



## **Lucille: The Life of Lucille Ball**

*Kathleen Brady*

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## **Lucille: The Life of Lucille Ball** Kathleen Brady

A biography of Lucille Ball, one of the most revered actresses in television history. Moving beyond the typical celebrity biography, Kathleen Brady seeks to separate the actress from Lucy Ricardo, the antic, enduring character she created on I Love Lucy. She reveals that Lucille's life was a roller coaster, going from disaster to victory and triumph to tragedy. As a star, she felt she had to work hard to maintain her popularity, and was also conscious that what her fans wanted from her was not herself, but Lucy Ricardo.

## **Lucille: The Life of Lucille Ball Details**

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Author : Kathleen Brady

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## **From Reader Review Lucille: The Life of Lucille Ball for online ebook**

### **Amy says**

Great read with details of how Lucille became Lucy.

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### **Angela says**

This was a good book to know more about the actress's life. It was a bit surfacey and didn't have much reflection in it but not terribly written. There was so much about contracts and the way deals worked for Desilu that didn't interest me very much. I will be interested to read her autobiography and see a different perspective.

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### **Tomerobber says**

This was a detailed biography of one of my favorite people. I knew most of the details of her life but this book filled in the few holes in my knowledge. The narration was okay but some street names were not pronounced correctly . . . now I know what people whose first language is not English think when they hear names and words mispronounced in those languages. After listening to this audio offering I wanted to get out my I LOVE LUCY DVD's and watch them all over again.

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### **Kristin says**

I loved this book. It was given to me as a gift from a friend who knows of my love for Lucille Ball. I learned a few things about her life I had not known. Although I have heard that some of the things written in this book were not accurate I will eventually read Love Lucy her autobiography.

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### **Pamela Mikita says**

I am a HUGE Lucy and Desi fan and I loved this book. What an amazing life she led. It was so fascinating to see the other side of her that we wouldn't know from her famous character. A must read for any fan.

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### **Graceann says**

Please see my detailed review at Amazon.com [Grace's "Lucille" Review](#)

Please click that the review was helpful to you at Amazon so that my rating continues to climb! Thanks!

I need to dig into my library for more books on Lucille, Vivian, and William Frawley (I read Desi Arnaz's "A Book" many years ago), because this title was far from definitive. I think that Lucille, like Buster Keaton, is still waiting for that perfect author to come along and give us a well-researched, well-written, even-handed biography. This wasn't quite it.

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### **Cosmic Arcata says**

I loved hearing about how much she liked to play and win at scrabble. Also her very conservative approach to business...or maybe that was both of them together.

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### **Stefania says**

Interesting

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### **Erika says**

For Lucy fans, this is an absolute treasure. This book contains facts that previous authors have long since abandoned. However, it doesn't feel like useless information. It feels like things I should have known. Things EVERYONE should know, about Lucy.  
Great read. Hard to put down.

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### **Winter Sophia Rose says**

An Excellent Biography!

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### **Heather Key says**

I registered a book at BookCrossing.com!  
<http://www.BookCrossing.com/journal/13206045>

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### **Kathy G. says**

Kathleen Brady did a fantastic job with Lucy's biography. It told a sad and believable account of her life. It was tedious, in some places, with all the business side of Desilu, but intersperced were stories that broke it up. In all, I enjoyed this book and was glad I read it.

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## Lori says

Lucille Ball has become a fixture in our home of late. My daughter has become, arguably, Lucy's youngest super fan. She was home sick one day last year and didn't feel up to doing much besides the time honored tradition of lying on the couch all day in front of television. She asked my husband what he used to watch when he was a kid and several vintage programs were mentioned. I Love Lucy (which was always running in syndicated re-runs in the seventies) was one of them. He thought that Youtube might be an easy way to show our then ten-year-old who Lucy was. So he found an episode and they started watching.

I was soon drawn out of the kitchen by the howls of laughter coming from my daughter...all stomach bug angst seemingly vanished, if only temporarily. This particular episode had Lucy, at the height of her ballsy snooping, creeping into the apartment of some new neighbors whom Lucy believed to be murderous criminals. (In reality, they were an acting couple, rehearsing lines for a play.) Lucy was almost busted when the couple came back unexpectedly and she was forced to disguise herself as an easy chair. This scene displayed Lucy at the height of her physical comedy prowess and, even 60 some years later, she totally kills. I started to laugh, too. And my daughter has subsequently watched every single episode of I Love Lucy, and is working her way through the longer 'Lucy and Desi Comedy Hour' specials. She is equally amused by Lucy's later adventures as whacky widow, Lucy Carmichael in The Lucy Show. Lucille Ball has provided hours of entertainment in our 21st century life.

