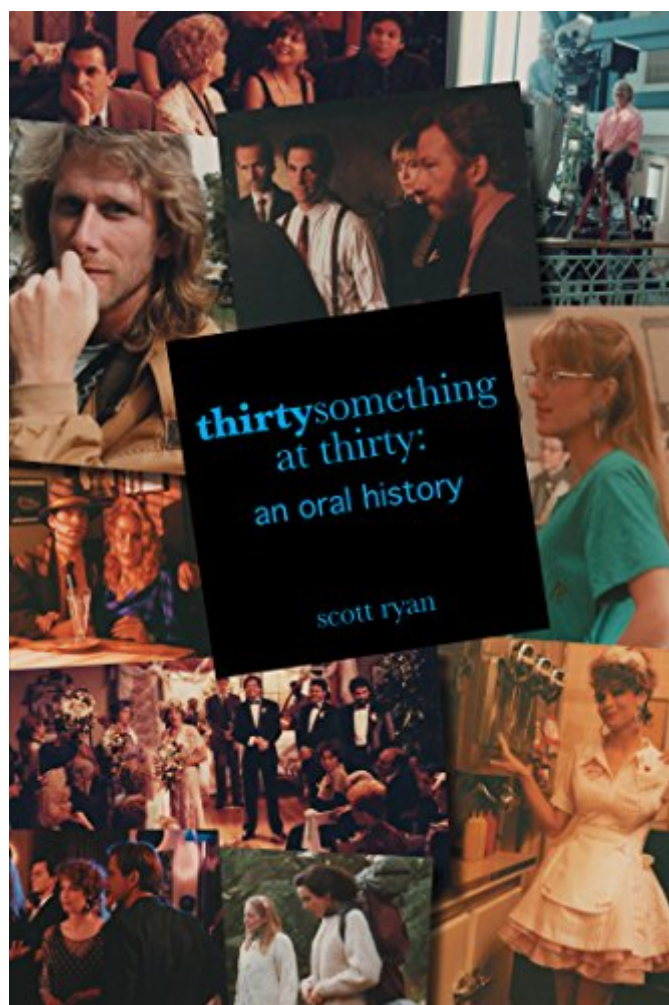


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Thirtysomething At Thirty: An Oral History



Synopsis

Baby boomers in their thirties never possessed a collective voice until *thirtysomething* (1987-1991), a thirteen-time Emmy Award-winning series, captured the essence of their angst. Author Scott Ryan now gives the cast and crew their voice on the making of all 85 episodes. Revealing behind-the-scenes stories are recalled by Ken Olin, Timothy Busfield, Mel Harris, Melanie Mayron, Peter Horton, Patricia Wettig, Polly Draper, Brandy Alexander, Joseph Dougherty, Liberty Godshall, Jill Gordon, Paul Haggis, Ann Lewis Hamilton, Winnie Holzman, Richard Kramer, Ron Lagomarsino, Ellen S. Pressman, Susan Shilliday, Scott Winant, Kenneth Zunder, Edward Zwick, and Marshall Herskovitz. They remember the episode plots, controversies, and fights with censors in revealing, no-holds-barred detail. Enjoy other remembrances from actors David Clennon, Dana Delany, Michael Feinstein, David Marshall Grant, Patricia Kalember, Nick Meglin, Corey Parker, Charlotte Stewart, and Lenny Von Dohlen. Discover: • How the series was canceled, and how the creators decided to end the series without telling anyone, and read the originally scripted ending that was never produced. • A special section on directing. • An essay by actor Peter Horton (Gary). • An essay by a *Mad* magazine editor, who appeared in a cameo. • How Ken Olin and his real life wife, Patricia Wettig, managed to work together. • Writer Richard Kramer on writing the controversial "Strangers" episode. • Actors Timothy Busfield, Melanie Mayron, and Peter Horton on acting and learning to direct. Illustrated with over 150 rare photos, including original TV Guide ads, press pictures, and sets and props. Foreword by Emmy-nominated writer Ann Lewis Hamilton. Afterword by Emmy-winning writer, Joseph Dougherty. About the author: Scott Ryan is the author of *Scott Luck Stories*, host of the *Red Room Podcast*, host of *Big Bad Buffy Interviews*, host of the *thirtysomething* podcast, writer and director of *A Voyage To Twin Peaks*, Managing Editor of *The Blue Rose*, contributor to *Sondheim Review Magazine*, *Twin Peaks Fan Phenomena* series, and *Hot Valley Writers*.

