

Mp3 The Readings - Everyday Life

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Holy Sh**...That's what The Readings hope you'll say after listening to their songs. Whether it's clever, sad, funny, reflective, as long as you say Holy Sh**..., they're happy. These fraternal twin brothers from San Diego, are now living in Nashville. 17 MP3 Songs COUNTRY: Country Pop, POP: Today's Top 40 Details: The Readings (pronounced Reddings) Chris and Eric thereadings.net If ever the phrase "well-rounded" was looking for a place to land, it could do a whole lot worse than to find itself attached to The Readings. With personal histories that include turning down a professional baseball contract, and medical school, and even an appearance on The Family Feud (don't ask...it was years ago...and all the tapes have been burned!), there isn't much The Readings haven't seen or done. And with musical interests ranging from Fleetwood Mac and The Eagles, to U2 and Billy Joel, to Lyle Lovett and Garth Brooks, there isn't much they haven't listened to, or sung. And growing up as fraternal twin brothers only added to the unique nature of their experience. This same originality is reflected in the music they are making today--they are not trying to sound like anyone else. Their music is their own. Several years ago, a family friend in the music business gave The Readings some advice...he said, "If you want to have a career in music, you should probably be in Nashville". He said, "To make it, you've got to be around the best, absorb, grow, and you have to be where the business is happening...there's just no other way to learn what you need to learn". The Readings took that advice, and they haven't looked back. You can judge for yourself whether Nashville has taught them a thing or two...their independent CD's, are available here, and on their website, thereadings.net. Highlighted by numerous songs that are very personal to Chris and Eric, the albums have unusual lyrical depth and reflect the tremendous growth they have experienced since moving to Nashville. The Readings have a strong vision for who they are and what they do. Chris explains: "We decided long ago that we wouldn't sit around and wait for a record label to discover us, and find us material. Although we realize there are a lot of great songs floating around the Nashville songwriting community (we've even recorded a few), we took it upon ourselves to learn how to write solid songs, so hopefully one day, that part of what we do would be undeniable. And no matter what, we'll come off as real, doing our own thing with (mostly) our own songs and our own sound. We tend to

write songs inspired by creative or meaningful ideas, which connect with people who appreciate strong lyrics and melodies. Because of the depth of our songs, our music is well-received by audiences ranging from country to adult-contemporary." And Eric adds, "Writing is the key. I think it's the way most artists discover who they are. Throughout the history of popular music, so many of the great male vocalists haven't been singers, as much as they've been artists, with unique voices and styles-from James Taylor to Willie Nelson. Johnny Cash to Elton John. Dave Matthews to Brad Paisley...I don't think it's a coincidence that all of these guys are prolific songwriters. It's how they discover their style. It has definitely helped us. And it forces you to take a much longer-term approach to your career. You don't focus on being a star, you focus on being good at what you do, and that takes time." Well, Nashville has been good to The Readings. Every week they sit down and write with some of the most talented up-and-coming writers in town. They recently wrote and submitted a song for an independent film project being shot in Alabama and are actively pursuing other contacts in this area. They have developed relationships with several publishers who are currently pitching their songs to major label acts and are pursuing a record deal of their own. In any given week you can find them performing at one of the many local songwriter venues including Nashville's world famous Bluebird Caf. They have been seen on KUSI TV in San Diego, and PCTV in Park City, Utah, and heard on Lia Knight's nationally syndicated radio show (radiolia.com). They've also collaborated with, and performed for, the American Cancer Society, who used their cancer-related song One of Those Days in an inspirational video. There are defining moments in everyone's lives, maybe a few, maybe just one, but they're there, easy to spot. Chris and Eric Reading's lives are no exception. And a story about The Readings would not be complete without mentioning one...In April of 1990, their mother Bonnie was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma, a rare form of bone marrow cancer. For several years, Chris and Eric watched with awe and admiration the courageous battle their mother waged to maintain her quality of life and high spirits in the face of an almost certain fate. At that time, the average Myeloma patient was only living about three years after diagnosis. But through early 1995, Bonnie was doing very well, in remission, and leading a very productive and fulfilling life. Sadly, Multiple Myeloma has no cure. And the good times would not last very long. By May of '95, her disease returned, and it stepped-up its assault on her immune system. In late September of that year, after a five and a half year struggle, Bonnie lost her battle. On the morning of the 25th, at just 51, she passed away--with her boys holding her hands and comforting her as she took her

last breath. As anyone who has ever lost a loved one knows, this event, more than any other, causes one to reflect on one's entire life, past, present, and future. As one looks forward, a lifetime seems like an eternity, but as one looks back it's just a blur. Life is, at the same time, both too long, and too short, to spend doing anything but the things one enjoys. The last few weeks, days, hours, and minutes with their mother reinforced this lesson, and Chris and Eric vowed to achieve no less in their lifetimes. It wasn't long before they were in Nashville for good...

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