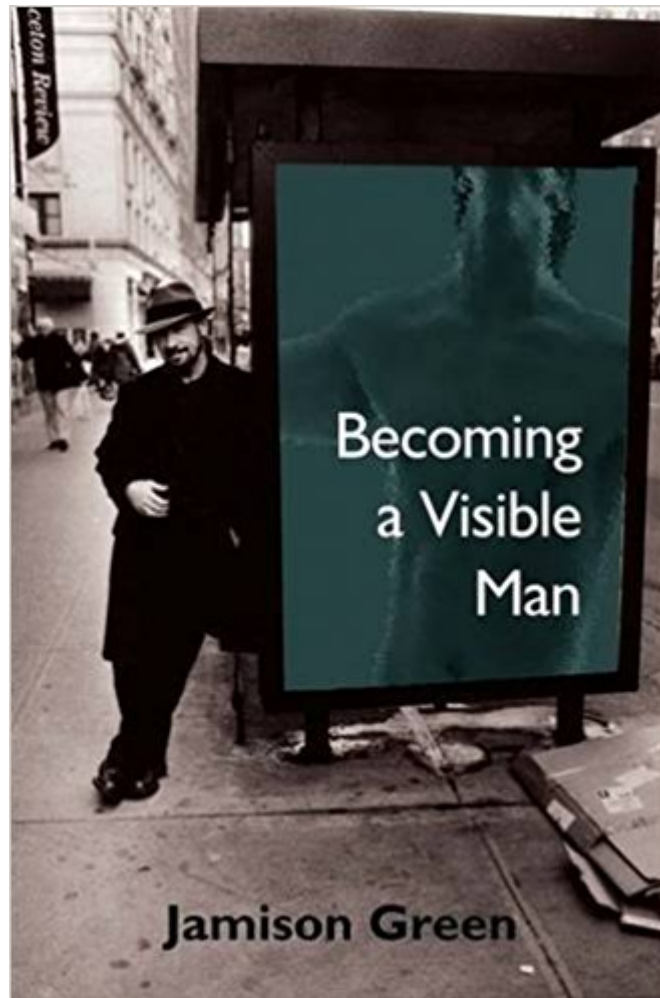




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# Becoming A Visible Man



## Synopsis

Best Book in Transgender Studies, 2005 Winner, Center for Lesbian & Gay Studies (CLAGS), NY2005 Lambda Literary Award FinalistWritten by a leading activist in the transgender movement, *Becoming a Visible Man* is an artful and compelling inquiry into the politics of gender. Jamison Green combines candid autobiography with informed analysis to offer unique insight into the multiple challenges of the female-to-male transsexual experience, ranging from encounters with prejudice and strained relationships with family to the development of an FTM community and the realities of surgical sex reassignment. For more than a decade, Green has provided educational programs on gender-variance issues for corporations, law-enforcement agencies, social-science conferences and classes, continuing legal education, religious education, and medical venues. His comprehensive knowledge of the processes and problems encountered by transgendered and transsexual people— as well as his legal advocacy work to help ensure that gender-variant people have access to the same rights and opportunities as others— enable him to explain the issues as no transsexual author has previously done. Brimming with frank and often poignant recollections of Green's own experiences— including his childhood struggles with identity and his years as a lesbian parent prior to his sex-reassignment surgery— the book examines transsexualism as a human condition, and sex reassignment as one of the choices that some people feel compelled to make in order to manage their gender variance. Relating the FTM psyche and experience to the social and political forces at work in American society, *Becoming a Visible Man* also speaks consciously of universal principles that concern us all, particularly the need to live one's life honestly, openly, and passionately.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gender goes beyond chromosomes, a point broadly knowledgeable transgender activist Green makes early in the compelling, immensely readable story of his FTM (female-to-male: Jamie to Jamison) transsexual experience, from which he emerged fortysomething chronologically yet younger than 20 psychosexually as a consequence of biochemical and surgical sex reassignment. In discussing adjustment to a man's body, Green remarks that those whose bodies originally "match their gender identity take their bodies for granted in the process of identity formation"--a luxury "transgendered and transsexual people don't have." Perhaps nontranssexuals may more easily grasp Green's journey from Jamie to Jamison via the concept of realizing personal integrity, and thereby gain immeasurably from his testimony. Meanwhile, they will be educated by Green's detailed descriptions of available transsexual surgeries--he underwent metoidioplasty, the transformation of female genitalia into a male-appearing organ that, sometimes called a micropenis, is significantly smaller than average for penises, though functionally normal--and by his summary of his expenses since 1989 and his comparison of them to the costs of similar procedures today.

