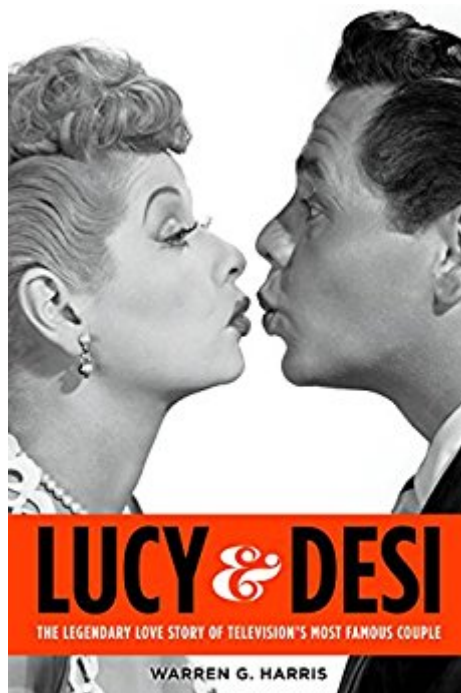




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Lucy & Desi: The Legendary Love Story Of Television's Most Famous Couple



Synopsis

After eight years on the air, Desi Arnaz did not love Lucy any more. On screen, they were dynamite—a comedy pairing more successful than any Hollywood had ever produced. But when the cameras stopped rolling, they fought, screamed and threatened each other more each season. Finally, an argument in Desi's production office turned violent. Lucy hurled a cocktail glass past his head, and Desi demanded a divorce. He moved out that night. After nearly twenty years, America's favorite couple was finished. When they first got married, no one in Hollywood thought it would last six months. Lucille Ball's acting career was on the skids, and Arnaz was just another Cuban bandleader. But together, their irresistible chemistry produced one of the greatest television empires of all time, and a love story as passionate as it was explosive.

Book Information

File Size: 1903 KB

Print Length: 641 pages

Publisher: Graymalkin Media (February 26, 2016)

Publication Date: February 26, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01C9U47NE

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

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Customer Reviews

I got this book used for 0.01 cent, in pretty good shape. I've read an awful lot of books on 50's tv, on its stars and shows. In that quest I've read nearly every book there is about Lucille Ball. This book

stands out because it's the one dedicated to both Ball and Desi Arnaz. The book covers both their lives in detail most have already read in other books. What makes it noteworthy are the rather candid comments and original quotes from those who worked with and/or knew them on a personal level. That gives the book credibility, to anyone who has an interest in the subjects, and must be taken seriously. It's not 'fluff'. For my money this is probably the best biography written with Ball and Arnaz together. If you have an interest in either I strongly recommend buying this book. It pretty realistic insight into their lives stands out from most of the others. At last count there are over 30 bio's on Ball. They cover the entire range from fairly indept, critical, fawning to out right worship. However, there isn't one book about Arnaz (alone). Another very good book on the two, 'Desilu' looks at their studio and their lives. Yet, Arnaz plays second fiddle to his more famous wife. This book at least gives Arnaz a fair shake and treats him as an equal to Ball. It doesn't make him out to be the ruthless and drunken womanizing bad guy, nor does it varnish over Ball and turn her into the innocent victim. Harris let's us in on the inside stuff, to let us 'breathe the same air as they did when the events happened'. By being fair to both Ball and Arnaz we learn that both had a part in their eventual break up. Arnaz contribution to their downfall is more dramatic, with his 'chasing anything in a skirt' and wholesale drinking and nasty temper scoring major points. But Ball had a quick temper herself, constantly hounding Arnaz about everything BUT Desilu and never really trying to understand the 'real' Desi Arnaz. She used to beat him up in more ways than one. Her dedication to her career was stronger than anything else in her life, to include Arnaz and their kids. Her perspective on him warped by her narcissism and her narrative on what an ideal marriage 'should' be. While Arnaz was the ultimate romantic, Ball was the complete opposite and could never figure why he was the way he was. His second wife did and managed to stay married until her death in 1985. Arnaz was the kind of guy who shouldn't have married as he loved the single life too much. Rich enough to get away with it he nonetheless loved Ball and their children. In a way, Ball got what she most wanted, becoming a major star in show business who had to be taken seriously. In reaching that goal she lost Arnaz and never really had the ideal family life she wanted. Her second marriage was a good example of the type husband she required: a docile, easy to manipulate man totally dedicated, attentive and controlled by her. Only an out of touch fool would believe that Arnaz could have filled the 'role'. Harris does a very good job with this book. It doesn't get much press in the world of Lucy Lore for some reason. I guess many Lucy fans might have some trouble with some of the real life and blunt events. But, it comes the closest yet to realistic book on the couple and shows us that they were, after all, just two real people with some serious issues. Harris should get credit for getting the truth out there. Ball and Arnaz are icons. People in 2115 may look back and

