



## **Another Side of Bob Dylan: A Personal History on the Road and off the Tracks**

*Victor Maymudes , Jacob Maymudes*

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A *Los Angeles Times* Best seller!

August 2014 marks 50 years since Bob Dylan released his fourth album, *Another Side of Bob Dylan*. Recorded in one night, in the middle of a turbulent year in his life, the music marked a departure from Dylan's socially-conscious folk songs and began his evolution toward other directions. During the years they spent together, few people outside of Dylan's immediate family were closer than Victor Maymudes, who was Dylan's tour manager, personal friend, and travelling companion from the early days in 1960s Greenwich Village through the late 90's. *Another Side of Bob Dylan* recounts landmark events including Dylan's infamous motorcycle crash; meeting the Beatles on their first US tour; his marriage to Sara Lownds, his romances with Suze Rotolo, Joan Baez, and others; fellow travelers Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Wavy Gravy, Dennis Hopper, The Band, The Traveling Wilburys, and more; memorable concerts, and insights on Dylan's songwriting process.

On January 26th, 2001, after recording more than 24 hours of taped memories in preparation for writing this book, Victor Maymudes suffered an aneurysm and died. His son Jacob has written the book, using the tapes to shape the story. The result is a vivid, first-hand account of Dylan as an artist, friend, and celebrity, illustrated with never-before-seen photographs, and told by an engaging raconteur who cut his own swathe through the turbulent counterculture.

## Another Side of Bob Dylan: A Personal History on the Road and off the Tracks Details

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# **From Reader Review Another Side of Bob Dylan: A Personal History on the Road and off the Tracks for online ebook**

## **Leslie Sully says**

Got an advanced copy. This book was TERRIBLE! As a Dylan fan, I at least expected some interesting inside info. The dad Victor Maymudes was such a hanger-on and his son Jake has followed in his footsteps. Trying to cash in on Dylan. Shameful. I just read that this was an attempted/failed Kickstarter campaign. Should have taken a hint to shelve this book.

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## **Tim Hoiland says**

There are few public figures more enigmatic than Bob Dylan. Go back and watch some of the interviews he's given over the years if you need to be reminded of just how guarded and evasive he can be. I think especially of his thoroughly uncomfortable 1965 conversation with TIME's Horace Judson. More recently, his own autobiography, *Chronicles: Volume One*, further served to mystify his devoted fans (while likewise delighting many others, of course).

Perhaps this longstanding pattern of evasiveness is the reason so many of us keep reading books and essays or watching documentaries and feature films about him in hopes of filling in some of the blanks and connecting a few more dots in his life and music.

The latest of these perspectives comes to us in from Dylan's longtime tour manager, confidante, and traveling companion, the late Victor Maymudes. *Another Side of Bob Dylan: A Personal History on the Road and off the Tracks*, which is edited and co-written by Victor's son Jason Maymudes, is based on a series of recorded memories that were taped before the elder Maymudes died suddenly in 2001.

Though Dylan and Maymudes eventually had a falling out, these are the recollections of a friend. It's not a juicy tell-all memoir but rather a chronicle of the ordinary, as told by someone who spent a lot of time by his side.

It's a bit disjointed at times, truth be told, and we learn more than we probably need to about portions of the author's life that have nothing to do with Dylan. But we also pick up fascinating tidbits regarding Dylan's life from Maymudes' perspective—like the claim that Dylan's motorcycle accident really amounted to a one-mile-per-hour tip-over, or the claim that Dylan tried—and failed—to personally introduce the Beatles to marijuana.

This book doesn't paint anyone in a particularly flattering light, but neither does it go out of its way to vilify anyone. Rather, it simply gives us another perspective on life with the man who, for my money, is the greatest songwriter of our time. And for a Dylan fan like me, that's reason enough to pick it up.

- See more at: <http://timhoiland.com/2014/09/another...>

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## Kim says

Apparently the "[...]other Side of Bob Dylan" was named Victor. I learned more about Dylan's tour bus by reading this book than I learned about Dylan.

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## Paul Secor says

A friend gave me an advance reading copy of *Another Side* and I decided to set aside the books I was reading to delve into it. **BIG** mistake. This book consists of the tape recorded ramblings of Bob Dylan's tour manager for a number of years. (He may have been Dylan's tour manager but, to me, he comes off more as a stoned go-fer and hanger-on.)

