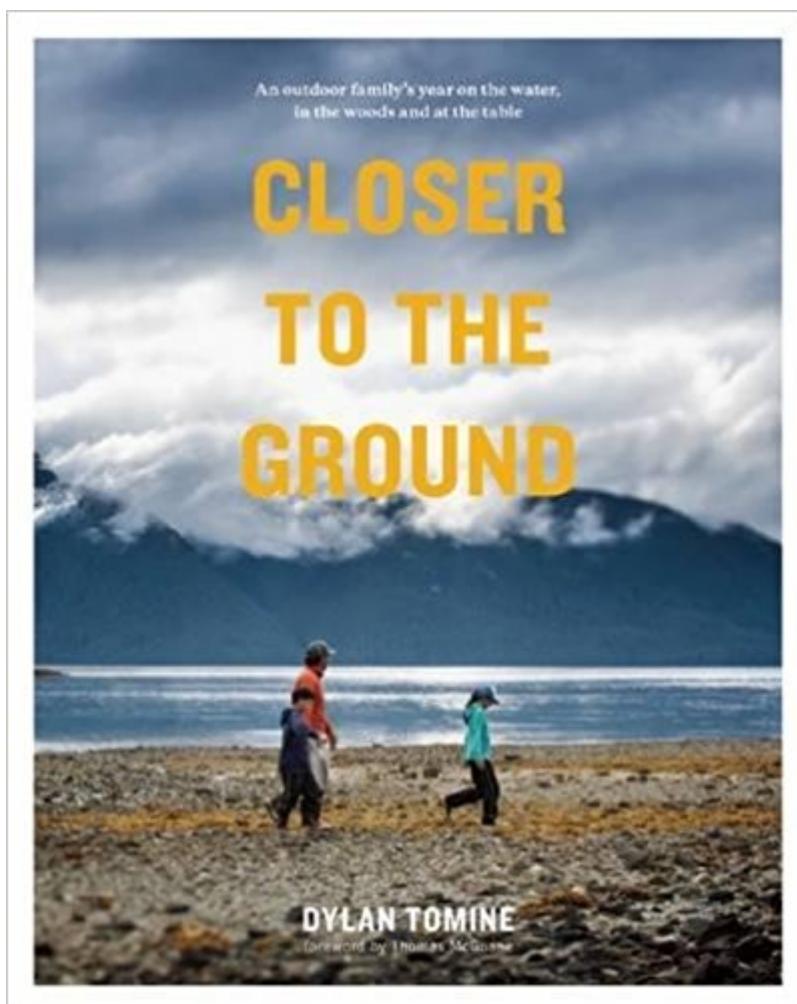


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# Closer To The Ground: An Outdoor Family's Year On The Water, In The Woods And At The Table



## Synopsis

Now completely revised and updated, with full-color photographs and family-friendly recipes throughout. The deeply personal story of a father learning to share his love of nature with his children, not through the indoor lens of words or pictures, but directly, palpably, by exploring the natural world as they forage, cook and eat from the woods and sea. This compelling, masterfully written tale follows Dylan Tomine and his family through four seasons as they hunt chanterelles, fish for salmon, dig clams and gather at the kitchen table, mouths watering, to enjoy the fruits of their labor. *Closer to the Ground* captures the beauty and surprise of the natural world; and the ways it teaches us how to live; with humor, gratitude and a nose for adventure as keen as a child's. It is a book filled with weather, natural history and many delicious meals.

## Book Information

Paperback: 264 pages

Publisher: Patagonia; Reprint edition (October 13, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1938340507

ISBN-13: 978-1938340505

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 0.8 x 7.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 40 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #232,771 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #117 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Nature Travel > Ecotourism #191 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Environmentalists & Naturalists #230 in Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Entertaining & Holidays > Seasonal

## Customer Reviews

... An eloquent chronicle of a likable family's attempt to live a more nature-centric life. . . . A refreshingly unsanctimonious take. . . . A lovely homage to the oldest seductress around: Mother Nature. The Washington Post conservation advocate and blueberry farmer shares his love of nature with his children by teaching them to forage, fish, and find firewood. -- *OMagazine* Tomine is too modest to boast, but he's clearly an adept writer, and *Closer to the Ground* is as understated as its author, a quietly compelling account of four seasons of foraging just out the back door... This is some of the most evocative, mouthwatering food writing I've ever read... The strength of the book, of course, is that, like Tomine, it leads by

example. It's a paean to eating locally without ever being preachy.

Outside... Tomine expresses peace, gratitude, and satisfaction with life and Mother Nature in an homage reminiscent of Noel Perrin's ruminations on the pleasures of the simple life... While Tomine's memoir is decidedly food-focused (particularly food specific to the Pacific Northwest), he also shares thoughts on matters large and small, whether the many uses of plastic buckets or the trade-offs that must be made in choosing a budget-friendly sustainable lifestyle. That their lifestyle creates quality time for the family is evident from a conversation with his daughter and sweet moments in the woods with his son.

Publishers Weekly; Tomine weaves his memoir with lyrical passages, family dialogues and accounts of gathering shellfish and chanterelles; as well as delicious descriptions of cooking them; in an engaging, slightly self-deprecating tone... Closer to the Ground inspires readers to examine their own daily lives and rediscover their surroundings.

Shelf Awareness; Closer to the Ground is a pleasure to read, depicting as it does the days and seasons of a family intent on living joyfully, and providing at the same time a lively meditation on our relationship with nature. I found its buoyant, irrepressible, self-deprecating tone entirely winning, and was drawn in, happily, from page one.

David Guterson, author of *Snow Falling on Cedars* "Closer is a good-humored guide to teaching our kids how to learn from nature as teacher and mentor... You can see in Dylan's kids, the more time they spend foraging and fishing with their dad, just how different their relation is to the food they eat, and how they develop a confidence anyone of any age could envy."

