

Tovar Cerulli – *The Mindful Carnivore* – Author bios

Video profile by Open Road Media: www.tovarcerulli.com/book/video-trailer

160-word bio

Growing up in Vermont and New Hampshire, Tovar Cerulli was raised as an omnivore. At twenty, moved by the compassionate words of Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh and concerned about the ecological impacts of the meat industry, he became a vegetarian and then a vegan.

In his early thirties, Tovar returned to omnivory for health reasons. Two years later—searching for ethical, ecologically responsible ways to come to terms with his food—he became a deer hunter. In summer, he and his wife Catherine eat salads from their organic garden, topped with sautéed venison from the woods.

Tovar split his undergraduate years between Dartmouth College and the New School for Social Research in Manhattan, and has worked as a carpenter and freelance writer. An environmentalist, Tovar has also worked as a logger. In 2009, he was awarded a graduate school fellowship by UMass-Amherst, where he is currently enrolled as a Ph.D. student. His research is focused on food, hunting, and human relationships with nature.

270-word bio

Tovar Cerulli has been wondering about humans and other animals since he was a boy. He grew up in Vermont and New Hampshire, where he spent long summer days outdoors, exploring and swimming, gathering wild blueberries for breakfast and reeling in brook trout for dinner.

After college—at Dartmouth, in Japan, and at the New School in Manhattan—he headed back to nature, where his education had begun. He worked for several years as a carpenter. Then, having handled umpteen thousand board-feet of lumber and having burned dozens of cords of firewood, he bought a chain saw and took his ecological values for an enlightening walk in the woods, apprenticing with a forester-logger.

A few years later, having returned to omnivory after a decade as a vegetarian, he decided to take his dietary ethics for a walk in the woods, too, deer rifle in hand.

Tovar has written on hunting, forestry, wildlife, and conservation for *Outdoor America*, *Northern Woodlands*, and *Massachusetts Wildlife*, among others. *The Mindful Carnivore: A Vegetarian's Hunt for Sustenance* is his first book.

Tovar received his B.A. from Eugene Lang College of the New School for Social Research. In 2009, he was awarded a Graduate School Fellowship by the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, where he studies communication. His M.A. thesis, "Meat and Meanings: Adult-Onset Hunters' Cultural Discourses of the Hunt," was completed in 2011. He is currently enrolled at UMass as a Ph.D. student and continues to focus his research on food, hunting, and human relationships with the natural world.

He lives in Vermont with his wife Catherine, their affectionate Labrador retriever, Kaia, and an eclectic mix of cookbooks.