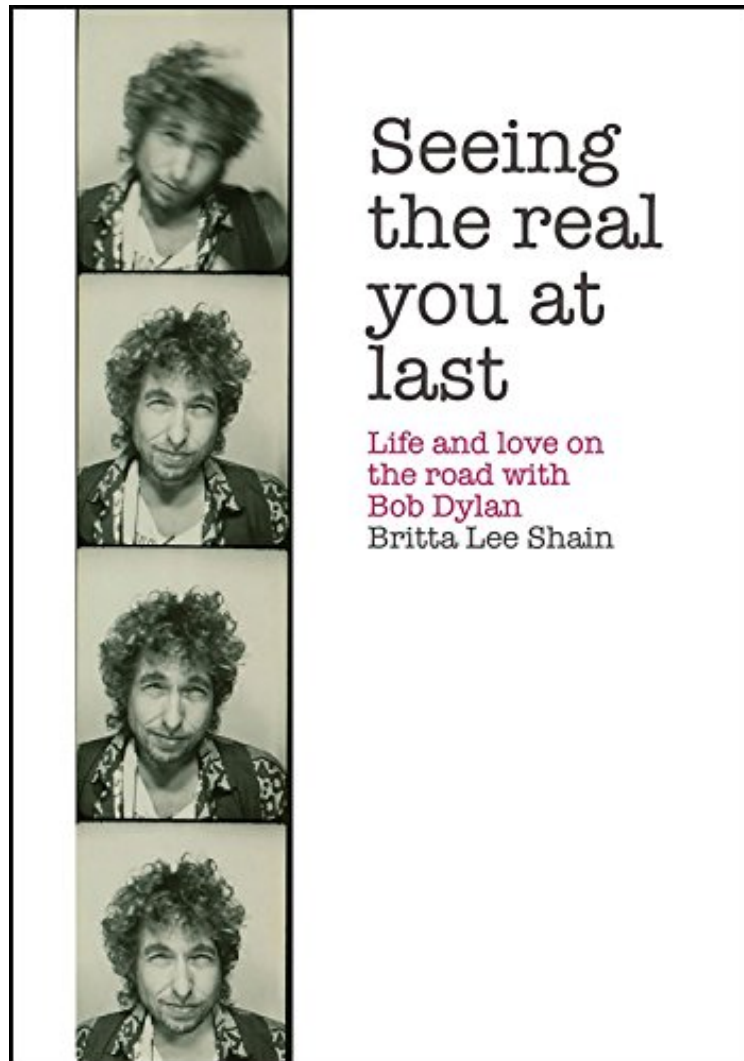


Seeing the Real You at Last: Life and Love on the Road with Bob Dylan

Britta Lee Shain

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Britta Lee Shain : Seeing the Real You at Last: Life and Love on the Road with Bob Dylan before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Seeing the Real You at Last: Life and Love on the Road with Bob Dylan:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A MUST-READ FOR DYLAN FANSBy WordcommandoIn reading this sturdy little memoir, I couldn't help but think how grand it is that someone who's had an affair with Bob Dylan and written about it is actually a very good writer. Britta Lee Shain is obviously incredibly well read, eloquent, intellectually curious--she's no bimbo. You can see why Dylan sparked to her. This book covers a period of Dylan's

life that was, up until now, kind of a mystery (late 80s). The author strikes the perfect balance between blunt candor and respect. All through the book, she questions her own motives (Am I an opportunist? Am I a gold-digger?) --yet follows her romantic instincts. The fact that she actually co-wrote a song with Dylan "You Can Blow My Mind (If You Want To)" pretty much cements the case that she was much more than some sycophantic member of his entourage. One might argue (probably not Dylan) that she had a RESPONSIBILITY to set the record straight. Some may sneer at that, but consider: Dylan is, arguably, the most beloved/controversial Jewish figure since Christ. That he has survived this long and continues to be artistically-relevant is nothing short of amazing. Like any good writer, Ms. Shain took notes, did a lot of self-examination, critical thinking--the book is not a rush-job for quick money, it took years to write and revise. The end of the affair was messy; there's some real pain there, fractured friendships. She needed time to get things in perspective. Seeing The Real You at Last is required reading for any Dylan fan, Dylan scholar--perhaps even for someone who's simply curious about Bob Dylan. It's a memoir that reads more like a good novel. I couldn't put it down. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. THE REAL YOU IS THE AUTHOR HERSELF By DBLUM For me, Seeing the Real You at Last was much more than a book about Bob Dylan. In fact Dylan who comes off as a jerk is the least important part of the story. What Britta Lee Shain manages to do is to capture a portrait of the kind of young woman who cruised through Hollywood in the 70s and the 80s, looking for love and, at the very least, hoping to touch fame. This is what so many of us did in this city in which anything could happen at any time. In the end, of course, Shain realized that Dylan was only about Dylan, and that she alone was responsible for finding her own path. The testament to her success at doing so is this wonderful memoir. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Apt Title By Steven C. Seachrist I've read a LOT of books on Bob Dylan, and this one stands out. As another reviewer noted, this book and the one by Larry Sloman are the most revealing. That's both good and bad, of course. Description of Bob's sexed-up body? No, thanks. But his behaviors are fascinating. It's easy to guess that he ended up here in the mid 80s, but never before have we received confirmation. The whole, ego-fueled debacle is imaginable, and now also tangible. All the while, a buncha great music was played. (When will a Bootleg Series release center on the Tom Petty years? Soon, I hope.) My fave Dylan quote from the book: "Sometimes I do bad things." I'm betting Dylan hates that this book is out there. Yet anyone acting like this shouldn't be surprised when the shenanigans circle back on them. Author Shain keeps the story moving and shows flourishes of style. Her story is a reminder that there are consequences to manipulative behavior -- both hers and that of the more famous participant. I won't dock the book a whole star for poor proofreading, but when Bob "peddles" a bike and was riding it and not putting it up for sale, I have to call out Jawbone's typically awful copy editing.

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. 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.

A finely detailed look at life with the legend, "Seeing The Real You at Last" helps ground Dylan, presenting him as both pampered rock star and everyday quirk machine ~ The New York Post "In the annals of books about Bob Dylan - and there exist libraries of these volumes - there is no book like this one. It is second only to Dylan's own Chronicles in being the most poetic book on the subject, and stands alone at being the most romantic" ~ American Songwriter