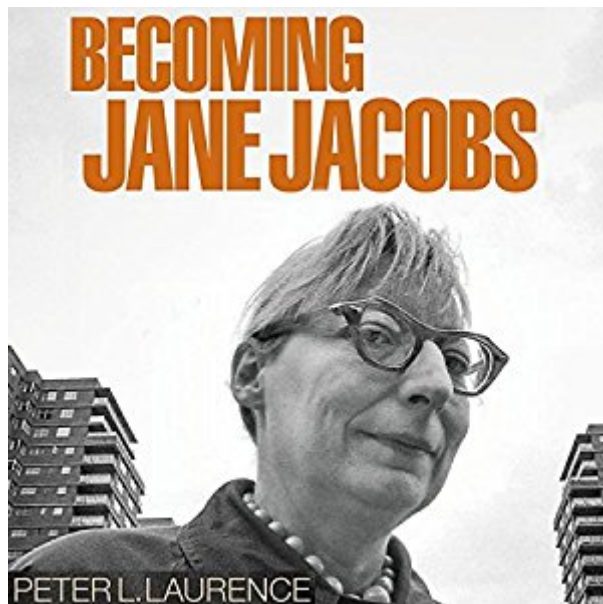


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Becoming Jane Jacobs



Synopsis

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*. 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. In *Becoming Jane Jacobs*, Dr. Peter L. Laurence shows that what is missing from the stereotypes and myths is a critical examination of how Jacobs arrived at her ideas about city life. The audiobook shows that although Jacobs had only a high school diploma, she pursued a writing career that prepared her to become a nationally recognized architectural critic. Jacobs was immersed in an elite community of architects, city planners, and academics as an editor of the Time Inc. magazine *Architectural Forum*. The audiobook is published by University of Pennsylvania Press. "This audiobook is both a worthy tribute to Jacobs's genius, and a brilliant exposition of the broader context of designs and ideas that made her work possible." (Robert Fishman, University of Michigan). "Deeply researched and richly illuminating, Laurence's audiobook will fundamentally change the way we think about Jacobs today." (Joan Ockman, editor of *Architecture Culture 1943-1968: A Documentary Anthology*). "Adds immeasurably to our understanding of her rich, formative years in New York City." (Robert Wojtowicz, Old Dominion University).

Book Information

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#662 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Artists, Writers & Musicians

#725 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Urban & Land Use Planning

Customer Reviews

This 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.

Excellent

Good book.

Great Book !

I had the opportunity to meet both Jane Jacobs (Thanks to Richard Keeley of Boston College, her papers are housed at BC and she visited with students and numerous occasions) and listen to Peter Laurence discuss his book at BC. This fine book does justice to a remarkable life and illuminates an important period in Jane Jacobs development and thinking. It is a must read for people who want to know more about her and who want to explore cities in more depth. Read it along side her book *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* and Caro's *The Power Broker*.

I highly recommend this book, it tells you almost the whole life of Jane Jacobs, you will find what education, people, work experience had an influence lead her to the final Jane Jacob. It inspire me a lot. Because, the author of this book, Peter Laurence, use simple words and clear logic telling the whole story, which make it easy to read. For myself, making a professional article simple is very difficult. Finally, if you are interested in city or architecture, this book will lead you read many related books.

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