



## Sources and Suggested Reading: Lucille Ball

*Compiled by Leslie Goddard, Ph.D.*

*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 topics in Ball's life. Beautifully illustrated

*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' perceptive and candid autobiography. Set to be rereleased in an expanded edition in 2026

*Desi Arnaz: The Man Who Invented Television* by Todd S. Purdum (2025). A new biography of Arnaz, focusing on the remarkable and revolutionary impact he had on television

*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

*Desi & Lucy: The Love Letters* by Lucie Arnaz and Elisabeth Edwards (2025). Newly released collection of love letters between Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz along with family photos

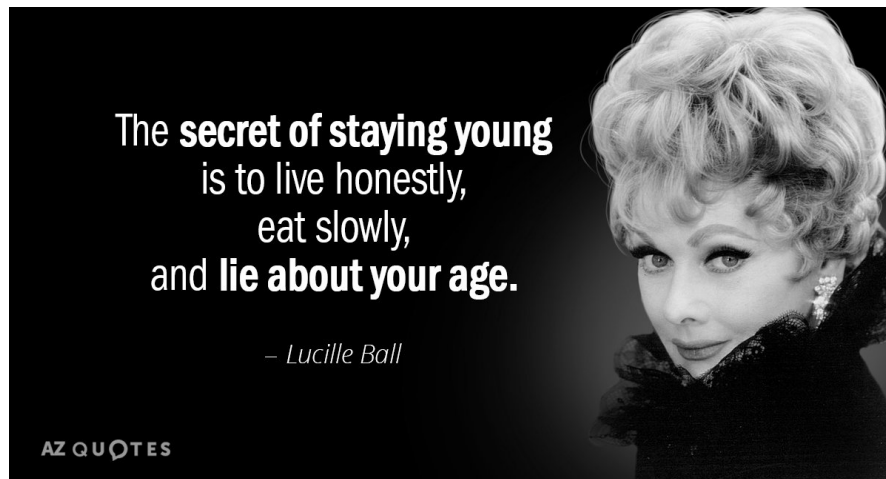
*The I Love Lucy Book* by Bart Andrews (1976, rev. 1985). Detailed info on every episode of *I Love Lucy* including synopsis, air dates, ratings and behind the scenes info

*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 indispensable 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 focusing 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
- 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 – 180<sup>th</sup> and final new episode of *I Love Lucy* airs
- 1960 – Files for divorce from Desi Arnaz. Marries Gary 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 77



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