Maymudes' memoir is filled with gems like: "All the heavy hitters seemed to be in the Village now: Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, Peter Orlovsky, Jackson Pollock, Willem de Kooning, Frederic Remington, Steve McQueen, Barbra Streisand, and Woody Allen, all moving in and out of the clubs and listening to the new music coming of age." (I guess the ghosts of Pollock and Remington were moving in and out of the clubs and listening to that music.)

And: "Walking around the Village *we* (my italics) would explore our minds while analyzing everything. We would talk about the socks and shoelaces and personality traits of people and how they fall into categories"

And on meeting the Beatles: "With Bob sleeping on the floor, one by one, John, Paul, George and Ringo talked to me. We discussed life and politics. They wanted to know about everyone and everything."

And: "There was only one person who could partake in Bob's and my existential conversations and really contribute to the way we spoke and maintain our style of dialogue, and that was Bob Neuwirth. Our talks would expand the boundaries of our philosophy; we would push the limits of the meaning of words and bend ideas around new phrases." (Dylan may have done some of that, Victor, but from the way this book reads, I doubt you contributed much.)

And then we're treated to two pages of Victor Maymudes' "poetry". Herewith a sample:

"Lost on Goodbyes"

Though the day fades away  
continuing my struggle you can see me go my way  
having waved all my goodbyes  
I stumbled down the road  
wiping the tears from my eyes  
carrying my thoughts far out loud  
my ghost of yesterday stands so proud

Oh, if you're looking for some inside views of Dylan's recording sessions, they're not here. (I guess as tour manager, Malmudes wasn't welcome in the studio, even if he does portray himself as Dylan's closest confidant.)

If you're looking for an inside view of what went on at Newport in 1965 - not here.

If you're looking for an account of Dylan getting together with The Hawks - not here.  
If you're looking for accounts of the '65 and '66 English concerts, you won't find them here.  
But if you want to read about what a cool guy Victor Malmudes was, you've come to the right place.

I put this book down for good when I came to the part where Malmudes leaves his two children, ages four and seven, alone in a parking lot at night for several hours because Dylan didn't want them riding in the van with him. But then, Victor Malmudes was a cool guy.

If this is the book for you, I'll just say, "Good luck."

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### **Harm Van says**

It's more about Victor Maymudes's son talking about his father than about ob Dylan but since Victor was an interesting man leading an amazing life I had no trouble reading this cover to cover and have enjoyed it very much.

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### **Jeff says**

Very intimate and telling portrayal from another perspective of a mythical man.

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### **Bill Keithler says**

After reading many reviews of this book I went into it with my expectations not very high. The book turned out to be a positive surprise. Although Bob Dylan is a significant character he is not really the focus of this book – it is a memoir of Victor Maymudes' very interesting life. The book is far from an 'exploitative, tell-all.' In fact, some readers may be disappointed that it is not all about Bob Dylan.

While he spent considerable time working for Dylan and simply being his friend, Maymudes lived a colorful, if often irresponsible life, often on the fringes of, or in the background helping to create concerts, films, events and establishments which became, at least by some standards, legendary. He preferred to be in the background--greasing the skids to make things happen, and protecting his charges--artists mainly, so they could do their jobs

Dylan comes across far more human than in most portrayals--i.e., you see the asshole side of Dylan, but you also see snippets of a more or less regular person, who becomes distorted by the tremendous warping of reality which the level of fame he obtained would do to anyone. Dylan for the most part reciprocates the loyalty and friendship which Victor Maymudes showed him.

The book is predominantly transcriptions of taped recordings made by Maymudel in anticipation of writing a memoir. He died before this could be completed. These transcriptions are interspersed with commentary by Victor's son Jacob, who provides some context for things, but also slips into personal observations which would probably be best left out of the book. They are fairly minor distractions.

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## **Kris says**

Interesting read. Author based book on his father's memoirs, while adding a few memories of his own.

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## **Louise says**

This book is a memoir of Victor Maymudes (with commentary by his son) compiled from tapes he made before his untimely death. I have to admit having Bob Dylan in the title pulled me in, but the book is more than that.

Son Jacob begins with portraits of his mother and paternal grandparents. You may wonder where this is going. You see later that they are critical. To understand Victor (whom the book is actually about) you need to understand his roots and his milieu.

