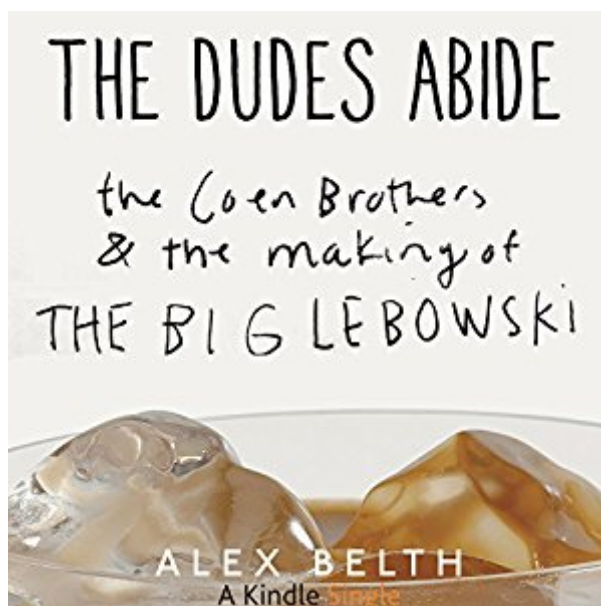


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# The Dudes Abide: The Coen Brothers And The Making Of The Big Lebowski



## Synopsis

In the autumn of 1996, Joel and Ethan Coen were a few months from filming their seventh feature film, *The Big Lebowski*. Their sixth, *Fargo*, had been released that March to acclaim; awards would follow. Alex Belth, a 25-year-old aspiring filmmaker, landed a job as their personal assistant on *Lebowski*--and for the next year was the fly on the wall as the Coens created the movie that would become an enduring classic. First as their personal assistant and then as an assistant film editor, Belth observed everything from the preproduction work of location scouting, casting, and rehearsals all the way through filming and postproduction. Belth witnessed when Jeff Bridges and John Goodman met for the first time and rehearsed their iconic roles as The Dude and Walter; when a private screening was held for Alan Klein, the Rolling Stones' notorious former business manager; and long sessions with the Coen brothers in the editing room, as they tied their movie together. *The Dudes Abide* is the first behind-the-scenes account of the making of a Coen Brothers movie and offers an intimate, firsthand narrative of the making of *The Big Lebowski*--including never-before-revealed details about the making of the film and insight into the inner workings of the Coen Brothers' genius.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I've been a fan of the Coen Brothers since seeing *Blood Simple* in 1984, so I was looking forward to reading Alex Belth's recollections of the months he spent with "the Boys," as Joel and Ethan Coen were known to colleagues and friends. Serving as their personal assistant until an injury sidelined

him, and then as an assistant film editor, Belth was in an ideal position to record the details of the planning, production, and post-production of *The Big Lebowski*, which premiered in 1998. The result is a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at the Coen Brothers' creative process and the making of a film that was a disappointment at the box office but would go on to become a cult favorite. The book is a real treat for fans of the Coen Brothers, or for anyone with an interest in filmmaking.

Great short story of a neophyte breaking into movie making working for the Coen brothers as a personal assistant on *The Big Lebowski*. You will come away with a better appreciation of the Coen brothers as well as the actors Jeff Bridges and John Goodman specifically. The author gives a look from the bottom. But a look from the bottom working with very good people who treated others with respect and collaboration. Short, concise and a great story of the good guys creating a longstanding masterpiece

It's a good book but it ends as it feels like it's just getting started, and very abruptly at that. For *Lebowski* fans, don't expect any super details on the actors, scenes, or sets. It's more about being a fly on the wall in a very un-Hollywood movie environment.

This is an interesting, well-written glimpse into a world most of us never get to see. We only get the end product. They say that if you like sausage, you should never see how it's made; the same is often said about movies. However, this quick-moving, down-to-earth peek gives hope that the Boys have created a better sausage-making process in addition to making a better sausage. Kudos to the author for giving us an honest, humble peek into his experience.

I'm a big fan of the movie and I love reading about how the movie came together. All the inside dialog between the producers, actors, crew, etc., made you feel like you were a fly on the wall, listening to how all of the decisions were made. It actually lets you see what those people are like in real life. It's a fast read because you just want to keep reading more. I was actually disappointed when I finished the book. I wanted more!

Another book that promises insight and delivers only a few gems about the working relationship between the Coen Brothers. The book says more about the authors' lack of ability than providing insight into these film-making legends. To be fair, Alex Beth clears away some of the mystique and there are moments of humour but no real freedom of expression. It's not a biography, it's a short term

relationship report based on a short internship with the Coen's and as such, it misses observations that a more studied work might achieve.

Quick, fun read on a fantastic movie. Thirteen more words required for some reason purple monkey dishwasher purple monkey dishwasher

Good little book, well written, fast read. Only complaint is I was left wanting. Wanting more observations on the main stars around the film, ie the Coens, Bridges, Hoffman, etc. The bit about Goodman and how he's constantly afraid he's ruining everything was brilliant. But since it was in the first chapter I was looking for similar intimate stories woven throughout. It definitely did here and there, but it was a little more about the author than the major players. Still an excellent read for any Lebowski-ite. This dude abides.

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