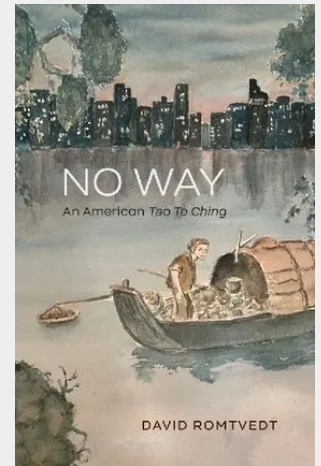


No Way

David Romtvedt's *No Way: An American "Tao Te Ching"* explores the art of living in the fast-paced, dangerous, unpredictable contemporary world. Lucid and wise in the spirit of its ancient Chinese predecessor, *No Way* functions as a kind of offbeat-yet-deadly-serious manual on the conduct of life. This slightly tongue-in-cheek take on the Tao's advice acknowledges that nobody likes being told how to live, least of all the author himself. With an openness to complexity and mystery, in tones that range from cool to passionate, *No Way* brings the Tao into the social turmoil of a twenty-first-century United States beset by political strife, mass shootings, and financial greed. Romtvedt combats cynicism and malaise with wry verse that positions itself in the role of the trickster. The voice of these poems can be serious and contradictory yet also humorous and welcoming. By suggesting that the days of the ancient Tao are gone for good, *No Way* offers readers an invitation to guide themselves forward, free of sages and rulers.

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20,10 €

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Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9780807173992

Medium: Buch

ISBN: 978-0-8071-7399-2

Verlag: Louisiana State University Press

Erscheinungstermin: 01.01.2021

Sprache(n): Englisch

Auflage: Erscheinungsjahr 2021

Produktform: Kartoniert

Gewicht: 143 g

Seiten: 104

Format (B x H): 140 x 216 mm

