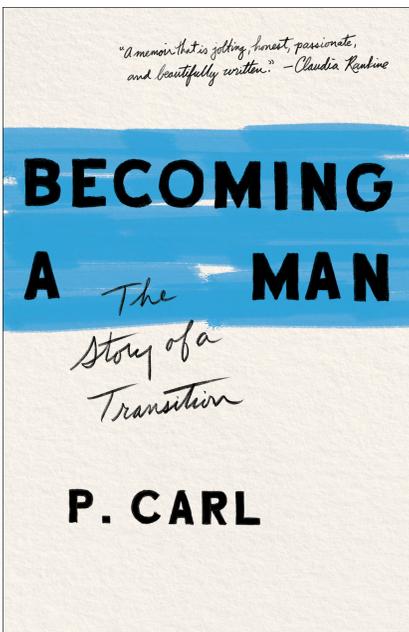


“*Becoming a Man* is a memoir that is jolting, honest, passionate and beautifully written.”
—Claudia Rankine



BECOMING A MAN

The Story of a Transition

P. Carl

SIMON & SCHUSTER | ON SALE: JANUARY 28, 2020 | \$26 | HARDCOVER

“Raw and honest, probing and skeptical, P. Carl’s *Becoming a Man* is thoroughly compelling—a deeply moving meditation on love, loss, and what makes a self.”

—Elizabeth Kolbert

“*Becoming a Man* is a fierce and thoughtful memoir of a transitioning body. In grappling with his own biology, gender theory, politics, and relationships, P. Carl has proven himself an indispensable voice in the conversation around gender identity. His story is a galvanizing call to action: to love, embrace, and fight for transgender lives.”

—Jill Soloway, creator and showrunner of *Transparent*

“In *Becoming a Man*, P. Carl movingly and incisively conveys experiences that range from self-perception to mortality itself; experiences that matter to all of us, regardless of our sexual identities. *Becoming a Man* is a profound human story.”

—Michael Cunningham, author of *The Hours*

“This moving narrative illuminates the joy, courage, necessity, and risk-taking of his gender transition and the ways his loved ones became affected and eventually enriched by it. A passionate, eloquent memoir about how “complex stories of humanity [and] our capacity for imagination are what give us hope.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“In this deeply personal and moving debut memoir, theater writer Carl shares the story of his difficult yet triumphant gender transition.... Carl’s honest, timely musings illustrate the deep ruminations that can arise about one’s assigned gender at birth and the gender one becomes. Carl’s thoughts about sexuality and his compassionate feelings for sexual assault survivors will captivate readers from the first page to the last.”

—Publishers Weekly

“In a scrupulously honest memoir, P. Carl examines how his transition upended both his marriage and his notions of white masculinity.”

—O, *The Oprah Magazine*

BECOMING A MAN is the striking memoir of P. Carl’s journey to become the man he always knew himself to be.

For fifty years, he lived as a girl and a queer woman, building a career as an award-winning producer and

dramaturg as well as a loving marriage, yet still waiting to realize himself in full. As Carl embarks on his gender

transition, he takes us inside the complex shifts and questions that arise throughout—the alternating moments

of arrival and estrangement. He writes intimately about how transitioning reconfigures both his own inner experience and his closest bonds—his twenty-year relationship with his wife, Lynette; his already tumultuous relationships with his parents; and seemingly solid friendships that are subtly altered, often painfully and wordlessly.

“On March 16 of 2017 I become a man, a white man,” writes Carl, just months after Trump’s election, two months shy of Carl’s fifty-first birthday, and just a few more months away from the eruption of the #MeToo movement. Carl blends the remarkable story of his own personal journey with incisive cultural commentary, writing brilliantly about gender, power, and inequality in America. Carl’s quest to become himself and to reckon with his masculinity mirrors, in many ways, the challenge before the country as a whole, to imagine a society where every member can have a vibrant, livable life. Here, through this brave and deeply personal work, Carl brings an unparalleled new voice to this conversation. A letter to his wife Lynette – “I wonder as I write this what you miss most” – is a particularly emotional tribute to how transition impacts relationships. Having moved through the world for decades as a woman before walking those same streets as a man, Carl uses his first-hand experience to shine a light on the subtle double standards and injustices that run through daily the daily lives of millions in America. Even as Carl is finally able to celebrate his arrival in the world as the man he has always known himself to be, he must reimagine masculinity and challenge it. “To construct that man,” he writes, “knowing what I know as a woman, is my work now.”



ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

P. Carl is a Distinguished Artist-in-Residence at Emerson College in Boston and was awarded a 2017 Art of Change Fellowship from the Ford Foundation, the Berlin Prize fellowship from the American Academy for the Fall of 2018, the Andrew W. Mellon Creative Research Residency at the University of Washington, and the Anschutz Fellowship at Princeton for spring of 2020. He made theater for twenty years and now writes, teaches, travels, mountain climbs, and swims. He resides in Boston and lives with his wife of twenty-two years, the writer Lynette D’Amico. *Becoming a Man* is his first book.