



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 satisfyingly 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*

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

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Henry McMahon:

As people who live in often the modest era should be change about what going on or information even knowledge to make all of them keep up with the era that is certainly always change and make progress. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know what one you should start with. This Ava Gardner: "Love Is Nothing" is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, because

this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Floy Knowles:

Hey guys, do you really want to find a new book to read? Maybe the book with the name Ava Gardner: "Love Is Nothing" suitable to you? Often the book was written by well-known writer in this era. The particular book titled Ava Gardner: "Love Is Nothing" is the main of several books in which everyone reads now. This specific book was inspired a number of people in the world. When you read this guide you will enter the new dimensions that you ever know prior to. The author explained their thought in the simple way, so all of people can easily comprehend the core of this publication. This book will give you a lot of information about this world now. So that you can see the represented of the world within this book.

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Andrew Taylor:

Exactly why? Because this Ava Gardner: "Love Is Nothing" is an extraordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap the idea but later it will distress you with the secret that inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who have written the book in such remarkable way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning fully. So, it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of gains than the other book include such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking way. So, still want to postpone having that book? If I were being you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

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