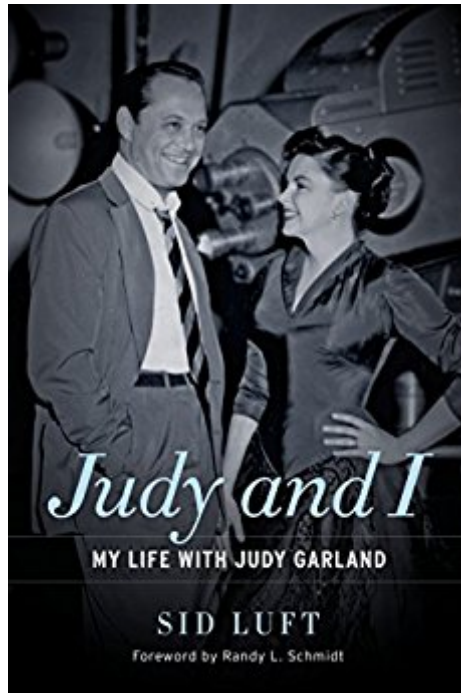




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Judy And I: My Life With Judy Garland



Synopsis

The third of Judy Garland's five husbands, Sid Luft was the one man in her life who stuck around. He was chiefly responsible for the final act of Judy's meteoric comeback after she was unceremoniously booted off the MGM lot: he produced her iconic, Oscar-nominated vehicle *A Star Is Born* and expertly shaped her concert career. Previously unpublished, Sid Luft's intimate autobiography tells his and Judy's story in hard-boiled yet elegant prose. It begins on a fateful night in New York City when the not quite divorced Judy Garland and the not quite divorced Sid Luft meet at Billy Reed's Little Club and fall for each other. The romance lasted Judy's lifetime, despite the separations, the reconciliations, and the divorce. Under Luft's management, Judy came back bigger than ever, building a singing career that rivaled Sinatra's. However, her drug dependencies and suicidal tendencies put a tremendous strain on the relationship. Sid did not complete his memoir; it ended in 1960 after Judy hired David Begelman and Freddie Fields to manage her career. But Randy L. Schmidt, acclaimed editor of *Judy Garland on Judy Garland* and author of *Little Girl Blue: The Life of Karen Carpenter*, seamlessly pieced together the final section of the book from extensive interviews with Sid, most previously unpublished. Despite everything, Sid never stopped loving Judy and never forgave himself for not being able to ultimately save her from the demons that drove her to an early death at age forty-seven in 1969. Sid served as chief conservator of the Garland legacy until his death at the age of eighty-nine in 2005. This is his testament to the love of his life.

Book Information

File Size: 6046 KB

Print Length: 457 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1613735839

Publisher: Chicago Review Press; 1 edition (March 1, 2017)

Publication Date: March 1, 2017

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01M06SNFS

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

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Customer Reviews

Finally, this book explains and examines a period in Judy's life that other books about her only skim. We Judy lovers know the drill: Sid Luft kept Judy on her feet during the Fifties, had two children with her, produced "A Star is Born", ran her finances into the ground, yak, yak. Here, finally, is Sid's story, and it is fascinating. There are lovely little details about their courtship, He loved the fact that she didn't use nail polish, for example. These little things add up to put the reader deep into their relationship. The way Luft becomes aware of Judy's addictions and tries to handle them makes the reader recall how naive people were about drugs in the Fifties. Luft sees doctors, investigates, and manages her the best he can. What is especially moving is the way Luft tries to help Garland lead a wholesome, healthy life. Other biographies about Garland focus on her last "Flying Dutchman" years, when rail-thin Judy was homeless, penniless, and grabbing at any extended hand. For those of us who love Judy, it is a relief to read that for quite a while she had a protector who really loved her, who encouraged her to reach out to her estranged family, a home, a healthy appetite, and children.

After years and years of reading about him it was fun getting to know Mr. Luft. In writing as in life there was a bit of bluster and some flimflammy, but that's who he probably was. I loved hearing things from his point of view. I hope his family is proud of how he represented them. He seemed to be a loving, protective guy - I liked the read and recommend it.

Well done !

Book is great. I could have done without endless tales of Luft's pilot career. A great window into a time in Garland's life that is rarely written about. A harrowing portrait of addiction and love.

Love this lady. I understand more of why she was so nervous and unsure all the time. Good book.

Wifee loves it

It was just ok. It wasn't particularly well written. I took it as more of an ego boost for Sid about his wonderful life and heroic adventures.

It was awesome! Not only did I gain a closer insight to Judy Garlands life, talents, and troubles, but got to know her longest married husband's interesting life ,also. It was a love story. It was the reality of a true movie star's life. It gives information about other famous people in Hollywood, politics, and world leaders that I never knew. It just hit my heart!

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