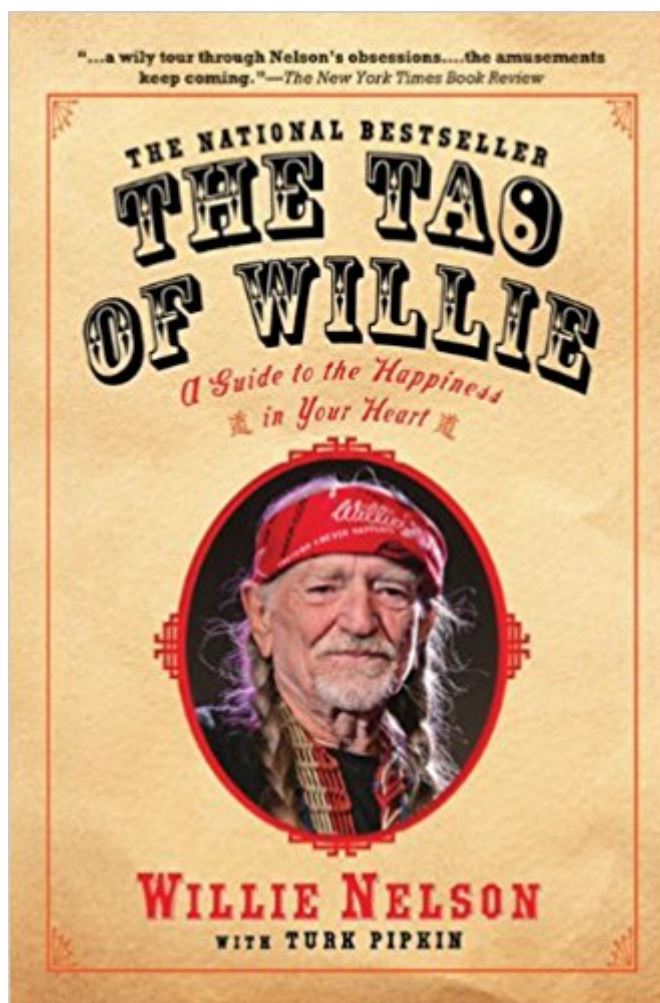


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# The Tao Of Willie: A Guide To The Happiness In Your Heart



## Synopsis

Born in small-town Texas during the Great Depression, Willie Nelson was raised to believe in helping his neighbors and living without pretense. After many hardscrabble years as a poorly paid songwriter (often watching his work become a gold mine for other performers), Willie finally found his own voice—the gentle but unmistakably honest sound that has made him an American icon. Now the master of harmonization has created a guide to finding harmony in everyday life. Featuring vignettes from each chapter of his seventy-plus years (along with plenty of his favorite jokes), *The Tao of Willie* captures his views on money, love, war, religion, cowboys, and other essential Willie topics. Loosely based on the principles of the Chinese philosophy of the Tao Te Ching, which Willie has admired and followed for much of his adult life, this inspiring and entertaining collection of Willie wisdom takes us from his roadhouse days, when he united redneck rockers with straitlaced country music fans, to the mega-sized benefit concerts and environmentalism that define his boundless heart. In the spirit of his fellow Texan Harvey Penick's *Little Red Book*, Willie's timeless insights sparkle with clarity: It's like having a one-on-one conversation with the sage himself.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In his third book, American icon Nelson mingles stories, jokes and adages with a collection of "lessons" he has learned "in this life." Loosely basing his book on the philosophical text of the Tao Te Ching, Nelson advocates incorporating into one's life many of the teachings of that ancient work, such as meditation and the belief that all things are interconnected. But while the Tao may inspire this book, Nelson's charming, often humorous tales of his Texas childhood, cowboy lifestyle, and

famous and interesting friends make the "mysteries of life" not all that mysterious. Indeed, with chapter titles like "The Golden Rule" and "Don't Think No Negative Thoughts," the book is rooted as much in down-home common sense as it is in mystical philosophy. Nelson also shares his liberal views on subjects like marijuana ("I'll support a war on drugs, but not a war on flowers or herbs"), the environment ("Biodiesel reduces carbon dioxide emissions up to eighty percent") and war ("I believe in peace"). Whatever his message, the "Red-Headed Stranger" conveys his thoughts in the same friendly, endearing manner that has made his songs part of the fabric of American life. (On sale May 9) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

Novelist, golf writer, and longtime Nelson compadre Pipkin mounts this collection of the grizzled singer's bromides, aphorisms, and observations in an upbeat, warm-and-fuzzy manner designed to comfort as much as to guide readers through life's prickly situations. Recurring snippets of "The Willie Way" alternate with Nelson's views on "The Golden Rule," "The Time of the Preacher," and similar timeless topics. No doubt these are heartfelt expressions of Nelson's worldview, but as advice, they are less provocative than those delivered in, say, Hell's Angel Sonny Barger's similar set of musings, *Freedom* (2005). Likely to comfort those already in Willie's thrall, and likely useless to others, the little collection still has high circulation potential, given Nelson's standing with the boomer music-lover demographic. Such maxims as "Once you replace negative thoughts with positive ones, you'll start having positive results" can do no harm, and god knows Willie, avuncular and far removed from his "outlaw" days, can't, either. Mike Tribby Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

