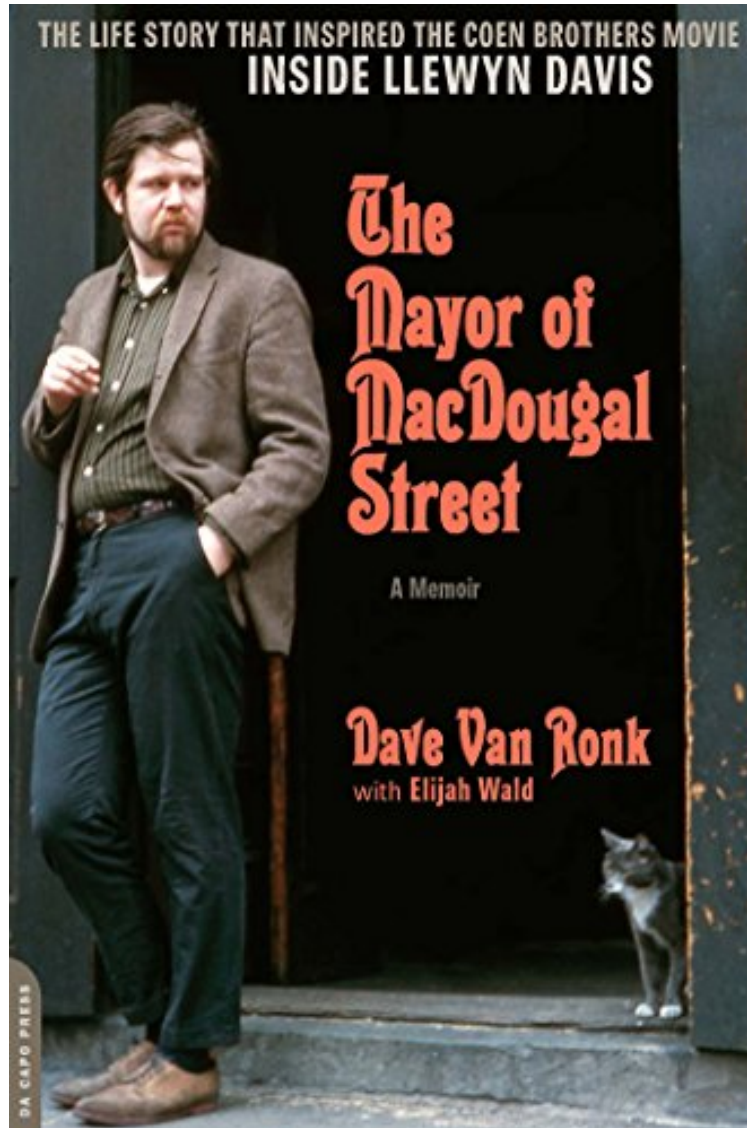


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## The Mayor of MacDougal Street [2013 edition]: A Memoir

*Dave Van Ronk*

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**Dave Van Ronk : The Mayor of MacDougal Street [2013 edition]: A Memoir** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mayor of MacDougal Street [2013 edition]: A Memoir:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. InformativeBy Madra RuaDave Van Ronk was one of the main musicians behind the emergence of the Folk explosion in Greenwich village in the early 1960's.However, this book brings you back to his childhood and his first entrance into the music scene as a jazz player, His movement from blues and then onto folk music is an interesting and educational story, giving deep insight into the the movers and shakers who ran the various coffee shops and concert halls during that period.There are some wonderful anecdotes on the young Bob Dylan, Peter, Paul and Mary, Tom Paxton and other musicians who went on to become household