Our daughter is so hard core about Lucy that we are planning a trip to Jamestown, NY for our summer vacation this year. Fortunately, Ms Ball's home town is not much more than a 2-3 hour drive from our neighborhood. All this Lucy Mania got me interested in the real life story of this iconic 20th century star. (The fact that I am a goof ball by nature, enjoy a long term relationship with my hair colorist, and am married to a musical man from a Latin background may also enhance my affection for the Ricardos and the people who created them.)

It was not easy to decide which Lucy biography to read. Some reviews warned me off of this one because it was not considered to be a reverent enough treatment. Others declared that this book was THE last word on the life of Lucille. Lucy wrote an autobiography (as did Desi Arnaz). I may end up reading her book some day. However, I tend to select biographies rather than auto-biographies because I know that we would all put a fairly dramatic slant on the story of our own life. I am interested in what other people who knew and worked with a subject have to say about the person and their legacy.

In Lucy's case, the usual imperfections are revealed. She was hard driven and ambitious. She knew what she wanted. She was not afraid to fight for it. She could be a real bitch. Many of her co stars could not stand her. Others revered her. She had a tough childhood (who didn't, it seemed, back in the first part of the 20th century?) Yet she had a strong sense of family and was supportive of and devoted to her family from the very beginning of her career through her years of super stardom.

In Lucille, Kathleen Brady gives us a solid back ground about Lucy's young days prior to her life in the public eye. Much attention is also paid to the workings of the Desilu Studio. Some reviewers felt that the narrative was bogged down in detail about the behind-the-scenes story of Desilu. Contrarily, I felt that this aspect of Lucy's life was integral to who she was -- one the first superstars that came from television, rather than the silver screen. (Lucy's movie career never really got off the ground.) My interest in retro/mid twentieth century television perhaps gives me more tolerance for detail in this area. However, I found this section of the book interesting. And the Desilu days were very much a metaphor for the Ball-Arnaz marriage. They were brilliant together but, in the end, unworkable.

Fans who grew up, as I did, watching the reruns in black and white and fantasizing about how much fun adult life would be...married to a dashing and endlessly patient man like Ricky Ricardo...spending my days cutting capers and getting into improbably hysterical situations with a devoted best friend and side kick like Ethel Mertz...may not want to hear about how much Desi drank and whored around...or how Lucy and Desi would literally come to blows when they were fighting. They might want to see Lucy as the loveable ditz and Desi and the practical and level headed straight man.

But readers who are interested in the real personalities behind the characters...not only Lucy and Desi, but the writers, producers, directors, co-stars and guests who made the show the comedy masterpiece that it was, would probably do well to start with this biography and then move on to Lucy and Desi's respective autobiographies.

Although their personal lives were no more perfect than the rest of us (and, certainly, more tarnished than some)-- Lucy and Desi were talented TV performers and very adept business people. Drink and ill health broke Desi down and Lucy also suffered the usual ravages of aging. But nothing can detract from the hours of laughs they have provided so many of us for decades. And, if my daughter is evidence, will continue to provide to a new generation into the future.

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## **Doris Raines says**

I. Love. Lucy.

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## **Malcolm Frawley says**

Ball was one of a kind & the first female performer to achieve real power in the early days of television. A gifted comic she never quite found her place in movies, partly because the studios didn't really know what to do with her. But once she created her harried housewife character in I Love Lucy (ironic, considering she was one of the wealthiest, not to mention independent, females in the U.S. at the time) she locked in on comedy gold. An artist who believed in 'the work', which usually meant exhausting rehearsals, she was also very generous in providing opportunities for people she had worked with in the past (in front of & behind the camera) who weren't getting what she felt they deserved. Once she & husband, Desi Arnaz, formed Desilu Productions they became the king & queen of L. A. After the marriage broke up she struggled to master the business elements of running the most successful production company of the time (Mission Impossible was also a Desilu production). It was only during this period of her life that she became somewhat mean & nasty to those she worked with. Hers was another story of a career-driven actor who found it difficult to ever establish meaningful relationships with her children but she made her mark in the medium & will be remembered as one of the greats.

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