



Ava Gardner: "Love Is Nothing"

By Lee Server

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The dramatic life of the incomparably beautiful and swashbuckling Ava Gardner--one of Hollywood's most beautiful actresses and lover of many men, from bullfighters to Frank Sinatra--by *The New York Times* bestselling author of ROBERT MITCHUM: Baby, I Don't Care

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

At the ripe old age of 32, having collected three ex-husbands-Mickey Rooney, Artie Shaw and Frank Sinatra-Ava Gardner waxed introspective: "I still believe the most important thing in life is to be loved." Server's (*Baby, I Don't Care*) deliciously entertaining tome bursts with Hollywood dish and Oscar-worthy dialogue and is written in a crackling style that reads like great pulp. "Love became her terrible habit," he writes, "something hopeless to resist, impossible to get right." A Tobacco Road urchin turned "statue of Venus sprung to succulent life," Gardner ditched her secretarial aspirations and started at MGM in the early '40s as a contract actress earning \$50 a week. She became an international star, drawing huge crowds on both sides of the Atlantic. But life wasn't always sweet for the gorgeous star of *Show Boat* and *The Barefoot Contessa*; her steamy affair and marriage to Sinatra ranks among the most notorious of Hollywood love stories. Gardner's career, hard drinking and screen-worthy love affairs are all chronicled in Server's page-turner prose, doing justice to one of cinema's most beautiful faces.

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From [Booklist](#)

Server follows his superb biography of Robert Mitchum (*Baby I Don't Care*, 2001) with the life of another midcentury movie icon: Ava Gardner. Gardner's rise from North Carolina tobacco country to Hollywood superstardom began when an MGM talent scout spotted her picture in the window of a photographer's studio. It's a Cinderella story, to be sure, but Server gives us the unexpurgated version, complete with Gardner's Mitchum-like credentials for booze consumption, rugged individualism, and sexual appetite (marriages to Mickey Rooney, Artie Shaw, and Frank Sinatra and affairs with pretty much everyone else). And then there was her beauty--in interviews with dozens of stars, the message is the same: no one ever looked better than Ava Gardner. This is also a story of the studio system, and Gardner was one of its most notable victims, ill-used throughout her career, forced to do bad movies and forced to watch her good movies decimated in the cutting room. Server capably assesses the hits and misses, languishing on those electric moments when the camera caught the "feline sprawl of her exquisite body." A no-holds-barred view of a larger-than-life star.

Bill Ott

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Review

"A life of much too much, all of it thoroughly and satisfactorily recounted."

--*New York Daily News*

"Server writes with a contagious enthusiasm."

--*Kirkus Reviews*

"Entertaining."

--*Library Journal*

"Enthralling...an extended toast to [Gardner]."

--Peter Bogdanovich, *The New York Times*

"A seductive book."

--*The New York Times*

"Every bit as thrilling as Server's previous biography of Robert Mitchum."

--*The Times (UK)*

"Server, who perfectly captured Robert Mitchum's laconic laissez-faire in Robert Mitchum: 'Baby, I Don't Care', follows with another captivating chronicle."

--*Filmmonthly*

"Deliciously entertaining."--*Publishers Weekly*

"The most complete and engrossing biography yet of this exotic Southern girl...An excellent book, full of juicy new detail."--Liz Smith, *New York Post*

"Exceptionally well written, a huge step above most star biographies."

--*Toronto Globe and Mail*

"Writing with poetic grace and titillating candor, he traces Gardner's path from Tobacco Road to Tinseltown."--*American Way*

"A compelling triumph of a biography."--*Filmmonthly*

"As close as we will ever get to an evening out with the woman herself."

--*The Sunday Times (UK)*

"No writer had ever managed to capture [Ava Gardner's] life of volcanic excess until now."

--*Noir City Sentinel*

"A wholly worthwhile biography to sink your teeth into."

--*Buffalo News*

Praise for Lee Server's *Robert Mitchum: "Baby, I Don't Care."*

"Server sustains a fascination for his subject that is broad enough to encompass the man's miserable behavior alongside his vast admiration for Mitchum's body of work and hugely iconic personality." -*The New York Times*

"An elegant job." -*Entertainment Weekly*

"Is isn't always pretty, but it's never boring." -*Biography Magazine*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Richard Glass:

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also get a life style. This reading routine give you lot of advantages. The advantages you got of course the knowledge your information inside the book which improve your knowledge and information. The data you get based on what kind of e-book you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with education books but if you want feel happy read one using theme for entertaining for example comic or novel. Often the Ava Gardner: "Love Is Nothing" is kind of reserve

which is giving the reader capricious experience.

Teresa Thomas:

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Jennifer Witherspoon:

A lot of people said that they feel bored when they reading a book. They are directly felt the idea when they get a half areas of the book. You can choose typically the book Ava Gardner: "Love Is Nothing" to make your current reading is interesting. Your own personal skill of reading proficiency is developing when you like reading. Try to choose easy book to make you enjoy to see it and mingle the impression about book and looking at especially. It is to be initially opinion for you to like to available a book and learn it. Beside that the publication Ava Gardner: "Love Is Nothing" can to be your new friend when you're feel alone and confuse using what must you're doing of this time.

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