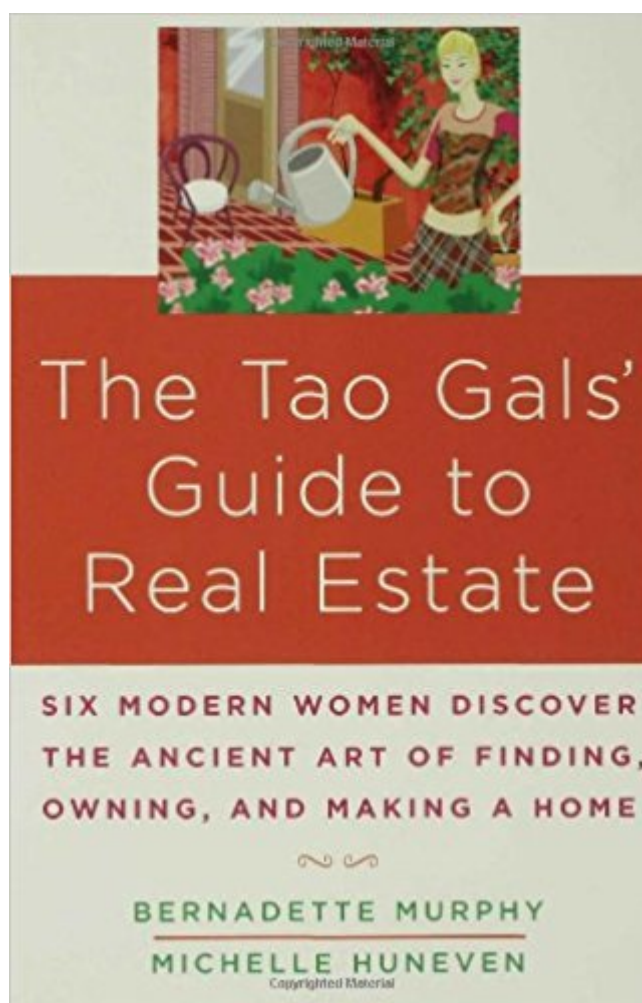


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The Tao Gals' Guide To Real Estate: Six Modern Women Discover The Ancient Art Of Finding, Owning...



Synopsis

At last, a readable, entertaining, and practical real estate guide – the perfect companion for women intent on buying a home. Once a week, six women living in Los Angeles meet to read from the Tao te Ching and reflect on their lives. One subject arises over and over: the dream of owning a home. One by one they take on the real estate market. They discover, among themselves, great reservoirs of expertise and experience that keep them sane – and laughing – along the way. Now, the Tao Girls want to share that expertise and experience with women who find themselves similarly confused, frustrated, or disappointed. The Tao Girl's Guide to Real Estate offers a way to keep your head through it all, to eliminate that sense of helplessness, overwhelming tension, and emotional fatigue so often a part of finding a home. In telling their lively and often amusing personal stories, the Tao Girls also deliver a terrific dose of practical advice for buying any house – from the smallest condo to a suburban family dream house.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Michelle Huneven is an award-winning fiction writer whose novel, *Jamesland*, was shortlisted for the Los Angeles Times Book Award for Fiction, and whose previous novel, *Round Rock*, was named a New York Times Notable Book and a Los Angeles Times Best Book of the Year. Bernadette Murphy is a literary critic for the Los Angeles Times, and has written for *Newsday*, *Ms.*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *LA Weekly*, among others. She is the author of the bestselling *Zen and the Art of Knitting*.

I think the information you need to get you going is in chapters 5, 8 & 9 and I felt like it was a long slog to get there. There is a lot of filler to get through. The book focuses on buying a house -- not an apartment. The book meanders through buyers' different scenarios : the woman who has inconsistent income, the woman who has evil parents, the woman who has bankruptcy in her past, the woman who meets the dishonest loan officer.... etc etc... but the same information could have been presented without all the girly storytelling which struck me as childish. All that being said, if you can cut through the fluff, it does (finally) lay out some useful information, somewhat demystifies the process, and helps you expect the financial double-talk. They have some questionnaires at the end of each chapter that could be somewhat useful. I am not sure I would recommend buying this book. There must be something out there that is more to the point and gives the same kind of information.

I recently got *The Tao Gals Guide to Real Estate* in the mail and couldn't put it down. I had millions of things to do but I just could not put it down. In my life I have bought three houses. The first house I was a single woman. The next two houses I was married. However, being married did not make the process any easier on any level. Once again, I find myself single and deciding whether to buy or not to buy. Fortunately, reading *The Tao Gals Guide to Real Estate* let me go through the entire "deciding to buy, house hunting, buying, refurbishing," process without having to do it all again. This deeply personal book helped me take a look at the financial, spiritual, and mental health considerations when buying a home. Yet, there is a nuts and bolts aspect to the book that I desperately needed. Thanks to this guide - the personal stories, tragedies, successes, and work sheets- I could make a rational decision. I now know what it would REALLY cost. I was able to make a decision that is based in reality and not fear. Because the women in the book were so honest and clear about their journeys it helped me with mine. This book is invaluable!

If you're thinking about buying a home don't do anything until you've read this wonderful book! The strength of this book is the collective experience, wisdom, and heart with which the information is shared. It really appeals to the way women think and learn. I usually find how-to books dry and difficult to absorb, but *The Tao Gal's Guide to Real Estate* presents practical information on everything from finding the right real estate agent, to qualifying for a mortgage, and surviving escrow in a straightforward, easy-to-understand way. The authors, Bernadette Murphy and Michelle Huneven, share their personal real estate stories as well as the stories of the other women in their Tao Gal's group, which is a group of six women who meet weekly and read from the spiritual text,

the Tao te Ching. My favorite part of this book was the way the authors told a personal story and incorporated the spiritual wisdom of the Tao te Ching along with practical advice on how to handle one of the most stressful events in life. At the end of each chapter, they include a Tao worksheet that addresses the emotional aspects and anxiety behind buying a home. I felt very comforted by the information and the way it's written made me feel like I was a member of their group. There's a wonderful glossary at the back as well. This well researched book succeeds because the practical information is coupled with spiritual wisdom and it's written in an entertaining, heart warming, revelatory voice that celebrates the incredible strength of women and the power of community! It's very satisfying and I highly recommend it!

As a man who, with my wife, has bought two homes in the past five years, I wish this wonderful book had been available to us before we did so. I've gamely waded through tomes offering financial advice before, but this is altogether different, a book about real estate that is built on storytelling -- with narrative skills reflecting the literary pedigrees of its co-authors. It's quite serious and ultimately decodes the daunting abracadabra of escrow fees and loan packages, but meanwhile it's a great read! The title could just as easily be "Real Estate for Humans."

This book has given me some valuable information and insider tips about buying a house, all written in a way that I can really relate to as a single woman. It has given me confidence, and also makes me feel better equipped to deal with what's coming in my house hunt. It's like having an understanding girlfriend with you all the time - one who knows all about real estate! I definitely recommend it!

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