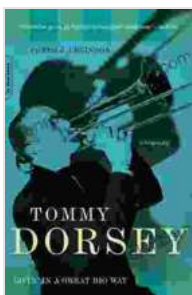


# Livin' in a Great Big Way: The Extraordinary Life of Lucille Ball

Lucille Ball was one of the most beloved and iconic actresses of all time. Her groundbreaking work on "I Love Lucy" helped to redefine the role of women in television, and her indomitable spirit and sharp wit made her a legend. This biography tells the story of Ball's life, from her humble beginnings to her Hollywood stardom and beyond.

## Early Life and Career

Lucille Ball was born on August 6, 1911, in Jamestown, New York. Her father was a telephone lineman, and her mother was a homemaker. Ball had a difficult childhood. Her father died when she was three years old, and her mother remarried a few years later. Ball did not get along with her stepfather, and she often ran away from home.



## Tommy Dorsey: Livin' in a Great Big Way, A Biography

by Peter J. Levinson

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 5560 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 388 pages  
Screen Reader : Supported



At the age of 15, Ball dropped out of high school and moved to New York City to pursue a career in show business. She worked as a model and a chorus girl, and she eventually landed a role in the Broadway musical "Wildcat." In 1933, Ball made her film debut in the movie "Roman Scandals." She went on to star in a number of other films, including "The Big Broadcast of 1938" and "My Favorite Wife."

## **I Love Lucy**

In 1951, Ball teamed up with her husband, Desi Arnaz, to create the sitcom "I Love Lucy." The show was an instant success, and it quickly became one of the most popular sitcoms of all time. Ball played the role of Lucy Ricardo, a zany and lovable housewife. The show ran for six seasons, and it is still considered to be one of the greatest sitcoms ever made.

"I Love Lucy" helped to redefine the role of women in television. Before the show, women were often portrayed as being weak and submissive. Ball's character, Lucy Ricardo, was a strong and independent woman who was not afraid to speak her mind. The show helped to break down stereotypes about women, and it inspired a new generation of female comedians.

## **Later Career**

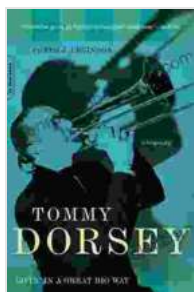
After "I Love Lucy" ended, Ball continued to star in a number of other television shows and films. She also produced a number of successful television shows, including "The Lucy Show" and "Here's Lucy." In 1989, Ball was awarded the Kennedy Center Honors for her lifetime achievement in the performing arts.

Lucille Ball died on April 26, 1989, at the age of 77. She is survived by her two children, Lucie Arnaz and Desi Arnaz Jr.

## Legacy

Lucille Ball is remembered as one of the most beloved and iconic actresses of all time. Her groundbreaking work on "I Love Lucy" helped to redefine the role of women in television, and her indomitable spirit and sharp wit made her a legend. Ball's legacy continues to inspire generations of actors and comedians.

Lucille Ball was a true pioneer in the world of entertainment. She broke down stereotypes, inspired generations of performers, and created some of the most beloved television shows of all time. Her legacy will continue to live on for many years to come.



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