If the tapes are an actual transcription, Victor has an amazing recall for sequence, places and names. The times without Dylan are as interesting as the times with. Victor was an active participant in the post war opening up of communication, the changing formats for the arts and the protest movements before (and after) meeting his eventual friend and boss, Bob Dylan. Victor's coffee house and the entertainment he presented spawned careers and gave Victor producer experience, connections and cred. Because of Jacob's portraits of his grandparents, you can appreciate Victor's awe when he met Dylan and why he gave him large pieces of his life.

If you read this for something about the "other side" of Dylan you will be disappointed. There is nothing you would not imagine: He is very private. His eyes are bad. He drank a lot before quitting one day. He plays chess. He could be hurtfully brusque. He boxes. He is more interested in money than he appears.

What you get from this is a portrait of a friendship taking place inside a work relationship. There are some very stirring episodes such as the concert in Poland; stories of daily life as tour moved from city to city; and narratives that reveal the friendship's inequality such as getting and outfitting Dylan's own tour bus and Victor's sacrifices and split decisions that protected Dylan and his privacy.

How the "job", but not the friendship, ends is not surprising given the minimized, but present, backdrop of sexism. You see how Dylan speaks to Suzie and why marries Sara and Victor's attitude towards marriage. There are undoubtedly women on the tours, but unless they have a notable name or can be called "X's girlfriend", even if they are a significant other, they are hardly mentioned. With the exception of Jacob's mother, an almost exclusively male world is portrayed.

This is a quick read. Don't read it to find an "other side" to Bob Dylan, it isn't here. Read it to get insight into the post-war music industry, the day to day life of musical tours and a glimpse of life in the counter-culture of New Mexico and California.

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## Joe says

If you are a fan of Bob, this is a good read, painting Dylan as an unfathomable mix of mercurially brilliant arrogant pissy rock star and incredibly generous, but at arms-length, friend.

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## Patrick says

I don't know how I came across this book. Perhaps I was looking something else up when it popped up somewhere. Perhaps it came up as suggested reading since I recently read Levon Helm's book.

Nonetheless, I was a Dylan collector for many years, from sometime in the mid-1970s (when I placed a classified ad in *Rolling Stone* looking for rare tapes) until the mid-1980s when a family and career took over most of my time. Also... Dylan began touring incessantly, so, the recordings were way too voluminous to keep up with.

During that period, I collected and devoured the many Dylan tomes that had been published, of which there was a fairly manageable number. It wasn't too difficult to keep up with the books as they were released. In the early 1990s, though, I saw Dylan for probably the fifth time during his Under A Red Sky tour (in East Lansing, Michigan) and I was considerably underwhelmed, despite having seats in the second row pretty much right in front of him. It was so bad that I vowed at the time that I wouldn't go to another concert of his again.

It was at this time that I lost my fervour for Dylan and his music. I will probably never lose the love for his work as a whole, but since that concert, I haven't felt that his heart is really in it as it once was. His writing isn't as compelling. His voice has been beat to hell.

So, most of the books I have are pre-1992 or so, and while Victor Maymudes isn't often mentioned as a central character in Dylan's life/career, he is there—in passing comments; in photos. I had always understood Maymudes to be Dylan's bodyguard/road manager, but never considered the possibility that the two would have been friends, due mostly, I suppose that there *was* so little mention of him throughout the years. (Or maybe I wasn't paying attention?)

This book, then, appealed to me when it popped up, so, I decided to give it a look.

Based on Maymudes' personal recorded narrative which he'd planned on turning into a memoir, there is a great deal of non-Dylan-related material, but that's to be expected, I suppose. (Ultimately, there's probably not all that much Dylan material to warrant the book's title.) The view of Dylan in snapshots, however, is somewhat insightful. Based on what I've read previously, I'm not at all surprised that Maymudes confirms Dylan's introverted ways, but there are certainly moments of Dylan's generosity and empathy that have probably rarely been made public before.

The book is edited (and includes commentary) by Maymudes' son, Jacob, and the book is as much an opportunity for the younger Maymudes to work through the grief of having lost his father. It's not a great book, but it's a pretty quick enjoyable read for anyone who has had a hunger for Dylan material over the years.

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## Tanya says

Once you've read one book about Bob Dylan, you've read them all.

