

For the past twenty-five years, Michael Pollan has been writing books and articles about the places where nature and culture intersect: on our plates, in our farms and gardens, and in the built environment. He is the author of four New York Times bestsellers: *Food Rules: An Eater's Manual* (2010); *In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto* (2008); *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* (2006) and *The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World* (2001). *The Omnivore's Dilemma* was named one of the ten best books of 2006 by both the New York Times and the Washington Post. It also won the California Book Award, the Northern California Book Award, the James Beard Award, and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. A young readers edition called *The Omnivore's Dilemma: the Secrets Behind What You Eat* was published in 2009. *The Botany of Desire* received the Borders Original Voices Award for the best non-fiction work of 2001, and was recognized as a best book of the year by the American Booksellers Association and Amazon.com. PBS premiered a two-hour special documentary based on *The Botany of Desire* in fall 2009. Pollan is also the author of *A Place of My Own* (1997) and *Second Nature* (1991).

Pollan was named to the 2010 *TIME* 100, the magazine's annual list of the world's 100 most influential people. In 2009 he was named by *Newsweek* as one of the top 10 "New Thought Leaders." A contributing writer to *The New York Times Magazine* since 1987, his writing has received numerous awards: he was a finalist for the National Magazine Award in 2009 for best essay; he received the James Beard Award for best magazine series in 2003; the John Burroughs prize in 1997 for best natural history essay; the QPB New Vision Award for his first book, *Second Nature*; the 2000 Reuters-I.U.C.N. Global Award for Environmental Journalism for his reporting on genetically modified crops; the 2003 Humane Society of the United States' Genesis Award for his writing on animal agriculture; the 2008 Truth in Agricultural Journalism Award from the American Cornrowers Association; the 2009 President's Citation Award from the American Institute of Biological Sciences, and the 2009 Voices of Nature Award from the Natural Resources Defense Council. His essays have appeared in many anthologies, including *Best American Essays* (1990 and 2003), *Best American Science Writing* (2004), the *Norton Book of Nature Writing*, and *The New Kings of Non-Fiction*, edited by Ira Glass. In addition to publishing regularly in *The New York Times Magazine*, his articles have appeared in *Harper's Magazine* (where he served as executive editor from 1984 to 1994), *National Geographic*, *Mother Jones*, *The Nation*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Vogue*, *Travel + Leisure*, *Gourmet*, *House & Garden* and *Gardens Illustrated*, among others. In 2009, he appeared in a two-hour PBS special based on *The Botany of Desire* as well as in the documentary, *Food Inc.*, which received an Academy Award nomination.

In 2003, Pollan was appointed the John S. and James L. Knight Professor of Journalism at UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism, and the director of the Knight Program in Science and Environmental Journalism. In addition to teaching, he lectures widely on food, agriculture, health and the environment.

Michael Pollan, who was born in 1955, grew up on Long Island, and was educated at Bennington College, Oxford University, and Columbia University, from which he

received a Master's in English. He lives in the Bay Area with his wife, the painter Judith Belzer, and their son, Isaac.