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Customer Reviews

Love it... if you were a viewer of this show in the 90's you will enjoy this book

I don't remember where I first heard about this book, but several months ago I read something about it online and, since "thirtysomething" is one of my all-time favorite shows, I immediately headed to .com and pre-ordered it. I was disappointed to find out it wouldn't be coming out for several months, but I was willing to wait. Fast-forward to the day the book was finally released and my copy arrived. Only minutes ago, I finished reading it, and all I can say was that it was worth the wait. I loved this book. It is comprised, largely, of interviews with all of the major players behind the series, including producers, directors, writers, and the main cast. They discuss what went into the show and into individual episodes and even specific scenes. It was fun to read what each person had to say and what they remembered. The book captures the joy and the love and the hard work of the artists who made the show what it was. I only made it through the chapters covering the first two seasons before I pulled out my DVDs of the first season and started re-watching the show itself, now armed with the behind-the-scenes recollections and insights from this book. I am still working my way through the first season, but I know I will end up re-watching the entire series. Seriously, if you are a fan of "thirtysomething," you will love this book. But don't take my word for it. Read it for yourself.

An excellent read and labor of love. As author notes, this is an oral history, and not a series guide. Information contained within is the actual recollections of the producers, directors, actor, and

technicians who worked on the series. The book is laid out in a mainly chronological format by episode run dates, BUT not all episodes have entries. The reader is also properly alerted about spoilers contained in the text. Well illustrated with B&W photos and other artwork from magazines, promos, artwork, etc. A must-have for fans of the show, and a great look back behind-the-scenes at the many different talents that went into producing thirtysomething.

Overall, this book is a labor of love and as a fan of "thirtysomething", I am grateful. The pictures compliment the stories told. Some parts of the book come from the podcast (which I enjoyed as well). The author did a good job of finding and interviewing the people involved in the show. There were some parts I was familiar with from bonus material in the season one DVD collection.

Scott Ryan explains in his Introduction that the book is an oral history and not "a commentary from the outside" on the TV series, and while there are wonderful remembrances from the cast and crew of the show, it is not the definitive study. It is written with an assumption that readers know the episodes referenced, where the author does not provide even a synopsis for each, and some episodes have nothing written for them. On the plus side is that the book includes the script for the last episode's original ending, and also reading the book makes you want to watch the show again. Some quibbles: I feel there are too many pictures, which might sound odd, but a lot of them are generic publicity and advertising shots. Also, though Ryan defends the quotes he provides as memories that should not be corrected, one by Ken Olin referring to Steven Hill as "Stephen Schiff" is objectionable.

I couldn't put my Kindle down until I finished this book! I loved this series and to be given the opportunity to go behind the scenes of the making of it is priceless. Reading this book has inspired me to watch the entire series again! It's will be like visiting old friends. Thanks for making this book an E book!

Not only did this book take me back to one of the first TV shows I became obsessed with, it's like taking a class in TV writing, staging and directing. What a treat! I couldn't put it down and will treasure my autographed copy forever. Thank you so much for putting this out in the universe for us all to enjoy. I just ordered all the DVD's and can't wait to watch it again and again and again!

This is a really important book for anyone interested in TV history or the craft of writing. The author

landed interviews with all of the key players and did a great job of getting them to open up about their time on the show.

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