names. Dave comes though as a like able character who is that little bit off the mark when it comes to hitting the big time. Due to Dave's untimely death whilst researching and writing this book, the reader is left with a longing to find out more about the era from one who was at its very centre. A must read for anyone interested in the ending of the beat era and the emergence of the Folk movement in New York. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Exactly the Book it Should Be By Wandrwoman What a pleasure this book was to read. Coauthor Elijah Wald has preserved Van Ronk's gravely rascally outter borough voice perfectly. To read this book is to know him. How many other biographies (auto or otherwise) can truly make that claim? Together, Van Ronk and Wald evoke the essence of the time, place, and scene; of the West Village in the 50's and early 60's, of beatniks, earnest folksingers, fiery socialists, and old black guitar pickers. Dave Van Ronk was part of it all and true to his folk singer roots, he knows how to tell a darn good tale. As a middle class young kid growing up a stone's throw from the Village, Van Ronk, Phil Ochs, Tom Rush, Tom Paxton were my heroes, my David Cassidys. I learned the songs at summer camp from counselors who were part of the folk scene and mentioned in this book. As Carol Kane said to Woody Allen in "Annie Hall": "I love being reduced to a cultural stereotype" and Van Ronk does just that. I was that long haired, middle class girl from New York singing songs written by Mississippi sharecroppers. Many people will find this book after seeing the movie "Inside Llewyn Davis." It is a great movie and I highly recommend it but it is important to know that Llewyn Davis is not Dave Van Ronk. Llewyn Davis is an archetype and Dave Van Ronk was a living, breathing, singing folk hero. 18 of 19 people found the following review helpful. warm, funny, lively By mike mayo Van Ronk's "autobiography" is everything that "Inside Llewyn Davis" isn't. It's an affectionate look back at the music scene, primarily folk, in Greenwich Village in the '50s and '60s. Not much score-settling here. Instead, his love for the music is what comes through most strongly, as it did not in the Coen brothers' film. Much as I enjoyed the film, I'm enjoying the book more for different reasons.

Dave Van Ronk (1936-2002) was one of the founding figures of the 1960s folk revival, but he was far more than that. A pioneer of modern acoustic blues, a fine songwriter and arranger, a powerful singer, and one of the most influential guitarists of the '60s, he was also a marvelous storyteller, a peerless musical historian, and one of the most quotable figures on the Village scene. Featuring encounters with young stars-to-be like Bob Dylan and Joni Mitchell, *The Mayor of MacDougal Street* is a vivid evocation of a singular time and place--a feast not only for fans of folk music and blues, but for anyone interested in the music, politics, and spirit of a revolutionary period in American culture.

New Yorker.com, 9/30/13 "[A] wonderful memoir." Slate, " 12/2/13 "Your best guide when it comes to Inside Llewyn Davis--apart from what follows, of course--is Van Ronk's posthumous memoir, "The Mayor of MacDougal Street"." New York Times", 11/30/13 "[A] sharp cantankerous memoir." New Yorker.com, 9/30/13 "[A] wonderful memoir." Slate, " 12/2/13 "Your best guide when it comes to Inside Llewyn Davis--apart from what follows, of course--is Van Ronk's posthumous memoir, "The Mayor of MacDougal Street"." New York Times", 11/30/13 "[A] sharp cantankerous memoir." New York of Books"blog, 12/16/2013 "The movie extensively mines Van Ronk's remarkable posthumous memoir "The Mayor of MacDougal Street" (seamlessly compiled from interviews by Elijah Wald; Da Capo, 2005) for scenes, anecdotes, and details of background, and its protagonist, Llewyn Davis (played by Oscar Isaac) sings songs closely associated with Van Ronk." Seattle Times, "12/15/2013 "[A] delightful, keenly-observed, cantankerous autobiography...which, if you love 'Inside Llewyn Davis' you owe it to yourself to read." Paste Magazine", 12/12/2013 "[An] acclaimed and enjoyable memoir." New Yorker.com, 1/22/2014 "The Mayor of MacDougal Street" is one of the dozen best books ever written about a New York life and time: dense with wisdom, humor, judgment, and an amazingly vivid recreation of the rites and rituals and characters of a whole lost world and scene." Praise for "The Mayor of MacDougal Street" New Yorker.com, 9/30/13 [A] wonderful memoir. Slate, " 12/2/13 Your best guide when it comes to Inside Llewyn Davis apart from what follows, of course is Van Ronk's posthumous memoir, "The Mayor of MacDougal Street." "New York Times," 11/30/13 [A] sharp cantankerous memoir. The Culture Trip, 4/1/16 Gives the play-by-play for a musical movement that was humble in origin, but huge in populous fervor. Woody Guthrie; Joan Baez; Pete Seeger; Richie Havens; Bob Dylan, Peter, Paul and Mary; plus dozens more, they all live and breathe within these pages One of folk's unsung heroes, Van Ronk mixes poetry and revolution, rolled into a posthumously released autobiography as much a history of the Village, and the folk venues that made it famous, as the life story of its Mayor. "About the Author In the course of his forty-year career, Dave Van Ronk recorded more than two dozen albums, toured on four continents, was nominated for two Grammys, and received an ASCAP Lifetime Achievement Award. Coauthor Elijah Wald wrote the acclaimed study of the myth, music, and life of blues legend Robert Johnson, "Escaping the Delta." He also wrote the biography "Josh White: Society Blues" as well as "Narcocorrido: A Journey into the Music of Drugs, Guns, and Guerrillas." A musician and journalist, he lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.