wonder who they were, but people will know that they did something important and that they were important people in 1955, et al. This book, if read then, will help them understand this complex, complicated couple a bit better. Make sure and read this book if you're interested in Ball or Arnaz. Also if you have an interest in 50's television, Desilu Studios and show biz in general. Until someone sits down and writes a bio dedicated to Arnaz alone, 'Lucy & Desi' and 'Desilu' will have to do. Highly recommend this book.

Interesting read about Desi and Lucy's private life. So sad about Desi's drinking problem. Lucy also had some issues. They loved each other but couldn't live together happily ever after. What amazed me is how they were snubbed by the movie industry and came back to own and buy out those studios to create a television empire. Sweet revenge. But at a cost of their happiness. I believe they were madly in love to begin with but I think that all the stress of Desilu was too hard for Desi and Lucy to endure. At the least it caused some of the acting out behavior that they had in their marriage. They really seemed to always love each other until the end. They did leave us all the funniest, most enduring I Love Lucy, comedy series. I still watch these old shows and laugh. These old sweet shows are like comfort food for the soul.

Must read for avid fans and casual viewers alike! You become a part of television history through this engrossing book. You also get a glimpse into the glam movie era and get an up close, personal view of Lucy and Desi at home -- for better or worse. Something for everyone who loves TV, Movies and Lucy!

I have thoroughly enjoyed this detailed and objective yet entertaining account of Lucille Ball (that's what she preferred to be called) and Desi Arnaz. This book portrays this famous couple as people with flaws, just like everybody else. It also shows the glitz, glam, and Hollywood style they possessed. I learned not only about their lives, but also how much they changed the course of television forever.

This book is amazing in its coverage. It seems a good description of Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz but with so much "life" between the two of them and all they accomplished, the author could only hit the high (and low) spots. The obvious conclusion is Lucy and Desi profoundly and deeply loved each other and kept those feelings until death. I gave the book only four stars - not because of the story but the editing which was atrocious! All in all, recommended if you can ignore the writing flaws.

I enjoyed reading this book. I grew up watching the I Love Lucy reruns. I still watch them to this day my kids have too. It was very lovely to read about Lucy and Desi's life. I wish the book had some photos of them. Lucy was a beautiful lady. Desi was a great man in his music and in his life as well.

I thought this was a well written, thorough biography of Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz. The author avoids negativity and judgmental remarks. He portrays Lucille and Desi as the talented, flawed in some ways yet still admirable people that they were. I am pleased that this book fills in the gaps in my knowledge of the lives of these two very special entertainers. Thank you, Mr. Harris.

I thought this book contained many little-known (at least to me) facts about Lucy, Desi, Vivian and Bill. It was like going back in time and experiencing what it was like to be in the movie and TV industry. I honestly could not put it down. Some of these biographies tend to be sordid, but I found this one to be pretty factual and level-headed. The author never sugar coats their rocky relationship, but I still found a lot of love between the two, an enduring respect and friendship after all is said and done.

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