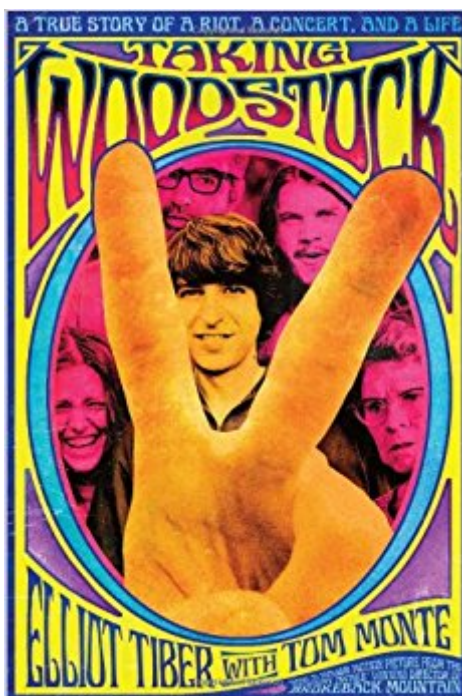


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# Taking Woodstock: A True Story Of A Riot, A Concert, And A Life



## Synopsis

Taking Woodstock is the funny, touching, and true story of Elliot Tiber, the man who was instrumental in arranging the site for the original Woodstock Concert. Elliot, whose parents owned an upstate New York motel, was working in Greenwich Village in the summer of 1969. He socialized with the likes of Truman Capote, Tennessee Williams, and photographer Robert Mapplethorpe, and yet somehow managed to keep his gay life a secret from his family. Then on Friday, June 28, Elliot walked into the Stonewall Inn and witnessed the riot that would galvanize the American gay movement and enable him to take stock of his own lifestyle. And on July 15, when Elliot learned that the Woodstock Concert promoters were unable to stage the show in Wallkill, he offered to find them a new venue. Soon he was swept up in a vortex that would change his life forever.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"(Taking Woodstock) is absolutely amazing! This reviewer couldn't put it down - in fact, read it twice before writing this review. If you've ever dreamed of being at Woodstock or even if you were there, the author Elliot Tiber will take you back." (Midwest Book Review)"Momentous . . . [a] thoroughly entertaining tale [and] very human story." (Publishers Weekly)"Comic and creative . . . [from] the man who serendipitously brought the Woodstock Music and Arts Festival to Bethel, NY, in the summer of 1969 . . . recommended." (Library Journal)"The true story of Elliot Tiber, hero of the original Woodstock Festival . . . [a] snapshot of America Yesterday." (The New York Post)"Gleefully candid and often hilarious . . . the story of a middle-aged gay man challenging

bigotry, intolerance and the rural peace of Upstate New York's residents for the legal rights to sing, dance, and make love not war."~ (Foreword Reviews)

Elliot Tiber has written and produced numerous awardwinning plays and musical comedies. As a professor of comedy writing and performance, he has taught at the New School University and Hunter College in Manhattan. His first novel, *Rue Haute*, was a bestseller in Europe, and was published in the US under the title *High Street*. A national best-selling writer, counselor, and teacher of natural healing methods, Tom Monte is a leading voice in the natural health movement. He has written and co-authored more than thirty books and many hundreds of articles on virtually every area of health. Among his bestsellers are *Recalled by Life*, *Living Well Naturally*, and *Natural Prozac*. Tom has lectured and conducted transformational programs throughout the United States and around the world. His eight-month Healer's Program, based in New York City and Orval, Belgium, trains practitioners in the use of highly effective natural methods for healing body, mind, and spirit. The Healer's Program is also an experience in personal transformation. Tom also conducts workshops that focus on healing the heart and personal relationships. He lives with his wife, Toby, in Amherst, Massachusetts.

