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M E D I A

# Pauline



Ashley  
Ray

HI-FI STEREO

## **Ashley Ray Delivers Acclaimed Autobiographical Album *Pauline*, Friday, Aug. 14**

***CMT Premieres Acoustic Performance Video of Album's Title Track  
Watch, [HERE](#)***

"Gloriously superb, intimate and vulnerable, yet gorgeously, simply layered. The highlight is Ashley Ray's matchless country voice" — *Medium*

"Steamy, sultry, and sneering" — *Rolling Stone*

"Ray has already demonstrated many times over that she can create a moving piece of music... The entire album — but 'Just A House' in particular... is a love letter to her family" — *American Songwriter*

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (August 13, 2020)** — After 18 years in Nashville (peppered with shattered hopes, waiting tables, and fleeting deals), Ashley Ray shares her deeply relatable, unvarnished truth on her new album, *Pauline*, out Friday, August 14 (via Soundly Music).

The profoundly personal album is rooted in experiences from Ray’s life, which began on a farm in Lawrence, Kansas. Raised by working-class parents, she moved to Music City after high school and established herself not only as a solo artist, but as a versatile songwriter with cuts by Little Big Town, Randy Rogers and Wade Bowen, Lori McKenna, and Lady A’s Charles Kelley.

Following a string of bad contracts and disappointments, Ray wondered if following her artistic calling was worth the pain. With encouragement from *Pauline* producer/co-writer Sean McConnell, and friend/collaborator Lori McKenna, she doubled-down, channeling years of heartache, nostalgia, triumph, and loss into her new album. The resulting offering — hailed as “gut-wrenching... a masterpiece” by LBT’s Karen Fairchild, “fearless” by Wade Bowen, and “100% genuine and honest” by Brothers Osborne — has struck a chord with critics and artists alike.

“This record came to life by putting memories to music. I have my family to thank for their will to keep the ones we’ve lost alive through stories,” Ray says of *Pauline*, whose songs tell true tales of life and love in Middle America. “There’s not a BBQ, get-together, or holiday, where we don’t talk about ‘the good ole days’ and the people we’ve lost. This record is my love letter to them, the ones still here, and the ones gone that we’ll see on down the road.”

Adds McConnell, who produced *Pauline* and co-wrote its 10 tracks, “The stories Ashley tells, the grit in her voice, the heart on her sleeve, the tear in her throat, the fire in her belly, and the love in her soul — it’s all real. There is a ‘zero bullshit factor’ about Ashley and her music. I believe this record puts that on full display. Mining this well with Ashley as a songwriter, engineer, musician, producer, and most importantly friend, has been one of the biggest honors and joys of my life.”

Praised as “special” by CMT — which premiered her acoustic “Pauline” music video on Tuesday (watch [HERE](#)) — *Pauline* is strikingly personal, yet its masterfully-crafted songs transcend beyond their creator and are simultaneously universal.

Prior to *Pauline*’s release, Christone “Kingfish” Ingram heard his own life story reflected in its closing track “Rock ‘N’ Roll” (Ray’s account of what her mother sacrificed in order to support her artistry). He revised and further personalized the song, and released it as a tribute to his own late mother.

“Ashley’s like her family’s personal curator of memories. Every shape in a window or cigarette butt left in an ashtray is an artifact for her collection,” notes Lori McKenna. “With Ashley’s emotional voice every note comes with a picture to paint. It all seems so personal but somehow we see ourselves sitting in that house with that family of hers.”

*Pauline* is already gaining traction at both Americana and AAA radio, too. The album is the #2 most added album on this week’s Americana Chart, while radio single “Dirty Work” has charted Top 40 in only four weeks and continues to climb.

*Pauline* track listing:

1. Pauline
2. Lawrence, Kansas
3. Dirty Work
4. St. Patrick’s Day
5. Slurry
6. Warm Body
7. Just A House
8. Off The Wagon Again
9. Waiting
10. Rock ‘N’ Roll

## Follow Ashley Ray on social media:

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## About Ashley Ray:

Raised on a farm in Lawrence, Kansas, Ashley Ray has established herself as one of Nashville's most nuanced voices, chasing down critical acclaim not only as a solo artist, but also as an in-demand songwriter for Little Big Town, Lori McKenna, Lady A's Charles Kelley, and others. Her unique approach to melody and storytelling has resulted in partnerships with publishing companies like SonyATV Tree and BMG Nashville.

Meanwhile, her albums have earned her shows with Eric Church, Miranda Lambert, and other country trailblazers who, like Ashley, create a modern sound without chasing after modern trends.

Ashley Ray shines a light on her midwestern roots with her third album, *Pauline*, whose autobiographical songs tell true stories of love, loss, and life in Middle America. The album finds her teaming up once again with songwriter/producer Sean McConnell, with whom she co-wrote Little Big Town's GRAMMY-nominated Top 40 hit, "The Daughters."

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