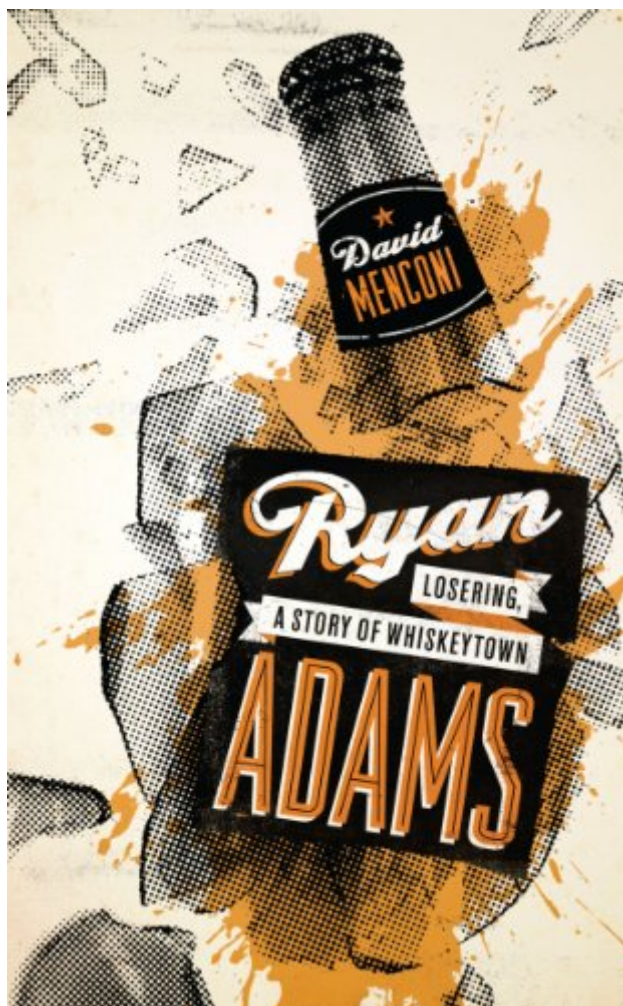


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# Ryan Adams (American Music (University Of Texas))



## Synopsis

Before he achieved his dream of being an internationally known rock personality, Ryan Adams had a band in Raleigh, North Carolina. Whiskeytown led the wave of insurgent-country bands that came of age with No Depression magazine in the mid-1990s, and for many people it defined the era. Adams was an irrepressible character, one of the signature personalities of his generation, and as a singer-songwriter he blew people away with a mature talent that belied his youth. David Menconi witnessed most of Whiskeytown's rocket ride to fame as the music critic for the Raleigh News & Observer, and in *Ryan Adams*, he tells the inside story of the singer's remarkable rise from hardscrabble origins to success with Whiskeytown, as well as Adams's post-Whiskeytown self-reinvention as a solo act. Menconi draws on early interviews with Adams, conversations with people close to him, and Adams's extensive online postings to capture the creative ferment that produced some of Adams's best music, including the albums *Strangers Almanac* and *Heartbreaker*. He reveals that, from the start, Ryan Adams had an absolutely determined sense of purpose and unshakable confidence in his own worth. At the same time, his inability to hold anything back, whether emotions or torrents of songs, often made Adams his own worst enemy, and Menconi recalls the excesses that almost, but never quite, derailed his career. *Ryan Adams* is a fascinating, multifaceted portrait of the artist as a young man, almost famous and still inventing himself, writing songs in a blaze of passion.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Menconi's book offers a richly drawn portrait of the singer's life and career in his pre-solo days as the singer and guitarist in Whiskeytown. Menconi is an astute and generous biographer, not averse to drawing attention to DRA's flaws on occasion but also focused on an even-handed and perceptive account of the prolific amount of music that DRA was producing in his late teens and 20s. Menconi interviewed DRA on many occasions and was able to draw on these interviews as he documents DRA's early bands in Raleigh and the tempestuous times in Whiskeytown that ultimately led to Ryan's solo career. This is a highly entertaining account of one of the US's greatest current singer-songwriters and the North Carolina music scene from which he emerged!

David Menconi is a solid writer. The book is a good read for any Ryan Adams fan. That being said, this book is written by a music journalist. There is A LOT of descriptive music nuance about; other bands, influences, technique, the music scene at the time, etc., that I personally found to be a little tedious.

if you are a ryan fan or at all interested in alt country this is a must read! made me feel like a fly on the wall of some of the most exciting musical moments of all time even if most people weren't aware lol.

David Menconi tells the story of Ryan Adams; a perplexing and terrifyingly gifted singer-songwriter. There were many things I didn't know, even though I am a fan since Whiskeytown's Rural Free Delivery. This book was like a voyage of rediscovery; it made me listen again Ryan's albums with a different perspective. By the time you finish the book, you will realise though, that you miss Whiskeytown even if you like most of Ryan's solo albums!

Other than too much detail about songs book was great and offered a lot of interesting back story on who Adams was and is

Great account of the Raleigh music scene and the rise of Ryan Adams, filled with amazing behind-the-scenes stories.

This was an incredible read.

Enjoyed the book and background on of his musical talents. The meaning behind alot of his song lyrics were explained as well. Great read if you are a Ryan Adams fan.

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