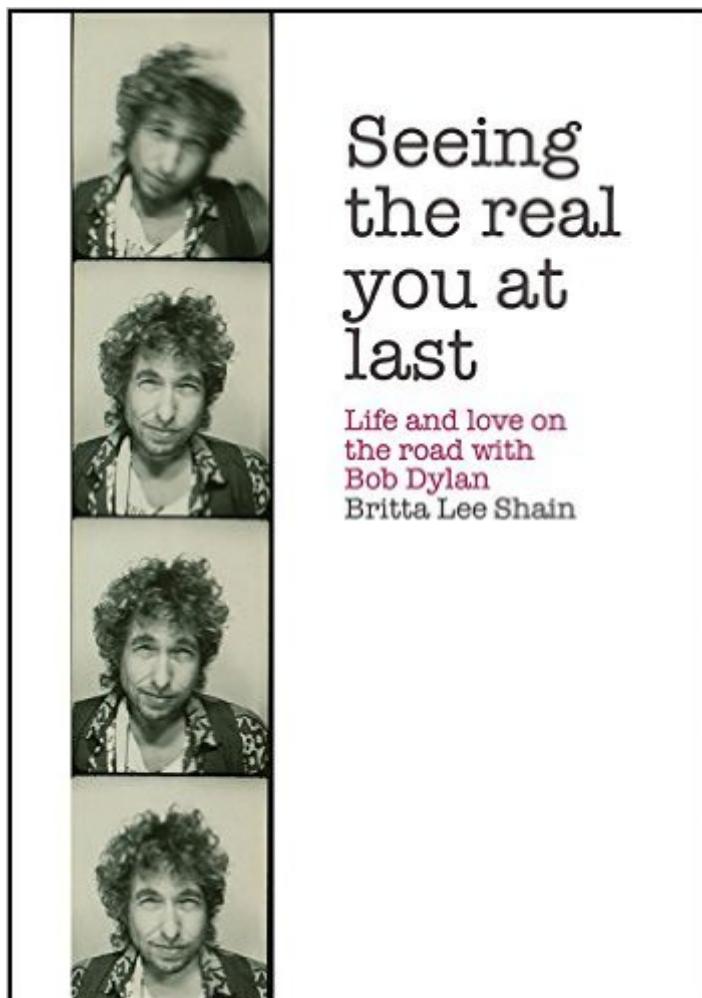


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Seeing The Real You At Last: Life And Love On The Road With Bob Dylan



Synopsis

"I've never seen a Bob Dylan smile, except in photos or on the stage. Not the real thing." Britta Lee Shain was a friend of Bob Dylan's until he asked her to join him on the road in the mid 1980s, at which point she became more than a friend. In this intimate and elliptical memoir of their time together, at home in Los Angeles and on tour with Tom Petty and the Grateful Dead, she offers a unique portrait of the romantic, earthbound, and poetic soul trapped in the role of Being Bob Dylan. "If you were my woman, I'd be worth four times as much." Entire libraries of books have been written about Dylan, but few--if any--offer any lasting insight into the man behind the shades. Until now. Written with the elegance of a poet and storytelling snap of a novelist, *Seeing The Real You At Last* is a poignant and tender romance that reveals Dylan's playfulness, his dark wit, his fears and struggles, his complex relationships with the men and women in his life, and, ultimately, his genius.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Many people, including myself, consider Bob Dylan to be the best of the best as far as songwriters and performers go. What he has contributed to popular music is arguably unsurpassed. That being said Bob Dylan's private life is still mostly a mystery. There are hundreds of books about Dylan, maybe thousands. Most of them rehash previously regurgitated biographical information or give the author's analysis of song lyrics. My soul dies a little bit at the thought of reading another one of these books. True insider information is tough to come by. Clinton Heylin does his best to dig out some of this in his *Behind The Shades*. It's always the most exciting thing about a biography. But there are

almost no full books that go behind the curtain. Larry Sloman's book about the mid 70's is interesting, but Larry has nothing negative to say about Bob. So it is probably not the whole picture. Britta Lee Shain's book is maybe one of a kind. You have to settle into the book and realize that this is not only about Bob Dylan. It is about this time in the author's life. She's a good writer. She's got her own personality. She's not a fawning acolyte consumed with getting with Dylan. But the parts of book detailing her interaction with Dylan are fascinating. It is another world that most of us are not privy to, either in real life or even in what is told to us. Britta is honest. She tells it like it is. She doesn't hold back about making herself look bad or making Dylan look bad. Keep in mind - she only has respect and affection for Dylan the artist and even the person as she gets to know him. But you know it is going to go bad. How can it not? Spoilers ahead. Please keep this in mind as you read this. I love Bob Dylan's art. I've spent thousands of dollars and thousands of hours on it.

This is a very self-absorbed book. It's about a fan getting to be with her idol, but it isn't told excitingly. The good reviews must be by friends, which as Ms. Shain reveals, she has many. Ms Shain's writing is not bad, but it is boring and I couldn't get beyond page 99, because every sentence was like a play-by-play of her every move near or away from Dylan. I love Bob. A writer should use a diary as a source but not as the actual narrative. Attempting to read this was like being on a crowded staircase but the author gave no incentive to push through and continue the climb. There is nothing that made me want to stick around to witness the pinnacle of her sexual rendezvous with Dylan. My "thought-dreams" have more riveting content, if you Dylan groupies know what I mean. If Ms. Shain had made herself interesting enough to care about her "adventures," perhaps I would have continued reading. She is clearly a very pretty lady who got Mr. Dylan's attentions by hanging out with the right crowd people. She may have rubbed elbows with that in-crowd, but she does not even succeed in making Dylan's "inner circle" interesting. When one considers The Beatles' road managers, entourage, and what that eye of the hurricane was like, this was complete blandness in comparison. Dylan is at their level if not higher, but there is no excitement at any given time whatsoever ascribed to Dylan's presence. She paints no allure to be around those people at those very many blasé' parties. Her boyfriend, Dylan's road manager, is a misogynistic widower, who criticizes her, yet seems unperturbed by her flirtations and simultaneous pretend-nonchalance around Dylan.

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