



The Tao of Willie: A Guide to the Happiness in Your Heart

By Willie Nelson, Turk Pipkin

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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 Cheng, 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.

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Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #211492 in Books
- Brand: Nelson, Willie/ Pipkin, Turk
- Published on: 2007-05-10
- Released on: 2007-05-10
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .56" w x 5.32" l, .49 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 208 pages



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

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)*

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From [Booklist](#)

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*

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Review

"[T]he book is a wily tour through Nelson's obsessions. . . ." (*The New Times Book Review*)

"Seriously fun guide offers readers the full Nelson. . . . [a] whimsical yet serious guide to happiness. . . . The Willie philosophy is simple, a blending of 'do unto others as you would have them do unto you' and 'don't sweat the small stuff.'" (Boston, *Sunday Herald*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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Reading a book can be one of a lot of pastime that everyone in the world loves. Do you like reading book so. There are a lot of reasons why people love it. First reading a reserve will give you a lot of new facts. When you read a guide you will get new information mainly because book is one of several ways to share the

information as well as their idea. Second, reading a book will make anyone more imaginative. When you looking at a book especially fiction book the author will bring that you imagine the story how the characters do it anything. Third, it is possible to share your knowledge to other folks. When you read this The Tao of Willie: A Guide to the Happiness in Your Heart, you can tells your family, friends as well as soon about yours publication. Your knowledge can inspire others, make them reading a book.

Richard Poston:

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book specifically book entitled The Tao of Willie: A Guide to the Happiness in Your Heart your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe not known for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a guide then become one form conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get ahead of. The The Tao of Willie: A Guide to the Happiness in Your Heart giving you yet another experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful information for your better life within this era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

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Beverlee Guthrie:

Some people said that they feel bored stiff when they reading a reserve. They are directly felt the idea when they get a half parts of the book. You can choose the book The Tao of Willie: A Guide to the Happiness in Your Heart to make your reading is interesting. Your own personal skill of reading expertise is developing when you such as reading. Try to choose simple book to make you enjoy to see it and mingle the feeling about book and reading especially. It is to be very first opinion for you to like to open a book and study it. Beside that the guide The Tao of Willie: A Guide to the Happiness in Your Heart can to be your friend when you're feel alone and confuse with what must you're doing of the time.

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