The book "The Tao of Willie" is quite an easy read - I finished it in a few days. It is full of mundane wisdom, that would be expected from such an everyday guy as Willie Nelson - a people's entertainer. And yet, there is something there that rises above the mundane, a sort of deeper understanding that transcends Willie's own character, or shall we call it a "stage persona", that of a traveling cowboy, outcast, pot-smoker and free roamer. That understanding, is what Willie calls simply "love". And that is something accessible to everyone alive. One doesn't have to spend years in a cave, detached from the societal affairs in order to understand that wisdom. Live by love, and you shall receive it in return. Easier said than done sometimes, but not impossible. Willie himself can be considered a pretty successful individual. He has a ton of property, a large family, and a fan base that is more akin to the Grateful Dead following. He is a good businessman, asking his reader to

check out his website, and is humble in introducing himself as a traveling singer, reminding those of us who don't have a detailed knowledge of his musical career about his more well known songs, as well as some of his albums that made an impact. I liked the fact that he is not bragging about the multitude of his musical accomplishments but kind of eases the reader into his world, that has been around for several decades. That is a good thing for a newcomer such as myself. All in all, Willie is a heartfelt individual that has reached a respected age that deserves a book such as this one here. He has a lot to share, and it is ironic that all of that can be fit into such an easy and accommodating read. I think it can be counted as another one of Mr. Nelson's many accomplishments.

I absolutely loved this book by Willie Nelson. If you are a fan of his you can almost hear his voice and see his smile whilst you are reading. In the spirit of Tao I will not say that I wanted more but I will say that I will be reading this book more than once! I have been so inspired to be grateful for every moment. When I find myself wishing for things to happen and feel frustrated, I now stop and ask myself, "are you happy right now?" If not I change it, but usually I realize I am and that I am grateful for all the beautiful life that surrounds me. My family, friends, the beautiful place that I call home and that is enough for now.

Well written by an awesome man. A must get if you like an awesome book. 5 star recommend. Willie Nelson is not only a great singer, but a great man as well.

We loved our copy so much that we ordered more to give as gifts. This is a great book! It is funny, yet makes you think about life and decisions in general.

Was suggested read from my pharmacist, it's a inspiring book great read for young adults&old alike. If everyone applied these simple Steps it would make life btr for all. We love Willie Nelson

Far better than you would suspect, extremely well put together and thought out book, started a bit unsure but it grew in strength as it went. I was very impressed with how Turk was able to organize Willie's thoughts and words... there were some really good points on living life and our world in general in this look. I look at this way this is Willie putting a book together like he would an album with a really fine producer.... that was lacking in the book after this one, Roll me up and Smoke me when i Die, in 2012 where he really seemed like he could of used Turk or someone to work with him.

I have pledged allegiance to Willie's flag for well over thirty years. That will continue, but never more so than the way I felt after reading his book. This book is categorized in the Self-Help section of any bookstore and here on .I have personally read as many self help books as I could get my hands on over the past 18 years not only to find myself but discover a new way to relate to this crazy world we live in. They have all made a difference in my life to live as one with every human on the planet. And to love each and every person I come in contact with. Never has this theory been more clear than in Willie's book. You don't have to be a fan of his, but my question has always been, why not? There has never been a musician alive that has given so much of his heart to people through his music and through his contact with everyone he meets more than Willie. I remember 28 years ago a died in the wool Baptist boss I had asked me if I believed in God. At that time it was still a question in my mind so I answered him in this way. "No, but I believe in Willie Nelson and it's all the same thing." Now I know that those were some of the truest words I have ever spoken. Like Willie I've studied every religion and culture known to man and found the same belief he has. We are all one. Our bodies die but our spirit lives on and we always get a chance in the next life. I have known in my heart for many years that Willie is the gentle spirit and has the open heart God has always wanted us all to be. God loves each of us the same, but it's up to us to "show up" in this life and share the same love that Willie shares with us all. Do I highly recommend this book? Absolutely. It is a ten star book and one that will change your life or confirm what us lucky ones have known for so long.

I got this thinking it would be a quick funny read. As I thought , it was, but after the first few pages i began to see him as any other guy with a job. This is the moral of the story I took away from this book. He is very lucky to have been blessed with his gift for bullshit and god blessed him with a brain that actually works in a man. He stays in the real world and has no illusions of grandure. He is grateful to the almighty for just being allowed to be here and lets himself go knowing theres nothing he can do about it now. I saw where i wanted the happy and peace he has for myself. money didnt give it to him and no one will get love, or give love till you see we are all the same. Not all of us has a habit of attracting attention from state troopers the way he does but he shows you how to keep sane. loved it. now if i could only meet the man.

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