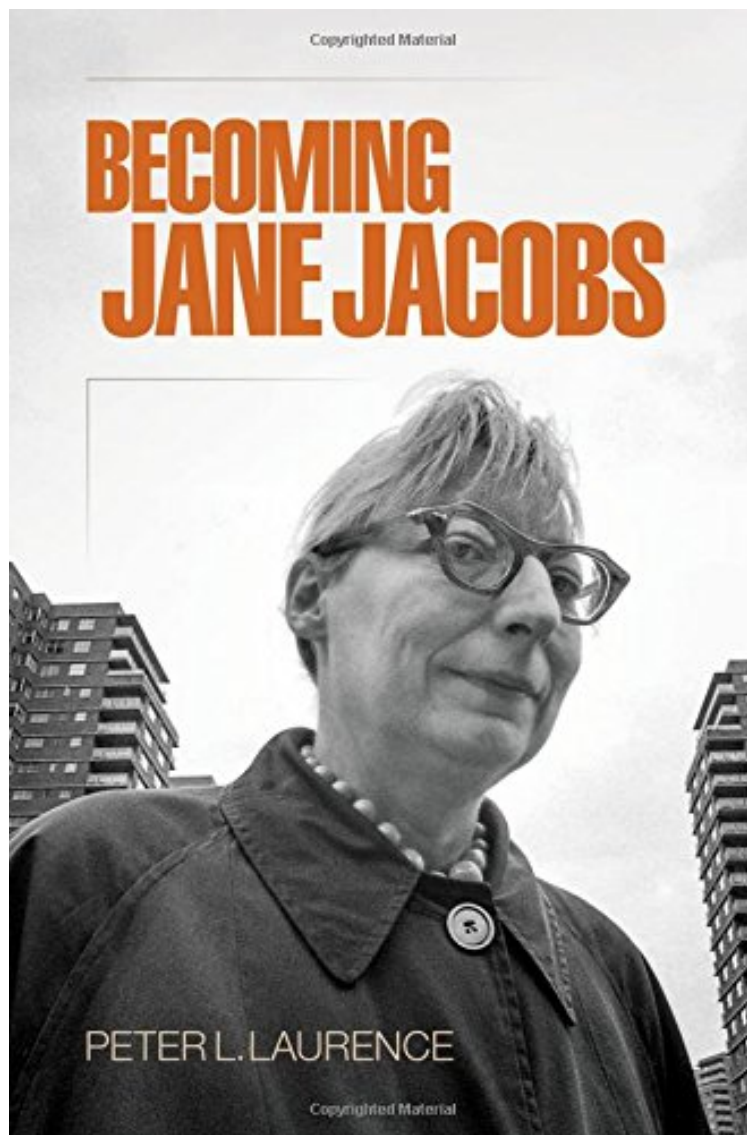


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## Becoming Jane Jacobs

*Peter L. Laurence*

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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.