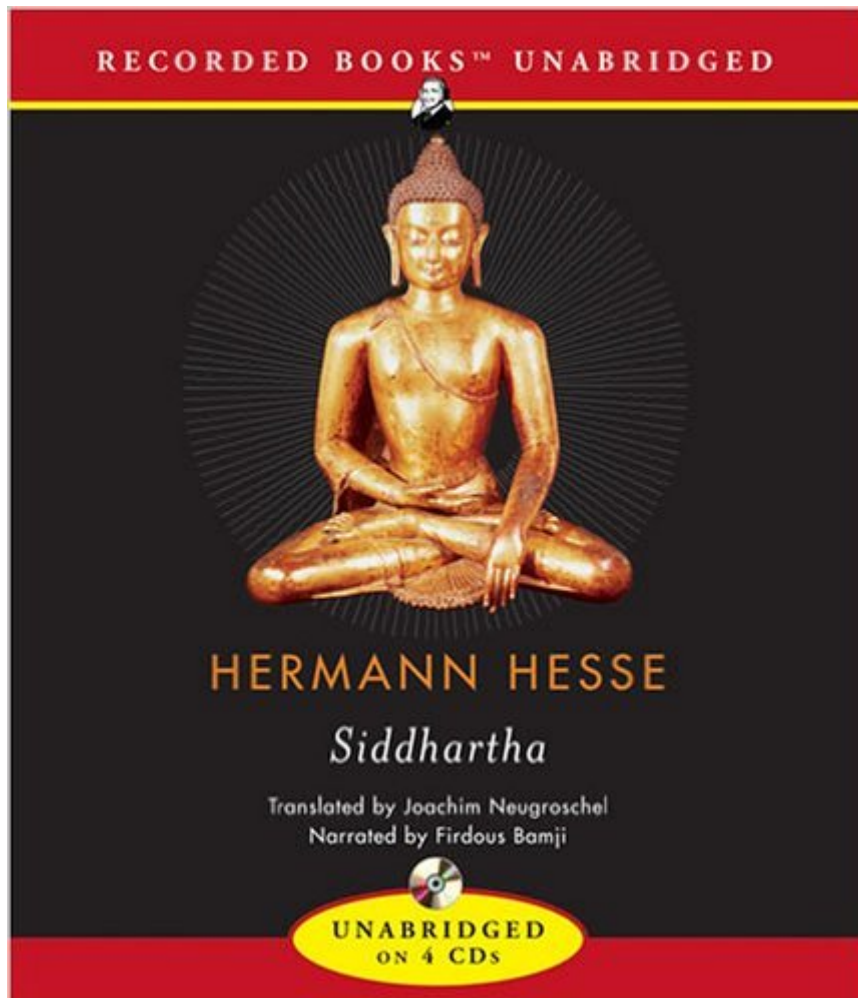


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# Siddhartha



## Synopsis

Siddhartha is Nobel Prize-winning author Hermann Hesse's most famous and influential work--a novel of self-exploration that will linger in your mind and spirit for a lifetime. A young man, blessed with loving parents and a safe home in a world where want and neglect abound, leaves this haven in search of himself. He joins the Samanas, a band of wandering ascetics without possessions or earthly ties. His quest unfulfilled, he descends into a life of unbounded luxury and indulgence. Where is truth? Where will his soul find true ease? In denial? In decadence? Or in some truth far greater than himself, so simple, so close to him, yet so obvious that only clear eyes may see it? Siddhartha reawakens questions most of us have long ceased asking ourselves and opens paths to spirituality many of us have never traveled.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a book that will appeal to anyone who wonders "what it's all about." Hesse has masterfully captured the essence of a wandering soul in Siddhartha's character, someone who seeks meaning and understanding in all its forms. This book is even more applicable to modern day society than when it was written. We are confronted with millions of choices in our lives and it can often be difficult to discern the correct path; often with respect to the materialism and consumerism that permeates American society. So, take a few hours and peruse Siddhartha...forget about the rat race and imagine life as an ascetic. Truly a sublime book, highly recommended.

Did you ever feel sensational beauty about every word you read? This is the book that returned me

the harmony of my inner world.

I am in the process of understanding the Eastern Tao. Hermann Hesse takes an individual through three stages of his life and does a superb explaining the pain and release of each stage. Hesse, as a child, spent time in India with his missionary parents. It helps to understand what Eastern philosophy is as it is different from the Western point of view. Despite this, Hesse writes in a style regardless of age, religion, or political view assists the reader understand we all go through these stages of life. This is an excellent book for reference and metaphysical understanding. Paul G. Downey

The book *Siddhartha* was very interesting. It tells about a boy and his travels in search to find true peace, happiness and his "self". I really liked how the author gave *Siddhartha* three different parts; three different sections of his life. First the ascetic, the lover, then the ferryman. It showed how some people need to go through different stages in their lives to find where they are truly happy and peaceful. After reading *Siddhartha*, the reader understands how some other people feel about life, and how it is very important to them to live so simply.

This book is your road map to ultimate inner-peace and an understanding of what this whole existence is all about. It will make you realise that there's really little need for religions of any kind. No need for the latest Guru or Teacher. No need to be anything other than who you are, because as you are, you are already there. Get this, you get a life. Not everyone will "get it" but those who do will never need anything else. If you're really interested in finding out about it all, then get this book. It's the only one you'll ever need, providing you "get it".

Hesse's best-known and best-loved work introduces Hesse's own understanding of Eastern philosophy and his own struggle to integrate his poetic soul with the world around him. *Siddhartha* is not the story of the similarly-named Gautama Buddha; rather, *Siddhartha* is a kind of mirror of the Buddha, who like him is born into a rich Indian Brahmin family and becomes dissatisfied with his privileged priestly life. Unlike Buddha, *Siddhartha* passes back and forth between the world of asceticism and aestheticism, eventually finding that there is no difference between the two - indeed, no difference between anything. Some of *Siddhartha*'s final words sum up his own findings and Hesse's suggested position as well: "The world, my friend, Govinda, is not imperfect or developing slowly toward imperfection. No, the world is perfect at every moment, all sin already contains grace,

all youngsters already contain oldsters, all babies contain death, all the dying contain eternal life."Hesse intentionally subtitled his work a "tale," or Dichtung, because of its poetic and lyrical nature. Reading this in translation can be a little tiring, so keep that in mind. Ralph Freedman's introduction, while a little rhapsodic at points, provides a helpful orientation toward the intersection of Siddhartha's story and Hesse's, including Hesse's psychological work with Jung during a year-long writer's block in the composition of this very novel. Once you're done with this one, go on to read Steppenwolf, Demian, Narcissus and Goldmund, and finish with The Glass Bead Game, and you'll have exposed yourself to the best of Hesse's writing and Romantic philosophy as well.

A very smart interlocutor I met suggested that I read this book. I found the story to be quite insightful, as one could expect from Herman Hesse. However, my favorite piece from the author remains Steppenwolf. Siddhartha is too much into spirituality and meditation for my taste. Still a very profound book worth reading.

I bought this book for an english class, was skeptical about this because i was just not interested in buddhism (no offense), but this book is so craftily written, I've read this book three times for self pleasure, I love it, definitely opened up some opinions in me and made me think and centralize myself, I recommend it to the extreme, buy it! Totally worth it!

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