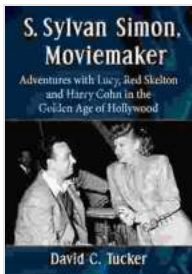


# Adventures With Lucy: Red Skelton and Harry Cohn in the Golden Age of Hollywood

By Richard Lamparski

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**S. Sylvan Simon, Moviemaker: Adventures with Lucy, Red Skelton and Harry Cohn in the Golden Age of Hollywood** by David C. Tucker

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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In the annals of Hollywood history, few figures loom larger than Red Skelton and Harry Cohn. Skelton was one of the most beloved comedians of all time, while Cohn was the ruthless and powerful head of Columbia Pictures. Together, they formed an unlikely duo that helped shape the Golden Age of Hollywood.

In *Adventures With Lucy*, Richard Lamparski tells the story of Skelton and Cohn's relationship, from their early days in vaudeville to their years at MGM and RKO Pictures. Along the way, Lamparski provides a fascinating look at the inner workings of the Hollywood studio system, as well as the personal lives of two of its most colorful characters.

Skelton was born in Vincennes, Indiana, in 1913. He began performing in vaudeville as a child, and by the early 1930s, he was one of the most popular comedians in the country. In 1937, he signed a contract with MGM, where he starred in a series of successful films, including *Whistling in the Dark* (1941), *I Dood It* (1943), and *The Fuller Brush Man* (1948).

Cohn was born in New York City in 1891. He started out in the film industry as a publicist, and by the early 1920s, he was one of the most powerful executives in Hollywood. In 1924, he founded Columbia Pictures, which he ran with an iron fist for over three decades. Cohn was known for his ruthless business practices, but he also had a keen eye for talent, and he was responsible for launching the careers of many of Hollywood's biggest stars, including Rita Hayworth, Judy Garland, and Humphrey Bogart.

Skelton and Cohn first met in the early 1930s, when Skelton was performing at a vaudeville theater in New York City. Cohn was immediately impressed by Skelton's comedic talent, and he offered him a contract with

Columbia Pictures. Skelton accepted, and he soon became one of the studio's most popular stars.

Skelton and Cohn had a close relationship, but it was not without its ups and downs. Cohn was often critical of Skelton's work, and he would frequently make changes to his scripts without his permission. Skelton, for his part, was often frustrated by Cohn's interference, but he knew that he needed Cohn's support to succeed in Hollywood.

In 1951, Skelton left Columbia Pictures and signed a contract with NBC. He starred in his own television show, *The Red Skelton Show*, which ran for over two decades. The show was a huge success, and it made Skelton one of the most popular comedians in the world.

Cohn died in 1958, at the age of 67. Skelton continued to perform until his death in 1997, at the age of 84. He is remembered as one of the greatest comedians of all time, and his legacy continues to inspire laughter and joy around the world.

*Adventures With Lucy* is a fascinating and entertaining look at the lives and careers of Red Skelton and Harry Cohn. Lamparski provides a wealth of new information and insights, and he tells the story with a keen eye for detail and a deep understanding of the Hollywood studio system.

Whether you are a fan of classic Hollywood cinema or simply enjoy a good story, you will love *Adventures With Lucy*. It is a must-read for anyone who wants to learn more about two of the most influential figures in the Golden Age of Hollywood.

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## Praise for *Adventures With Lucy*

"A fascinating and entertaining look at the lives and careers of Red Skelton and Harry Cohn. Lamparski provides a wealth of new information and insights, and he tells the story with a keen eye for detail and a deep understanding of the Hollywood studio system." —**Leonard Maltin, film critic and historian**

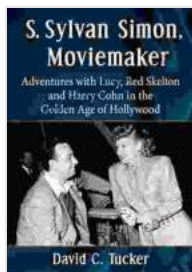
"A must-read for anyone who wants to learn more about two of the most influential figures in the Golden Age of Hollywood." —**Robert Osborne, Turner Classic Movies host**

"Lamparski has written a definitive account of the relationship between Red Skelton and Harry Cohn. This book is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of Hollywood." —**Ronald Haver, author of *David O. Selznick's Hollywood***

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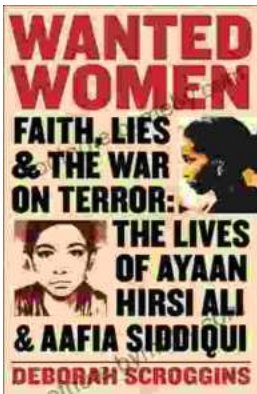
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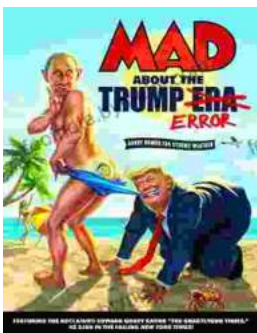
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