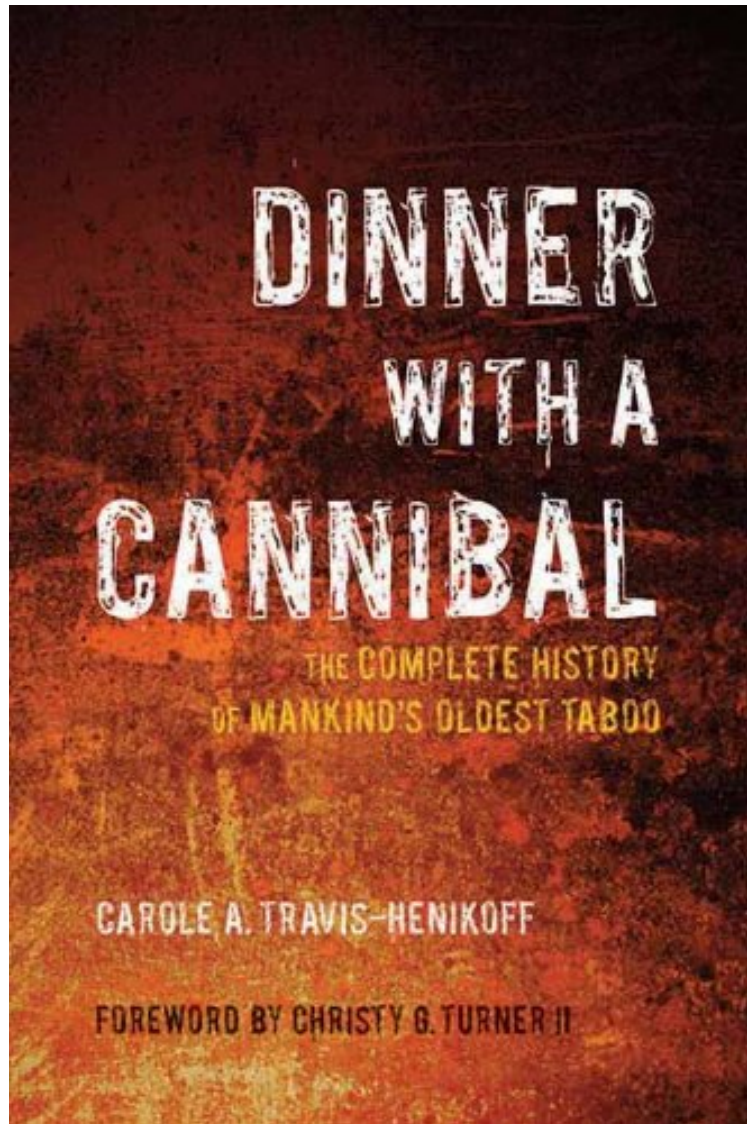


[Free download] Dinner with a Cannibal: The Complete History of Mankind's Oldest Taboo

# Dinner with a Cannibal: The Complete History of Mankind's Oldest Taboo

*Carole A Travis-Henikoff*

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**Carole A Travis-Henikoff : Dinner with a Cannibal: The Complete History of Mankind's Oldest Taboo** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dinner with a Cannibal: The Complete History of Mankind's Oldest Taboo:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. FascinatingBy Zulfikar Yousafzai ReeseThis book was really interesting. I have always had a fascination with this subject as it has always turned my stomach and creeped me out. It

is very different to look at cannibalism in the way the author presents it, but very fascinating. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. PositiveBy Laura HouseThis item came in the condition mentioned, fast shipping and great price for the product. 23 of 34 people found the following review helpful. Sadly the title is the best part of this book. By A. Saunders I'm sorry. I wanted to like this book, I really did. It was referenced in a blog posting of a photographer whom I admire. Interestingly this 20 year old photographer has written a better account of meeting a cannibal than Mrs. Travis-Henikoff. [...] Regardless - this book is simply atrocious. Let's start with basic grammar and story-telling. In well written books most grammatical errors can be overlooked. Comma splices and run-on-sentences can detract from a well crafted tale but won't ruin it. Unfortunately there is no well crafted tale to detract from and Mrs. Travis-Henikoff's overuse of parentheses, commas and colons is just painful. Moving onto the story-telling aspect of the book we are once again left wanting. Oh there are plenty of stories to be told but most of them aren't about cannibals. In an attempt to show that many animals practice cannibalism Mrs. Travis-Henikoff states that salmon die after spawning to provide food for their young (p58). As an Ichthyologist I was amazed at this new fact. Typically salmon eggs hatch 2 months after being laid; too long a time for bodies to lie around waiting to be eaten in bear country. How about Native Americans? In chapter eight we learn that not only did they practice various forms of cannibalism but they converted to Catholicism instead of being burned at the stake so they could continue to practice the Sun Dance ritual. Interesting - offensively naive, but interesting. The Meso-Americans evidently ate meat from arms and legs. Why and when, how was the belief system perpetuated and to what social level you might ask - you could find that information somewhere, but not here. It is telling that a book about cannibals written by an "authority" on the subject contains no references to her scholarly work on the subject. Perhaps that is because "Dinner with a Cannibal" is a literature review at best. Carole A. Travis-Henikoff appears only to fancy herself a cultural anthropologist. She's a poor one at best but, sadly for us, she's an even worse writer.

Presenting the history of cannibalism in concert with human evolution, *Dinner with a Cannibal* takes its readers on an astonishing trip around the world and through history, examining its subject from every angle in order to paint the incredible, multifaceted panoply that is the reality of cannibalism. At the heart of Carole A. Travis-Henikoff's book is the question of how cannibalism began with the human species and how it has become an unspeakable taboo today. At a time when science is being battered by religions and failing teaching methods, *Dinner with a Cannibal* presents slices of multiple sciences in a readable, understandable form nested within a wealth of data. With history, paleoanthropology, science, gore, sex, murder, war, culinary tidbits, medical facts, and anthropology filling its pages, *Dinner with a Cannibal* presents both the light and dark side of the human story; the story of how we came to be all the things we are today.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . "The truth is, we all have cannibals in our closets," writes Travis-Henikoff in her introduction to this meticulously researched, compulsively readable history of mankind's greatest taboo. As she eloquently illustrates, cannibalism has been around for as long as humans, and it's quite possible that its outlaw is a recent development in terms of recorded history. Many readers are no doubt familiar with the Chilean rugby team immortalized in Piers Paul Read's *Alive* (recounted again here), but not with the fact that widespread cannibalism has been documented in parts of war-torn Africa as recently as 2003. Sadistic serial killers and the oft-stereotyped tribesmen of the figure prominently, but where Travis-Henikoff truly excels is in her sociological and anthropological analysis, offering thoughtful insights into the whys of cannibalism, lucidly explaining how cannibalism can begin in a society, as well as its historical employment in times of famine, war and even during a period of political witch hunting in Communist China. A brief but entertaining digression into folklore examines cannibalism in fairy tales such as the Brothers Grimm. Throughout, Travis-Henikoff maintains a thoughtful tone, free of judgment, that frequently challenging readers' beliefs. The result is an eminently enjoyable, albeit very dark exploration of a taboo topic that should give armchair anthropologists, sociologists and historians plenty to chew on. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. A Choice magazine Outstanding Academic Title for 2008