Saw the film on TV recently and thought a deeper dive in the story by the original book would be even better. Yuk. Wrong-o bong-o. The movie very deftly carves out 60% (yes 60%, in my opinion) of Tiber's young life as a pederast's willing tool in darkened Times Square theaters in the 60s. Tiber elaborates on the expanding world of gay liberation that follows. Not really what I was looking for. Oh sure, he drops names all over: Tennessee Williams, Marlon Brando, Andy Warhol. So what. Who Cares. That's my bottom line, too.

Saw the film by Ang Lee and I highly recommend that. Read Mike Lang's book on the same subject and I highly recommend that which has a somewhat different perspective. And I read this which the movie follows closely and I loved this. It brings the love and beauty of Woodstock to life and lets you in on an amazing and sometimes scary backstory. The beginning dotes a little more than I cared about Eliot's early sex life - this wasn't really in the movie and I think the title could have been a little different because of this. But that stuff is ok and the Woodstock stuff is excellent.

Having just finished the book I'm struck by how little of it is about Woodstock and how most of that is wrong. What you really get is like the surreal comedies written by Tom Robbins. The first half of the

book is about his youth and the realization that he was gay. Be warned there are some fairly graphic portions including at age 12 his willing encounters with pedophiles. Finally Woodstock is mentioned, though the only part that agrees with some of the fine histories that have been written about the event, was the fact that Elliot Tiber called Woodstock Ventures and offered them a location and permit. The location he offered was actually a swamp and some of the party went back to New York in disgust. I was 19 and living in northwestern N.J. at the time and did attend Woodstock. There is just too much in the book that I know from personal knowledge simply wasn't true. If you are just looking for entertainment it does have plenty of action and adventures and a weirdly wacky cast of characters, although some like the mafia are 40's Hollywood stereotypes. I guess that's not surprising with how much time Tiber said he spent in Times Square movie houses. If it was billed as a novel I would have given it 4 stars, but as history I was generous with one star.

If I could give this 10 stars, I would! I was a pre-teen during Woodstock so I remember a lot of the news reports (if I had just been a little older, I would have been there!). This was an excellent account of not only the planning and wonderful chaos of Woodstock, but you fall in love with Elliott through the telling. His life will make you laugh and cry. Everyone should read this -- especially the young people of today who have no idea what we felt during that time. This is an incredible book! I never re-read books, but I will with this one because I truly felt like I was there.

I had more laugh-out-loud moments with this book than any I've read in years. I also learned how Woodstock happened to happen, something I'd known nothing about (beyond Max Yasgur), even having been there (and yes, it changed my life). What I didn't expect was one of the most poignant accounts I've yet read of a boy's coming to grips with his being gay - and, later, a first-hand report of the Stonewall riots. Turns out Elliot Tiber (nee Teichberg) was there when it started! Who would've guessed that Stonewall and Woodstock were joined at the hip? This is an invaluable document of our once-upon-a-times, and a delight to read. I saw the movie, and while I liked it quite a bit, it doesn't do justice to the book. By all means, read it.

I'm still trying to find the time to read it, but so far so good!

I bought this thinking it would be an individual perspective on Woodstock. The book itself is poorly written. It is very repetitive and obvious he had virtually nothing to do with Woodstock. While I understand the process of coming out and coming to terms with oneself, I feel ripped off after having

purchased this book. Nothing about the title or synopsis accurately describes the book. It's an endless series of name dropping, sexploits and stereotypes which only serve to numb the mind (if they even happened at all). When it comes to his "involvement" in Woodstock, the author is clearly taking liberties with the truth. I should have known when I read the disclaimer at the beginning-it seems Tiber doesn't know the difference between exaggeration and outright fabrication. Yes, he made the phone call which ultimately resulted in a venue for Woodstock (of course not at all how he describes it) but it's clear he's not much more than a bystander. It's actually pretty funny because in the Mike Lang book *The Road to Woodstock*, Tiber is only mentioned 3 times, 2 of which are not very flattering. If I'd read the Lang book first I never would have bought this one. Don't waste your money on this one.

The book is better than the movie! It took me back to 1969, oh the good old days! This is a must read...over, and over again!

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