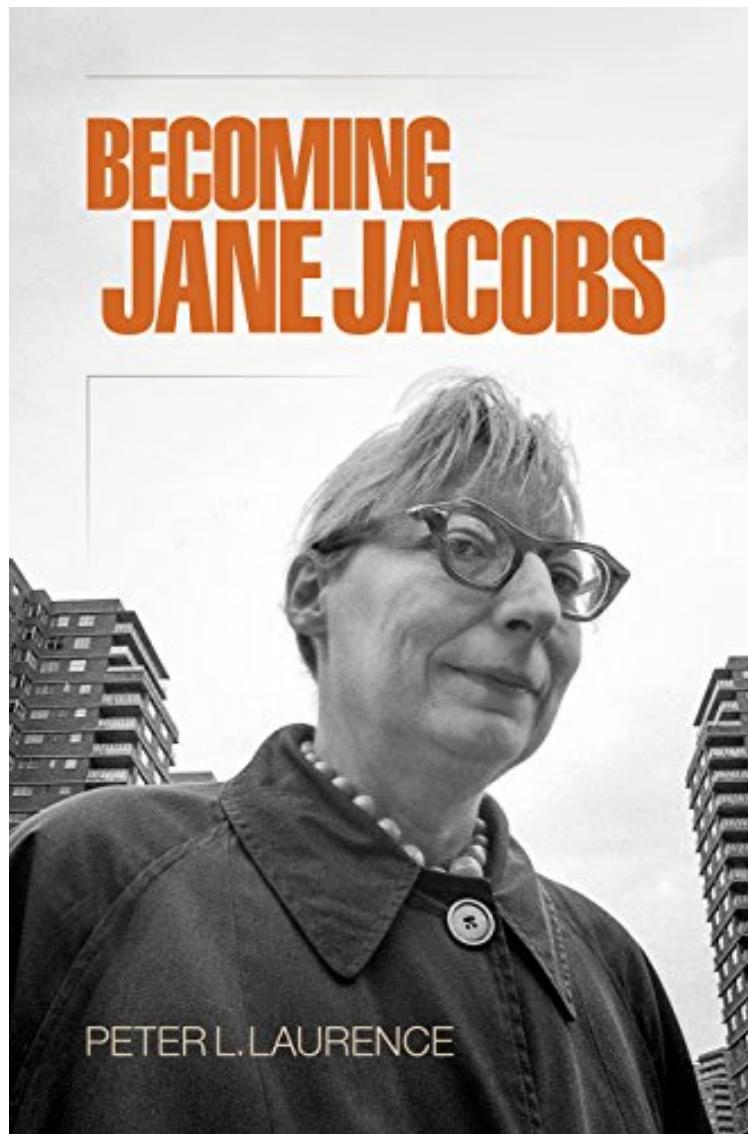


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Becoming Jane Jacobs (The Arts and Intellectual Life in Modern America)

Peter L. Laurence

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Peter L. Laurence : *Becoming Jane Jacobs (The Arts and Intellectual Life in Modern America)* before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Becoming Jane Jacobs (The Arts and Intellectual Life in Modern America)*:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Uniquely Insightful and an Enjoyable ReadBy CustomerThis was an extremely thorough and fascinating look into the life and career of Jacobs. The manner in which it explains the plethora of people and ideas that influenced Jacobs in her work and policies is distinctive compared all other texts I

have read on Jacobs. The book is also very easily readable and compelling; for as rigorously researched as the content of the book is, the tale of Jacobs' life is smooth and feels effortless, a testament to Laurence's skilled biographic storytelling. I would recommend this to students, academics, professionals, and scholars at all levels interested in gaining unique insight into the person, writer, planner, and advocate that was Jane Jacobs.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. ?By John BratlandExcellent1 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy James T. SparkmanGood book.

The result of years of groundbreaking research, *Becoming Jane Jacobs* is the first intellectual biography to focus on Jacobs's early life and writing career leading up to her great book, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. Through an analysis of Jacobs's life and work, including many of her previously unknown writings and other original discoveries, *Becoming Jane Jacobs* offers a new foundation for understanding not only *Death and Life*, but her subsequent books on cities, economies, and civilizations. Jane Jacobs is universally recognized as one of the most important figures in American urbanism, and *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* one of the most important books on cities. However, because of her David-versus-Goliath battles with "Power Broker" Robert Moses and the urban-renewal establishment, Jacobs has received more attention for being an activist than a thinker, despite having written a list of influential books on cities, economies, and other subjects. Her intellectual skills have often been reduced to unusually keen powers of observation and common sense.