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"Jamison Green tells, with integrity, and in a moving and thoughtful way, his story." [Dallas Denny](#), Editor, *Transgender Tapestry Journal*"An intelligent and engaging book. Jamison Green, an extraordinary activist and advocate for FTM transsexuals, demonstrates that he is also an extraordinary writer. Green artfully blends the personal, the informative, and the political, and grounds it all in a generous vision of inclusive communities. He makes a thoughtful and persuasive case for making gender visible." [Joanne Meyerowitz](#), author of *How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality in the United States*"When the premier trans-activist of a generation decides to write a memoir, we should be grateful. When Jamison Green weaves his personal and political experiences into a magnificent story it is all the more reason to celebrate. *Becoming a Visible Man* shows why he is a leading voice to a generation of transmen and transwomen and why this issue should be on the top of the agenda for all of us in the twenty-first century." [Henry Rubin](#), author of *Self-Made Men*"Jamison Green has given a great gift--based on experience born of a great personal journey, he demystifies gender in a way that transfixes the reader. The biological journey from zygote to adulthood unfolds to challenge the neat little boxes into which our culture

drives gender each day. This is an essential contribution to the growing body of literature on gender identity and expression."~ Elizabeth Birch, former Executive Director, Human Rights Campaign

I found this book to be extremely informative. It gives a good account of the history of transmen (and, to a degree, transsexuals in general) over the past few decades. Jamison Green tells his personal account as a transman and intersperses segments about what was happening socially, nationally and internationally for transmen during his lifetime. His broadened perspective on the state of transmen and transsexuals in general comes from his personal involvement in FTM International and his activism on the subject. If you're looking for a good study and historical account of transmen and transsexuals over the past few decades, then this is the book for you; if you're looking for a very personal, emotional account of the transformation itself, then I would recommend "The Testosterone Files" by Max Wolf Valerio. Both are very good books and I highly recommend both of them to anyone interested in learning more about transsexuals.

Best book I have read on the subject. Very thoughtful and clear. Amazingly honest and open about his process. I have recommended this book to countless people, both transgender and CIS-gender, for more understanding on the topic. The first chapter alone is great for a complete eye opener on gender and how most take it for granted. Also explains that gender has nothing to do with what is in ones pants; long before Janet Mock's book (sorry Oprah, Janet wasn't the first).

Helpful in its moments of the "nuts and bolts" of transitioning, I've found it even more useful for the insights shared by Mr. Green - the struggle determining oneself to be lesbian or trans (not to set up another binary), the sense of 'normality' induced by hormones, those were the big pieces for me. I also appreciated the historical perspective. I will say that at times, I had trouble following the timelines.

Excellent book. I can really relate. This should be required reading of healthcare providers, teacher, parents and anyone else who deals with people. I suppose that would mean everyone!!!

It's a very good book, because it's one of the very best books I've ever read on trans issues. It's good if you need it for a positive outlook on transitioning. It's a book that has helped me as a person and I know that this book can help other guys out there see that they're not alone and there is a

good way to transition. Green, explores his own experiences and tells them in great detail. He's very educational and has helped me get through some tough times. It's a book I couldn't help not buying. It's in my library when I need to go back and see that I don't need to apologize for who I am.

When I first entertained the idea of dating a FTM, I was slightly overwhelmed by the myriad of questions in my head. From everyday situations, to intimate matters, my mind was filled with wonder. For me, education is key (that goes for everything) and I wanted to learn everything I could about the man I was falling in love with. Finding myself face-to-face with Jamison Green's *Becoming a Visible Man* had me mesmerized. I could not put this book down and in learning more about the transition process, found myself falling even more in love with my FTM. I found this book easy to read, simple to understand and very helpful with all those burning questions swimming around in my head. I learned 'gender' and 'sex' are two completely different matters. I learned that any person on their road to self-discovery and transition is not only brave, but the most honest a person can be. I also learned that when we accept the transgender community, we are enabling each of us to be the best of what is possible. If only all of society would educate themselves about the transgender community; people would learn that your sexual organs do not make up who you are as a gender. Ignorance breeds hatred and unfair prejudice. Jamison's book helps teach us that we are all born human beings, and that the journey of a transgendered person is not by choice, but rather necessity. I applaud Mr. Greene for sharing such intimate details of his personal story and anyone who is courageously transitioning. So many passages resonated with me in this book, but I will close with one of my favorites: "If we are concerned that others will perceive our physical differences as laughable deficiencies, the answer is not to dehumanize and desensitize ourselves so we can manage rejection, but to sensitize others to appreciate us, and to learn to manage our own self-doubts so that others will be able to see worthy partners in us".

Love this book. Bought it after hearing the author speak. Have passed it along to several others. Stunningly honest, an authentic voice with an important story to share. Thank you Jamison Green!

Very informative. Can be a bit academic at times but there is much to connect with for those who are in the process of transition or are trans-gender. He talks about many people's experiences as well as his own I do find it a bit of a slow read but it is packed with helpful information and perspective. Jameson Green is clearly an intelligent and articulate writer.

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