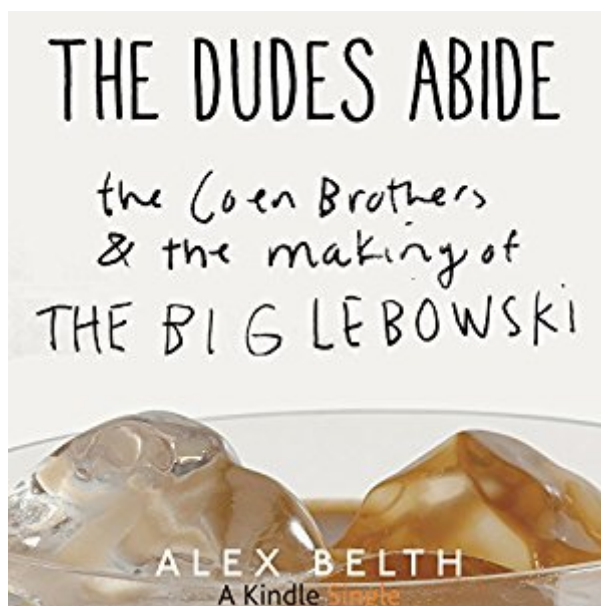


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# The Dudes Abide: The Coen Brothers And The Making Of The Big Lebowski



## 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

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

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

If you've got an hour to an hour and a half to spare, this is well worth the entertainment at \$3. You can tell this guy was an editor, the stories are concise and enjoyable. Highly recommend.

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 enjoyed the pace of this short book. I like to hear about the little things that go into the making of a project. I watched the film again last night and saw it just a little differently knowing what was going on behind the camera at the time it was made.

Amusing, informative and frank. Also, quite interesting and, if you're a Coen Bros. fan, a fascinating backstage portrait. Not a dull minute in this book. And if you're a *Lebowski* fan this is a great addition to the literature about his fan-favorite flic. A few words about the author: A very good writer. He's personal without intruding on the story. Comes off as a very flexible, sharp, human guy who's

dealing with some very powerful and whimsical people. Highly recommended.

Great behind the scenes essay on how the Coen brothers make films, and how they make friends. Short and sweet and priced just right. The length of the book is perfect for a quick peek behind the curtains without spoiling every secret of the film. I suspect the author was tired of telling everyone he meets his "Lebowski" stories over and over again, hence the conversational tone. Great read.

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