



I'm a Lebowski, You're a Lebowski: Life, The Big Lebowski, and What Have You

Bill Green , Will Russell , Ben Peskoe , Scott Shuffitt

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LOOK INSIDE THE BOOK

First released in 1998, the Coen brothers' *The Big Lebowski* flopped at the box office. But over the past nine years the movie has developed a massive and passionate cult following, led by the creation of Lebowski Fest, a traveling festival of all things Lebowski. Held in a bowling alley, it features bowling, costume and trivia contests, live music, a screening of the movie, White Russians, and what-have-you. Attendance has grown exponentially and the Fest has been featured in virtually every national media outlet, from NPR to the New York Times. The Associated Press called it "kind of a 'Star Trek' convention, but without all the geeks." The Wall Street Journal simply intoned: "One hell of a party!" Now, at last, comes the book that the legion of Lebowski fans (aka Achievers) has been waiting for.

I'm a Lebowski, You're a Lebowski is a treasure trove of trivia and commentary, hilarious throughout and copiously illustrated, including stills from the film, as well as dozens of photos taken on the set by Jeff Bridges. It includes interviews with virtually every major and minor cast member, as well as the real-life individuals who served as inspiration for the characters in the movie. The book features a handy guide to speaking Achiever (example: in English you would say that a woman is "feminine, or ladylike"; an Achiever would call her "strongly vaginal"), tips on how to Dude-ify your car, office, and living space, Lebowski Fest highlights, and so much more.

I'm a Lebowski, You're a Lebowski: Life, The Big Lebowski, and What Have You Details

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Mark says

I suppose I have not seen the movie the required # of times before reading the book (3) so maybe I got nothing to say about what appears to be another cult. Ah well.

Lukasz says

The ultimate Big Lebowski fan book. Filled with interviews with the cast, tips on how to Dude-ify your life, as well as a search for why the Big Lebowski has inspired so many people. Written by the creators of the Lebowski Fest.

Harm Van says

Nice, especially the interviews with all the actors and the original people on whom the characters were based. But: for Big Lebowski fans only!

SnoopyDoo's Book Reviews says

If you were a fan of the movie then this book is a must read. If you have not watched it, watch it and then come back and read the book. But really either way you should be familiar with the movie.

The book was almost a guide to the movie and it was fun and very enjoyable to read. What can you expect from the book? A lot. Obviously humor and a whole lot more. We get a good look behind the scenes, many pictures of scenes, characters and locations. As well interviews with the cast and crew. Plus some other really fun stuff.

Overall, like I said if you liked the movie you will love this book.

I rate it 5★ it was quick, fun and very informative read.

Kerry says

I bought this book on impulse, and I don't regret it at all. It's a fantastic coffee table book, and easily flip-throughable. Most of the book consists of interviews with the actors in the film -- ALL of the actors, from Julianne Moore and Jeff Bridges to the Dude's landlord, and Liam (the Jesus' bowling partner.) And they all love the movie, apparently.

It's obviously all over the dick of the movie, but that's not too annoying. And it makes me more determined to actually attend a Lebowskifest, which I've been "thinking" about doing for years now.

John McDermott says

The Big Lebowski movie is a classic that seems to get better with each viewing. However, while I enjoy the movie, I would never consider attending a Lebowski Fest.

This book is written by devoted fans, and is perfect for those who cannot get enough Lebowski and for Lebowski Fest attendees. However, there were sections of the book that bogged down in the minutie of slang and situations. Hard core fans might enjoy the little details, but I am not that interested. Nevertheless, this book was a pleasant read. It was a nice refresher about the movie and characters.

I especially enjoyed Chapter 2's interviews with various actors and reading their back stories.

Kathy says

Fun book for Achievers

Drew says

A fun look behind the scenes and into the minutiae of the movie from some very (some might say overly) dedicated fans. They talk to everybody involved except for the Coen brothers themselves.

jeremy says

please lower your voice, sir, this is a family restaurant.

Joseph D'Agnese says

Sometimes, there's a book, well, it's the book for its time and place. It fits right in there. And that's this book, right here. And even if it's a lazy book - and any book 'bout the Dude is most certainly that. Quite possibly the laziest in Los Angeles County or any other, frankly, which would place it high in the runnin' for laziest worldwide. But sometimes there's a book, sometimes, there's a book. Aw. I lost my train of thought here. But... aw, hell. I've done introduced it enough.

Luke Peterson says

I abide this book five stars for the same reason many Christians would probably give the Holy Bible five stars: It's the primary book around on its relatively specialized subject matter.

I received this book as a gift and was extremely jazzed at the prospect of catching some of the back story of a film I've seen 80 or 90 times. Turns out the book is pretty funny and slightly inspiring at times, but can't match the genius of the work it has been written to supplement.

The authors are the "founding dudes" of LebowskiFest. Though they're funny and decent researchers, it's no strike.

As Lenin said, look for the person who will benefit ... the 'founding dudes' are hopefully reaping more than an average reader. I mean, I spent a good three hours learning about the film's backstory (the real Little Larry Sellers is hilarious), and assume with the book's purchase have given myself 3 hours of enjoyment and likewise have subsidized a week on the couch for one of those 'founding dudes.' Main beneficiary: Dudes.

You don't really need this book. If you want to read it, be dudelike and get your favorite library-card-holder to check it out and drop it off at your place. With a bottle of Kahlua. And maybe some beer nuts.

Abidingly,
Luke

Matthias Ferber says

Skimmed this in a Barnes & Noble while I had time to kill. Basically it's the product of some scarily obsessed fanboys. It includes a fanatically comprehensive set of interviews -- they not only tracked down the actor who played Larry, the kid who steals the Dude's car ("IS THIS YOUR HOMEWORK, LARRY?") but also the former kid whose real-life involvement in a car theft inspired the Larry incident. They even interviewed the actress who played the supermarket checkout girl in one of the opening scenes. And many others (they did not succeed in interviewing the Coen Bros., however). There are a lot of background stories about where various other ideas come from.

The book's mildly entertaining, but it doesn't come close to the things I really want to know about the movie, which mostly have to do with its repeating themes: a traditional film noir structure, complete with femme fatale and hostile cops, revolving around a bewildered stoner rather than a hard-boiled detective; dialog that gets picked up from character to character ("This aggression will not stand, man!"); constant references to belief systems ("Fuckin' nihilists... say what you will about the tenets of National Socialism, at least it's an

ethos").

I may be overthinking this, but I'm convinced there's something going on there under the main story. But you'd probably have to interview the Coen Bros. to get at that stuff, and apparently they're not talking. ("No, Walter, it did NOT look like Ethan was about to crack!")

KDB says

Sometimes there's a book... to describe a movie that rests in the hearts of so many Achievers. If you aren't a fan of *The Big Lebowski*, a masterpiece from the ever brilliant Coen brothers, then don't bother with this book. You're out of your element, like a child that wanders into the midst of pages you simply won't understand. This book is excellent - like the Dude's rug, it really ties the room together. Even after countless viewings of the greatest movie ever made, I learned quite a bit from this handy little guide. So, pour yourself a hell of a caucasian, Jackie, maybe even adhere to a pretty strict, uh, drug regimen to keep the mind limber, and enjoy.

Jen says

It's pretty much what I was expecting. A light read with funny bits and insights from the cast, fans, and the authors.

Rev C says

If you love the Big Lebowski, then you will enjoy this book.
