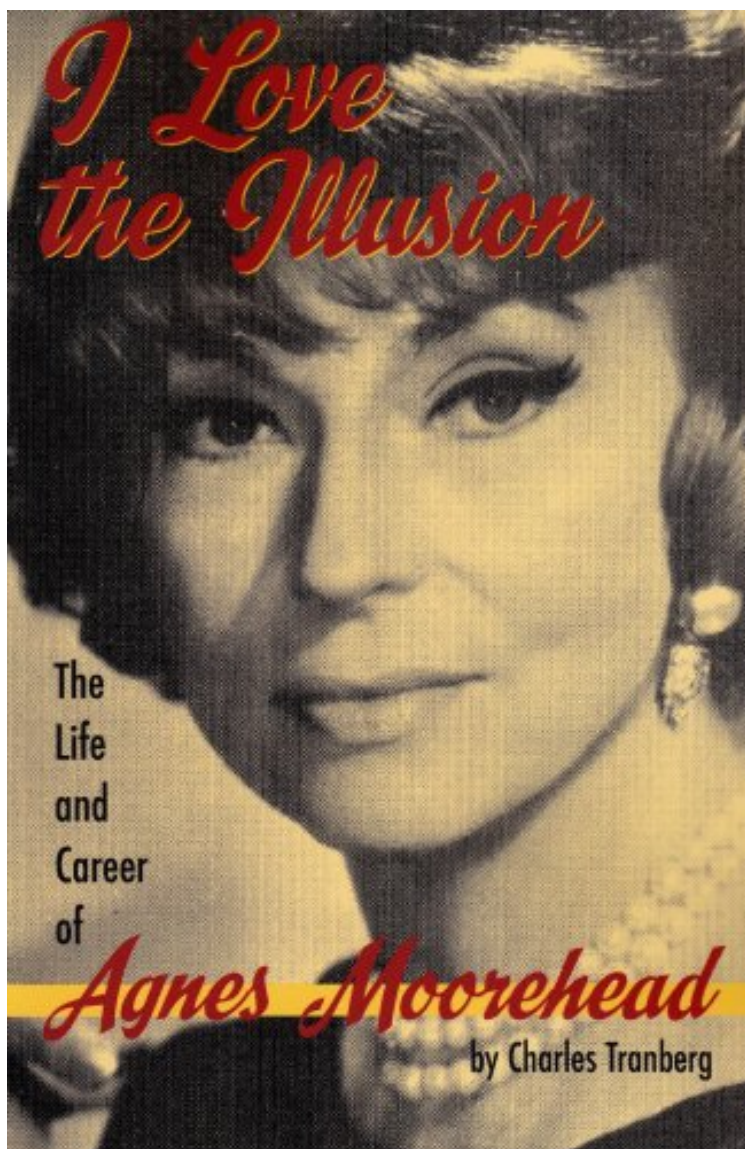



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## I Love the Illusion: The Life and Career of Agnes Moorehead, 2nd edition

Charles Tranberg

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3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Bewitched! Bewildered! Bedazzled!By SylviastelAgnes Moorehead

was more than Endora. She was the embodiment of the greatest American actress of stage, screen, radio, and television. This detailed biography by Charles Tranberg covers her personal and professional life with rich details. Sadly, she didn't live long enough but into her seventies. She and others from the forgettable film, "The Conquerors," would succumb to cancer as cause of death. The author covers her life from beginning to her end and explores her two failed marriages and an adopted son named Sean Moorehead. Her career came first for Agnes. If you read the appendices, you will see her abundance of work ranging from radio, stage, television and film throughout her career. She was a late bloomer and often played mother figures. She was nominated for an Academy Award four times. Perhaps if she had lived longer, she would have been awarded an honorary Academy Award. She was deeply respected and a professional actress by her peers and colleagues. She was the ideal actress for any role. Radio gave her the leading roles that films didn't. She never sounded bitter or ungrateful for the lack of leading roles. Sadly, her relationship with Sean was perhaps the most disappointing of all. She shipped off to boarding schools in Europe rather than act as a full-time mother. In one heartbreaking note, he offered his toys for time with her. Agnes had taken care of him with all the luxuries except full time parenting. His outcome is never solved. Her marriages to Jack Lee and Robert Gist were failures. Jack Lee became resentful of her rising star while he never managed to have his own career. Robert Gist used her to get ahead in this business. Perhaps that is why she never sought a third husband. The author clarifies Agnes as truly a private individual who led a low profile life in Hollywood. Yes, she had annual Christmas parties but she never had a scandalous lifestyle. She was devoutly Christian and a conservative Republican herself. Despite her religious nature and political leanings, she was never ostracized. She never publicized her political or religious views. This biography is the definitive work and accomplishment of the author. The book is very thorough in following her career and life from the beginning to the end. Agnes Moorehead was more than Endora from the popular television sitcom, "Bewitched," and was perhaps the greatest character actress from America. If she had lived longer, she would have been awarded several accolades for her diverse acting career. The author does pay attention to the lesbian rumors about Agnes Moorehead. There is no evidence to prove that she was one according to the author and close friends. She just never found the right man who appreciated and loved her as a strong-willed woman. The most important man in her life was her father, a minister. Her own mother outlived her by 16 years at a 106 years old. The author does neglect to mention her Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame for Motion Pictures. She was awarded on February 8, 1960 with hundreds of other Hollywood recipients. Perhaps, they didn't have the celebrations that day to honor an exquisite film actress. Whatever Agnes did whether film, television, radio or stage, she added the golden touch. She lived her life with dignity, class, grace, and gave back to her colleagues, friends, community and others. I am glad to know her better more than Endora. I do enjoy her performance as Endora in "Bewitched" where I found her positively delightful and exuberant in the role. She also did the same with every acting role in every performance. Her colleagues and fans found her to be a true professional and talented actress. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Legacy of Agnes Moorehead a Great Read! By J.R. The life of Agnes Moorehead was captivating and was my favorite book of 2015. The book became more than a book with the presence of such creative and powerful people such as Orson Welles and all those she worked with in radio, films, tv and on tour. It was exciting to read of the early days of these mediums and how Agnes Moorehead was all a part of it, making her "The Queen of Radio", with her classic "Sorry, Wrong Number" radio appearance. I felt the author's love and respect for his subject matter who told her story honestly and did not avoid certain gossipy elements. He told of her poor relationship with her son, of whom she never really had time for with her constant need for work and for her creative outlet. She was a true pioneer of radio and film and a versatile actress who was never given her due. But Mr. Tranberg gives her this loving tribute. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I love Agnes Moorehead By a geshio I love Agnes Moorehead. A great actress and a great lady. Many thanks.

Lovers of old-time radio hold a special place in their heart for Agnes Moorehead. She was one of the busiest and most definitive actresses of that medium. The bottom line is that Agnes Moorehead is one of the few actresses who succeeded in every realm of show business: stage, radio, film, and television. The respect of her peers can be summed up in these statistics: four Academy Award nominations, seven Emmy nominations - with one win - two Golden Globe nominations - with two wins - and the Best Actress award from the New York Film Critics. This impressive, 400+ page biography, complete with filmography and radiography, proves to readers and scholars alike that she was much more than the witch of Endor! \*This is the 2nd edition of the bestselling book, with new material and cover!\*

Selected as one of the BEST BOOKS of 2006 by reviewer Laura Wagner in her Book Notes column. -- CLASSIC IMAGES, January, 2007