

CONTENTS

Introduction • ix

PART ONE: **I WAS YOUNG WHEN I LEFT HOME** **(1961–1969)**

- Bob Dylan** My Life in a Stolen Moment • 3
- Robert Shelton** Bob Dylan: A Distinctive Folk-Song Stylist • 8
- David Wojahn** Woody Guthrie Visited by Bob Dylan: Brooklyn State
Hospital, New York, 1961 • 14
- Paul Nelson and Jon Pankake** Flat Tire • 16
- Johnny Cash** Letter to *Broadside* • 20
- Nat Hentoff** The Crackin', Shakin', Breakin' Sounds • 22
- Fred Goodman** excerpt from *The Mansion on the Hill* • 41
- David Hajdu** excerpt from *Positively 4th Street* • 43
- Paul Nelson** What's Happening • 47
- Bob Dylan** excerpt from KQED Press Conference,
December 3, 1965 • 51
- Ralph J. Gleason** In Berkeley They Dig Bob Dylan • 58
- Robert Christgau** excerpt from Rock Lyrics Are Poetry
(Maybe) • 62

Robert Christgau *John Wesley Harding* • 64

Hunter S. Thompson excerpt from Owl Farm—Winter of '68 • 68

PART TWO: **BLOOD ON THE TRACKS (1970–1978)**

Greil Marcus Self Portrait No. 25 • 73

Allen Ginsberg Postcard to D---- • 92

Allen Ginsberg On Reading Dylan's Writings • 93

Hendrik Hertzberg and George Trow Dylan • 94

Clive James Bringing Some of It All Back Home • 98

Rick Moody Blood on the Tracks • 109

Bob Dylan Shelter from the Storm • 113

Greil Marcus excerpt from *The Old, Weird America* • 116

Sam Shepard Night of the Hurricane • 122

Anne Waldman excerpt from Shaman Hisses You Slide Back into the
Night • 130

Christopher Ricks excerpt from *The Force of Poetry* • 137

PART THREE: **SAVED (1979–1996)**

Robert Hilburn Dylan: "I Learned That Jesus Is Real and I Wanted
That" • 147

Lester Bangs Love or Confusion? • 155

Clinton Heylin Infidels • 158

Michael Gray excerpt from *Song and Dance Man III* • 166

Sam Shepard A Short Life of Trouble • 182

Cameron Crowe excerpt from Liner Notes to *Biograph* • 200

Bruce Springsteen The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Speech • 202

Howard Hampton Stillborn Again • 205

Paul Zollo excerpt from *Songwriters on Songwriting* • 208

Michael McClure Ode • 222

Tom Piazza World Gone Wrong Again • 224

**PART FOUR: WHEN YOU GOT NOTHING, YOU GOT
NOTHING TO LOSE (1997–)**

David Gates Dylan Revisited • 235

Robert Polito Shadow Play: B-C-D and Back • 244

Norbert Krapf Song for Bob Dylan • 252

**Bono, Michael Chabon, Jonathan Lethem, Joyce Carol Oates and
Camille Paglia** Dylan at 60 • 254

Sean Wilentz American Recordings: On *Love and Theft* and the
Minstrel Boy • 263

Greg Tate Intelligence Data • 274

Barry Hannah Constant Time for Bob Dylan • 280

Gary Giddins Bob Dylan the Singer: Who's Gonna Throw That
Minstrel Boy a Coin? • 285

Alex Ross The Wanderer • 291

Bibliography • 313

Acknowledgments • 317

Index • 323