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## Joseph says

*Another Side of Bob Dylan: A Personal History on the Road and off the Tracks* voice recorded by Victor Maymudes and edited and written by Jacob Maymudes.

Victor Maymudes was Bob Dylan's tour manager for many years and according to Victor a close friend. Jacob is Victor's son and discovered the audio tapes that this book is based on after a fire destroyed Linda's, Victor's mother, home. The house contained many of Victor's relics from his life on the road. The tapes, however, were in the possession of Jacob's sister.

The book opens with a sad picture of Victor Maymudes' ashes (he died in 2001) in the ashes of Linda's house. Jacob tells of the difficulty and hardship of writing this book and listening to his father's voice after his death. He laments that his father is been written out of any official Bob Dylan histories. There is a build up that this will be a very touching and personal biography.

Victor Maymudes opened the Unicorn Coffee Shop for the beatniks and proto-hippies to hang out at. A clever and successful idea to give this large group of people a place to hang out. Through friends he meets Bob Dylan, and here is when the reader thinks this is going to turn into a Bob Dylan biography. It does for a short time, but quickly turns into a biography about Victor Maymudes. Much of Victor's stories are about what he did, how smart he was, and what others did wrong. I also realized that there may be some credibility issues with the original author. He smoked massive amounts of marijuana and carried a vial of LSD noting that he shared, but not everyone was up to taking LSD daily like he was. Drugs in rock and roll are pretty common place and still Keith Richards and Gregg Allman wrote coherent autobiographies.

I lost faith in the storytelling early on when Victor tells how he introduced the Beatles to marijuana and told John Lennon to stay away from the pharmaceuticals he was prescribed because they just hid the symptoms. Although nothing else seems to reach that peak of improbability in the book, there is nothing that really restores any credibility. A search on the internet reveals little on Victor Maymudes. His Wikipedia page reads like a book jacket summary and at the bottom of the page is a link to Jacob's unsuccessful Kickstarter page for this project, but titled Victor Maymudes: Biography. Other links are to this book. It is impossible for the reader to fact check many events.

The title of the book is misleading. It is a Victor Maymudes' biography. Although he was a friend, possibly a close friend of Bob Dylan, there is not enough connection to consider this book a Dylan biography. Patti Smith had a starring role in her biography of Robert Mapplethorpe, but many people bought the book because of her role and writing. The same cannot be said for *Another Side*. Victor Maymudes does with this book what he does throughout his life: promote Victor Maymudes. I do feel terrible for Jacob Maymudes for the loss of his father and the conditions of losing him. Jacob seems to be a devoted son and held his father in high esteem. I, however, cannot buy into the book. Sorry.



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## **Tom Mangano says**

The title is misleading and I found little to like about this audiobook. I gave up on it and returned to the library early.

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## **T. says**

Got this as a gift from a well-meaning friend, so I gave this book a chance. Mistake. First, this book is badly written, both the transcribed remarks of Victor M. and the bridges by his son. Awkward, repetitive. And the story he tells is without interest. Maymudes was a roadie for Dylan at various points in Dylan's career. Victor M wandered through the experience but comes up with very few unique insights. His reflections on touring are bland and undistinguished. He drops a lot of names of people he saw or met, but oddly gives little or no insight on anyone's character. He spends a lot pages relating a pointless tale about some second- hand bus he had rigged up for a Dylan tour. Just not significant.

And throughout, Victor comes off as a n'er do well, always hustling and somehow not making a living when not attached to Dylan. He seems like a parasite of sorts--clinging to the Great Artist, providing vague roadie services. He refers to "we" a lot in terms of the concerts, and other things he did with Dylan. But it is clear that he was just another hanger-on that Dylan employed. Not an especially appealing guy. Why Dylan took pity on him and hired him again and again, we have no idea.

And of course, Dylan floats through inscrutable as ever. Victor M. may have spent years trailing around after Dylan, but had no insight into the man. Which is fine--Dylan has no obligation to reveal any more of himself than he chooses. It is interesting that Victor spends years in the company of Dylan and yet Dylan remains a cypher. You go, Dylan.

This critique may be unfair given that Victor only left a bunch of audio tapes, not a manuscript and his son published the transcript after the death of his father. I imagine some money exchanged hands.

But this book isn't worth much. Not recommended.

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