



The Big Lebowski: The Making of a Coen Brothers Film

Tricia Cooke (Editor) , William Preston Robertson , John Todd Anderson (Illustrations) , Rafael Sanudo (Illustrations)

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A firsthand account of how this extraordinary cult movie was made by the Oscar-winning Coen brothers.

The Big Lebowski is a razor-sharp comedy thriller of mistaken identity, gangsters, bowling, kidnapping, and money gone astray, written by the Coens, directed by Joel Coen, and produced by Ethan Coen. In addition to Jeff Bridges, whose portrayal of The Dude has become iconic, and John Goodman, his bowling buddy, the film stars Steve Buscemi, Julianne Moore, John Turturro, Willem Dafoe, Sam Elliot, and Ben Gazzara. Not given to talking publicly about their work, the Coens gave access to Tricia Cooke and William Preston Robertson to interview the cast and crew. In a prose style that complements the Coens filmic one, the book discusses the Coens oeuvre, the themes of their films, their atypical brand of humor, their craft, and their artistic vision. Several scenes of *The Big Lebowski* are examined closely to see how the movie goes from idea to reality, making this an ideal book for fans, filmmakers, and filmmaking students."

The Big Lebowski: The Making of a Coen Brothers Film Details

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From Reader Review The Big Lebowski: The Making of a Coen Brothers Film for online ebook

Derek says

This account of the making of the classic cult comedy is befitting of a Coen brothers film. It is not a by-the-numbers explication of the events of the creation or filming of the movie, or an oral history written long afterward; it is a kind of gonzo journalistic meditation on the meaning of a life's work as told through the lens of a friend of the Coens who was given access to the making of the movie and wrote about his experience of knowing the Coens through his exploration of their making of *The Big Lebowski*.

It's the kind of Kaufman-esque meta-investigation that one might expect of a friend of the Coens, and it adds a lot to the reader's and viewer's understanding of not only *Lebowski*, but the Coens' entire filmography. There are a lot of interesting tidbits contained within about the Coens and the movie, which also make it worth reading for fans (like me) who are eager to glean whichever tidbits are made available, but I think the main value of this book is as a "primary source" about the Coens and their process, which would make it appeal to all cinephiles and not just Achievers.

Mariel says

Probably just for Coen fanatics/The Big Lebowski fans/John Turturro freaks (that'd be me)...

This book isn't the screenplay for *The Big Lebowski* but a film making guide as story-boarding, costumes, some of the script, too, a creative outlook in a book. If you're interested in different thought processes of an artist, this is a pretty cool look into the approach of the brothers Joel and Ethan Coen.

One factoid that has stuck out in my mind is that the brothers won't work with anyone who doesn't see on their wavelength. As in, they don't want to have to explain every little thing they want to do. That would kill joyful spontaneity, sure, but also for communication shorthand. Mind reading on set? The brothers work together on both directing and screenplay (even if only one gets credit when it comes to meaningless awards), and there's also a bit on how they developed that relationship in their past to use influences and experiences to relate when wanting to know what they can put in a movie. That they manage to find other people to do that with is pretty amazing, to me. (I don't ever find people who could keep up with the kinda history my twin and I have.)

This book isn't an explanation of everything they did, but more like getting to look into the experience of doing it. I'd rather watch a story than yay we/they did it, which is why I don't read lots of set stuff, or even watch dvd special features. I appreciated that the tidbits about collective creative output became its own story.

I bought this book some time during the ten or so years of John Turturro fansiting (started in my teens). I flipped for the info most Turturro-centric first, of course, then read the rest of it. The Coens let John Turturro fly as Jesus Quintana. They had no idea he was going to lick that bowling ball before he did it. In my opinion, easily one of the most evocative moments in the film. Another cool tidbit is that Turturro wanted to do a Jesus Quintana prequel. (Much more recent interviews suggests this plan is an off-on again possibility. Hey, it DID take JT ten years to write the script for the breathtaking *Romance and Cigarettes* film.) I wish they would... Nobody fucks with the Jesus.

ba says

I love the Coen brothers' films, and loved reading about what they are like, and learning the process by which their films are made.

Phil Simon says

Awesome account of what the Coen Brothers will do to make their vision a reality. Again, only for fans of the movie. I don't see this as a general interest book.

Monica S. says

Behind the scenes with the Coen Brothers and their films including analysis and breakdown of how they created the Big Lebowski

Mr. says

2 COPIES

Ian says

My review on LibraryThing.

Marcel de Leeuwe says

If you love the Big Lebowski and are interested in moviemaking this is a must-read. It covers the whole film making process from the Coen brothers. It is maybe not the average approach to making films but that makes it such a funny book with a lot of insights. Reading this books make you aware of the craftsmanship, effort and engagement the Coen brothers put into their films.

Scott says

A must for the confirmed Dude fan. Which I am.

Chris says

Yep, this is the one, if you have any interest in how the Coen Bros. work or about the genesis of Big Lebowski. Written by a friend of theirs and Ethan's wife, so yeah. There you are.

Includes some scripts pages, storyboards and costume designs. Sweet.

Richard Guion says

For fans of the Big Lebowski or the Coen Brothers, this book is a great fun read. Lots of nice anecdotes about working on the film, the Coen brothers seems like gonzo film fans who also write and direct. I read this on my Kindle Unlimited trial, not sure it is worth anything more than \$1 or \$2, but if you love inside film stories you will like it.
