates, and those like Katherine Hepburn and Ginger Rodgers who met her when she arrived in Hollywood in the 1930s. She gained insights from those who knew her before her fame and from those she loved throughout her life. Film, radio and television history come to life with the appearances on these pages of such greats as The Marx Brothers, Buster Keaton, Louis B. Mayer, and of course Desi Arnaz, who march and pratfall through the pages of this outstanding biography.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A biography of one of television's enduring stars, chronicling her early years at Hollywood studios, her tempestuous marriage to Desi Arnaz and their triumph with I Love Lucy. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

More than 40 years after the show's premiere, I Love Lucy reruns on television still attract a devoted following. Because of this interest, more than half a dozen books have been published during the past 15 years about the show itself or about Ball and husband Desi Arnaz. As a result of Brady's focus on Ball, more time is spent with her lesser-known (but hardly undocumented) film career, and the I Love Lucy show doesn't appear until halfway through her narrative. Still, there's not a lot of difference between this book and Warren G. Harris's *Lucy & Desi* (LJ 9/1/91) or Coyne Steven Sanders and Tom Gilbert's *Desilu* (LJ 1/93). All three books present the same basic facts, and all are well researched and well written. Buy only according to demand. John Smothers, Monmouth Cty. Lib., Manalapan, N.J. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I saw that there were varying opinions regarding this book. As for me, I definitely enjoyed reading it. I would recommend it to anyone. I think it was very well written. I was five years old in 1954 when we bought our first television, and my whole family thoroughly enjoyed the I Love Lucy show. I did not really know anything about the Lucy outside the TV screen. Although some reviewers said there were many inaccuracies, I think the book was somewhat balanced in portraying a person who was after all as imperfect as many of the rest of us. She did have some good qualities that perhaps made up for some of her less-than-honorable traits. I admired that she stayed loyal to her mother throughout and to her co-star, Vivian Vance. She stuck by her unfaithful husband, Desi, a lot longer than many women would have. It was apparent that she loved him and the feeling was mutual.

Just infuriation about what made Lucille affective and it wasn't just natural talent. Very interesting if you love Lucy.

I haven't read it thoroughly yet but as with any Lucille Ball merchandise I'm rating very highly as she truly is the QUEEN OF COMEDY, she was a multi-faceted talented woman, she could play ANY role with perfection and believability in the characters she portrayed, she's the best.

Sporadic style of following. Time table with her artistry and movies. Choppy but informative. Was

Lucy always a heavy drinker ? Dead she and Lucie mend their ways?

Great little book. Very informative and held my interest until the end.

Loved this book. Still watch I Love Lucy. Kathy did a thorough job portraying her life. Worth reading.

Loved it

but impossible to put down..yes there are a few things in here I haven't read else where! Very good book~

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