Yvon Chouinard, founder and owner of Patagonia; Tomine finds; a way for regular people to live a little more consciously in a world that underpins the contrails and Twitter feeds of our twenty-first-century civilization. Closer to the Ground is accessible, well written, and optimistic. It is a warm reminder that even on the days when salmon are scarce, it is a kind of sustenance to be in the boat together under the sun and to feel the tension on the lines and the rhythm of shifting water in our bodies.

Orion "When Dylan Tomine was young, he and his friends would scamper throughout the neighborhood picking blackberries. 'If you pick 'em, I'll bake it,' his mom would tell him. It was the remembrance of his mom's steaming, fragrant pies, fresh out of the oven that years later would, in part, make wild food gathering a way in which his family could spend time together in the outdoors. In this beautifully written and heartfelt account, Tomine describes his family's forays into nature. They grow vegetables, fish for salmon, dig for oysters, forage for mushrooms, and hunt for deer. The book is not about survival. Tomine fully admits that they still get much more of their food from the grocery store, but, rather it's a way to raise a family in modern times

while remaining grounded with the natural environment." --National Outdoor Book Awards

Now Updated with Full-Color Photographs and Family-Friendly Recipes ThroughoutHonorable Mention, National Outdoor Book Awards, 2013&#147;A pleasure to read . . . buoyant, irrepressible . . . entirely winning.Ã¢ ¬Â•--David Guterson, author of *Snow Falling On Cedars*A deeply personal story of a father learning to share his love of nature with his children, not through the indoor lens of words or pictures, but directly, palpably, by exploring the natural world as they forage, cook, and eat from the woods and sea.Closer to the Ground captures the beauty and surprise of the natural world &#150; and the ways it teaches us how to live &#150; with humor, gratitude and a nose for adventure as keen as a childÃ¢ ¬â„¢s. It is a book filled with weather, natural history, and many delicious meals.Dylan Tomine, formerly a fly fishing guide, is now a writer, conservation advocate, blueberry farmer, and father, not necessarily in that order. His work has appeared in *The Flyfish Journal*, *The Drake*, *Golfweek*, *The New York Times*, and numerous other publications. He lives with his family on an island in Puget Sound.

Great book dealing with how we work and play and teach our children to respect, enjoy and eat from the natural world that surrounds all of us. The book follows a family through the year, planning, preparing, eating and enjoying the bounty that is outside the door. We can't live in the Hood Canal of Puget Sound, but we all can explore and nurture what is in our own environment and how we can protect it from overuse but also reap its' benefits. As a gardener, the book sets an example on how to plan and grow for your family to maybe not be totally self-sufficient but to enjoy the flavor of home grown food which can be supplemented by food caught or foraged locally. The book has encouraged me to me to study more of what is available in the woods and rivers nearby

I adore this book. When I'm feeling rundown it inspires me and reminds me that the extra work of gardening, canning, raising hens, picking wild fruits, is all worth it. It reminds me why I love this way of life. It's a great pick me up. I've purchased multiple copies and have gifted them to family members and friends who have also been inspired. I really enjoyed this new paperback version with the photos, although I do love the cover of the hardback. Wonderful and enjoyable read!

Having had the benefit of being born in Hawaii and spending my formative and young adult years here and in Washington state, on Whidbey Island, I am grateful for the many outdoor activities and adventures our family experienced together. Like the Tomine family we enjoyed nature's beauty and

bounty, fishing, gathering "ogo" seaweed to pickle in the summers on Oahu's west shore. Hiking in the Koolaus gathering strawberry guava, Lilikoi - passion fruit to make jellies and juice. On Whidbey we lived on a bluff near Oak Harbor, often walking down to the beach during low tides to dig for clams, scooped up smelt, picked and ate all kinds of berries, camped further northcatching crabs and finding oysters too! Truly a wonderful way to grow up, I encourage others to enjoy too! Mahalo!

I recently moved to the Pacific Northwest and was looking for a great book that encompassed my goals and what I moved here for. This book caught me off guard. I was expecting a book on hunting, fishing and foraging in the vein of authors like Steven Rinella or Langdon Cook, but it was more than that. It was about family through and through and the adventures that Dylan Tomine and his family take you through are funny, heartwarming and just make you want to get out there and go fishing and enjoy the company of loved ones. It is what I would expect my father to write for a memoir, poignant and on the mark detailing the journey and that the goal is often the least remembered and that the path is the most cherished memory we have. This is an amazing book that shouldn't be passed up.

Raising our kids in Florida, we were hunter gatherers on and in the Gulf of Mexico for years. Mr. Tomine's stories bring happy nostalgic memories despite the very different locations and specific types of fishing and clamping. The current running throughout is one of enjoying family time, teaching self efficiency and the value of teamwork, and respecting/caring for our God given world in the process. Good stuff!

As a father of 2 young children, much like the author, I find myself trying constantly to simplify our lives and to teach my kids them to appreciate the world around them. Tomine's pragmatism isn't "preachy", but is instead a real model for how to teach our children to savor the amazing world around them. Trying to teach a 3 year old, dinosaur obsessed son how to fish is, as a goal, a recipe for disappointment (as I'm sure many fathers can attest). Instead, a smile and remembering that the goal is the journey itself as Tomine points out, makes it all worthwhile. Absolutely well done and a fantastic read...

Great book about family and working to teach/maintain a strong connection with the natural world and the fulfillment it can provide.

Perfect title for the book. Skillfully written in a way that fills one with a deeper appreciation of nature, food, family and basic values. In a leisurely way, though wonderful story telling, Dylan Tomine informs as he reveals a world filled with wonder, love and life.

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