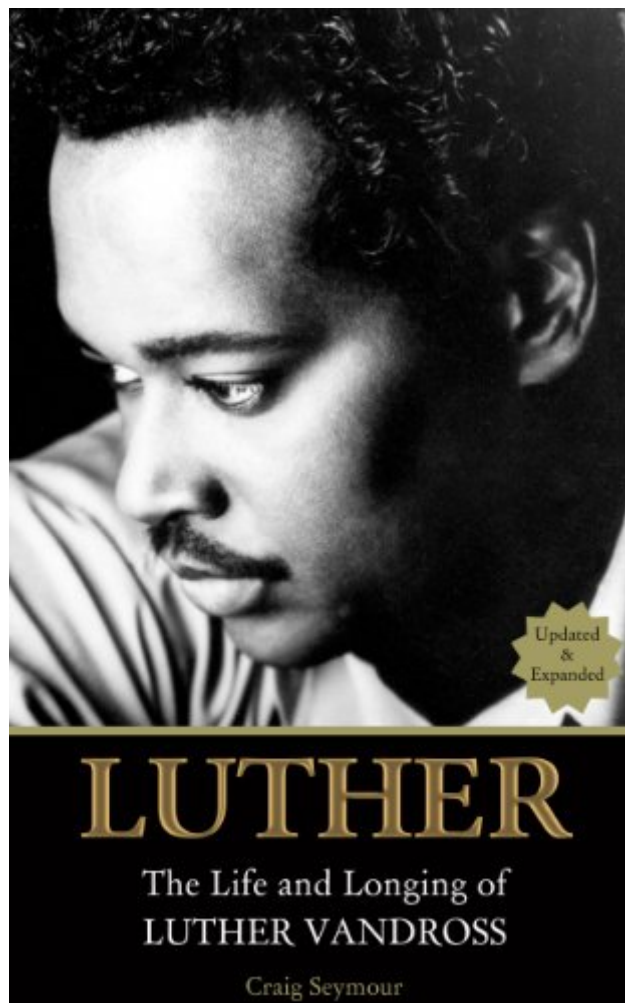




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# **Luther: The Life And Longing Of Luther Vandross: (Updated And Expanded)**



## Synopsis

"Seymour's brilliant book is like a great Luther song: elegantly written, effortlessly executed and eloquently delivered." - Michael Eric Dyson "Craig Seymour paints an intimate portrait of the man behind some of the most beautiful love songs of our time...Full of juicy anecdotes, fast-paced writing, and interesting analysis, the book reveals surprising new dimensions of this much-beloved balladeer." - E. Lynn Harris "...a sympathetic look at the most popular soul singer of his generation" - New York Daily News On July 1, 2005, the world lost one of the greatest R&B vocalists of all time, Luther Vandross. He left a legacy of some of the most enduring love songs of our age: "Here and Now," "Superstar," "If Only For One Night," and "A House Is Not A Home." The notoriously secretive star also left behind many questions such as the real-life inspiration behind all of those yearning love songs. The newly updated and expanded edition of *Luther: The Life and Longing* of Luther Vandross takes you deep inside the singer's private world. It chronicles his underdog journey from the projects of New York City's Lower East Side to the top of the charts, selling more than 20 million albums along the way. The book details Luther's triumphs, as well as his struggles: his battle with weight; his feuds with Aretha Franklin, Anita Baker, and En Vogue; the 1986 car accident that killed his best friend and nearly destroyed his career; and the rumors about his sexuality that followed him throughout his life. The book offers specific new details about Luther's love life that will help illuminate the private pain of the man who brought the world so much joy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed this read, and I learned so much about Luther I didn't know. I just wish he had been able to enjoy his success more. If the book is accurate, his biggest dream was to have a number one pop chart hit. His dream was finally realized, but by then he had had a stroke and was not even able to attend the Grammy's to receive his award. There were a lot of interesting stories and revelations in the book. At one point in college he told people Dionne Warwick was his sister. He was that infatuated with her singing style. He idolized Aretha Franklin. They also had a major fight. He also had bitter disagreements with Anita Baker, but toward the end of his life he had rekindled those relationships. David Bowie gave him his first major break. He was famous for doing countless commercial jingles and made a ton of money doing so. He used food like a drug and his up and down weight loss fueled rumors that he had contracted AIDS many times. He lost all his siblings to Diabetes. His father as well and his mother after his death. I thank God for giving us Luther and the music he has left behind. I wish he could have found the love he so longed for. I believe in death he found the ultimate love in the hands of the Creator.

It is often said, though unsure of how meaningful, that life can be blessed with dreams so vividly realized. Nothing quite captures the night I was invited to an "Ashford & Simpson/Radio City After Party". One of my beloved friends, Jay, Executive Administrator of Marketing" at Radio City not only added me to this exclusive music industry guest list, BUT, seated at my table was the guest of honor(s), Nick & Val, still there was more.....the Effervescent Mr. Luther Vandross and his close friend and oftentimes vocal collaborator, Fonzi Thornton gracefully completed my evening's entourage. Luther, by that time, was to the late 80s/early 90s Urban Contemporary scene, what Ashford & Simpson previously reigned supreme the entire 70s decade. So it is fair to say that I humbly sat court side at the evening's most coveted table. If that were not enough to create an unbelievable affair, Luther and I spent most of the evening paying homage to the one and only Diva Divine Diana. As immediately, repeatedly stated in this entertaining opus, Luther lived for the Supreme Dark

Divas, Diana, Aretha and Dionne. So many serendipitous moments in Luther's life mirrored mine anticipating the magical moments, pre-Internet/DVD Home recording era, Diana Ross & The Supremes graced the diminutive video equipment or celebrating the miraculous Aretha journey from the church to smokey venues or transforming one of Dionne's delivery of a Bacharach/David forthcoming classic into the definitive version. In this era of video editing, there seems to be a lost appreciation of the talent these ladies continuously displayed every night. In a more personal portrait, it cuts too deep to consider a man who could convincingly croon about love, may possibly been denied the chance to fully experience it for himself. As Diana divinely danced with Fred Ross, Aretha testified on the dance floor Rev. C.L. Franklin or Whitney and John Houston tripped the light fantastic to Luther's "Dance with My Father", he posthumously relished Grammys, many of them including "Record/Song of the Year"....."It's Hard for Me to Say".....this was long overdue.

The author did a thoroughly research into Luther's life and career, the book is well written and I enjoyed it. One thing I noticed that I didn't like is that Luther comes across as a terrible person who sometimes treated people badly, was shallow and greedy I mean he was rich and an international celebrity but he was not happy always longing for no1 spot. Anyway it's a great book.

I loved Luther Vandross's music and still listen to it all the time. However, I thought the bio was poorly written. It was more like reading a long newspaper article and it was just a list of names and places. It also cast a lot of judgement and suspicion on Luther. I liked learning about a few new things about his life that I had no idea about, but the book could have been a lot more well written and compelling.

I am not impressed with some of the "diva-like" behavior of Luther, but, I had no idea of the contributions he made to music, from his jingles, background singing and the passion that he wanted to express in his music. Not many people get to develop close friendships with their idols. He did. Bless you Luther. I plan to listen to your songs with a different ear, now.

Excellent!

VERY well researched and written!

I really enjoyed this book. It told a side of Luther Vandross's life that most people including myself

would never have imagined. He was such a great singer and songwriter. It's such a shame that his life ended at such a promising time in his career.

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