



Suggested Reading: Lucille Ball

Compiled by Leslie Goddard

A.K.A. Lucy: The Dynamic and Determined Life of Lucille Ball by Sarah Royal (2023). The most recent Ball biography. Takes an original approach, with chapters exploring different facets of Ball's life. Nicely illustrated. My current top pick

Ball of Fire: The Tumultuous Life and Comic Art of Lucille Ball by Stefan Kanfer and Alan Moorehead (2003)

A Book by Desi Arnaz (1976). Arnaz' autobiography. Hard to find but worth seeking out for die-hard fans

Desilu: The Story of Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz by Coyne Steven Sanders and Tom Gilbert (1993). A dual biography, notable for interviews with family members, friends and co-stars

I Am Lucille Ball! By Brad Meltzer. Delightful illustrated children's book, part of the Ordinary People Change the World series

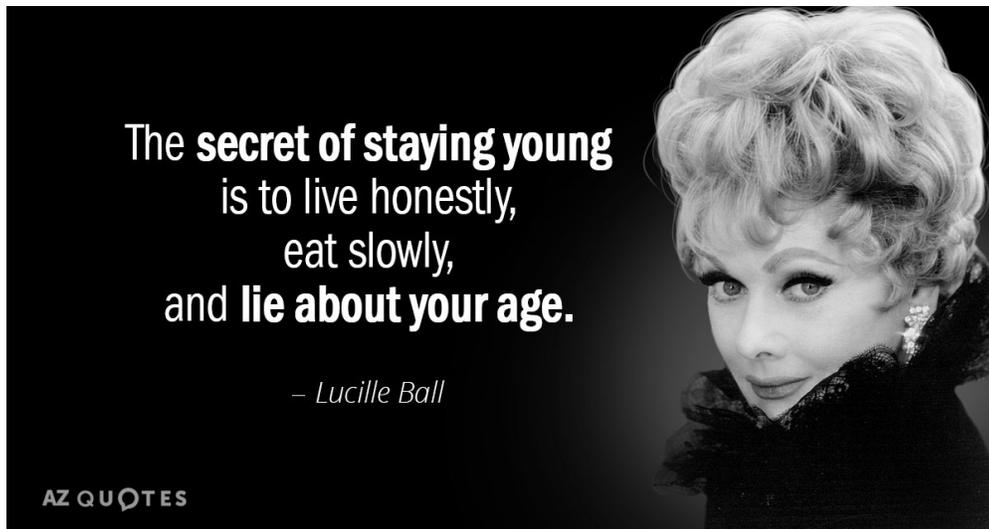
The I Love Lucy Book by Bart Andrews (1976, rev. 1985). Detailed info on every episode of *I Love Lucy* including synopsis, air dates, ratings and behind the scenes info.

Laughs, Luck ... and Lucy: How I Came to Create the Most Popular Sitcom of All Time by Jess Oppenheimer (1996). Short (sometimes dated) book but essential for showing how *I Love Lucy* episodes came together, written by the producer, head writer and creative force of the show

Laughing With Lucy: My Life with America's Leading Lady of Comedy by Madelyn Pugh Davis with Bob Carroll Jr. (2007). Insightful memoir by one of the few female comedy writers working on radio and TV in the 1940s and 1950s, who was Lucille Ball's staff writer for nearly 50 years.

Love, Lucy by Lucille Ball (1997). Ball's autobiography, published posthumously. Essential and delightful

Lucy! How Lucille Ball Did It All by Amy Guglielmo and Jacqueline Tourville, illustrated by Brigitte Barrager (2024). Charming children's picture book focused on how Ball overcame the odds by staying true to herself



Timeline: Lucille Ball

- 1911 – Born in Celeron, NY on August 6
- 1915 – Father dies of typhoid fever
- 1930 – Becomes Chesterfield cigarette girl under name Diane Belmont
- 1933 – Arrives in Hollywood as Goldwyn Girl
- 1940 – Meets Desi Arnaz on set of film *Too Many Girls*. They marry in November
- 1948 – Begins work on radio sitcom *My Favorite Husband*
- 1951 – Lucie Arnaz born. *I Love Lucy* premieres on CBS on Monday nights at 9 pm
- 1953 – Desi Arnaz Jr. born. Little Ricky is born on *I Love Lucy*
- 1957 – 180th and final new episode of *I Love Lucy* airs
- 1960 – Files for divorce from Desi Arnaz. Marries Garry Morton one year later
- 1963 – Buys Desi Arnaz' half of Desilu Studios
- 1967 – Sells Desilu to Paramount/Gulf and Western for \$17 million
- 1989 – Dies, aged 78



www.lesliegoddard.info | L-Goddard@att.net