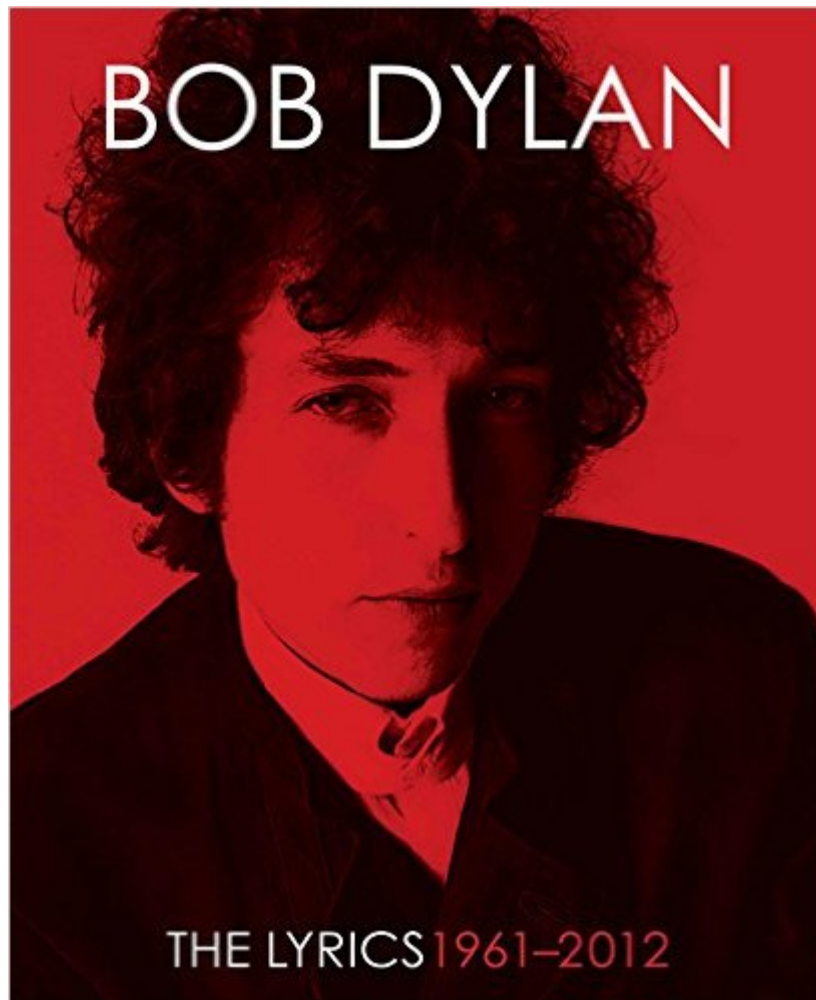


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The Lyrics: 1961-2012



Synopsis

A beautiful, comprehensive volume of Dylan's lyrics, from the beginning of his career through the present day with the songwriter's edits to dozens of songs, appearing here for the first time. Bob Dylan is one of the most important songwriters of our time, responsible for modern classics such as "Like a Rolling Stone," "Mr. Tambourine Man," and "The Times They Are a-Changin'." The Lyrics is a comprehensive and definitive collection of Dylan's most recent writing as well as the early works that are such an essential part of the canon. Well known for changing the lyrics to even his best-loved songs, Dylan has edited dozens of songs for this volume, making The Lyrics a must-read for everyone from fanatics to casual fans.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Let's get the slipcase issue out of the way first: *never* mentioned or pictured a slipcase in its description of the standard edition of this book (and, as far as I know, they never sold the \$5000 edition). That error was made on BobDylan.com, which linked to . I had read the description first, and did further homework to learn that the slipcase was *only* on the expensive signed edition. So I never expected one in the first place. Some people apparently went straight to the link from BD.com and ordered it without reading 's description, and were peeved when they got a non-slipcased edition. Don't blame . They got it right (including shipping -- even though a few days late, it was packed perfectly and arrived in mint condition). Yell at BD.com. Now that that's out of the way, what do we actually have in this book? Absolute gorgeousness. It's massive, hefty, extremely well made

and well bound. The paper stock is smooth and supple, and the color reproductions of each studio album (LP covers mostly) is on an even heavier paper stock. The plasticky die-cut dust jacket is functional and should keep the cloth from rubbing and staining. The ribbon bookmark is nice, but I never use them. As for the contents, it's basically what you'd expect -- lyrics for pretty much every song Dylan's written, with a large number of alternate lyrics and their sources. There are massive amounts of white space, since the lyrics aren't cluttered together, so it's an art book as well as a reference volume. Alternate lyrics are printed in several different shades of ink, a process explained in the rear of the book. Christopher Rick's introduction is practical and plain, keeping the focus on the contents of the book -- Dylan's lyrics.

As Bob Dylan has been such a prolific songwriter, his oeuvre is large and complex, and any book containing his lyrics will have to have quite a bit of girth. This new release is, I have to say, the heaviest book I own, though not quite the largest (in height and width). Weighing 13 1/2 pounds, this is not a book that is easy to read. However, it contains multitudes. First, you need to know that you cannot buy this book at the normal price. Only 5,000 copies were printed, with 500 reserved for the UK (though it's not technically a limited edition, and perhaps there will be another print run). While the list price was \$200, I notice that people are already offering copies used on for \$300 or more. I ordered my copy from UK, on the first day it was announced, and was disappointed to find that my order was "delayed," with no guarantee that I'd get a copy. Then, about ten days ago, I checked UK again, and found a third-party seller was offering the book at the same price as , £81.25, 1/3 less than the UK list price of £120. I was very pleased to receive the book this morning. The book is slightly bigger than an LP in height and width, in part because the book contains thick cardboard LP covers for each album. These are single sheets of cardboard, with the front and back of each original album printed on them. After each one of those is a list of songs on the album, then their lyrics, as well as, for some albums, songs that are alternate takes or tracks that were later released, such as on Dylan's Bootleg Series. Each of the songs shows the original lyrics, as well as notes for alternate lyrics, with references to the recordings, such as when Dylan sings different lines or verses on officially-released live recordings.

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