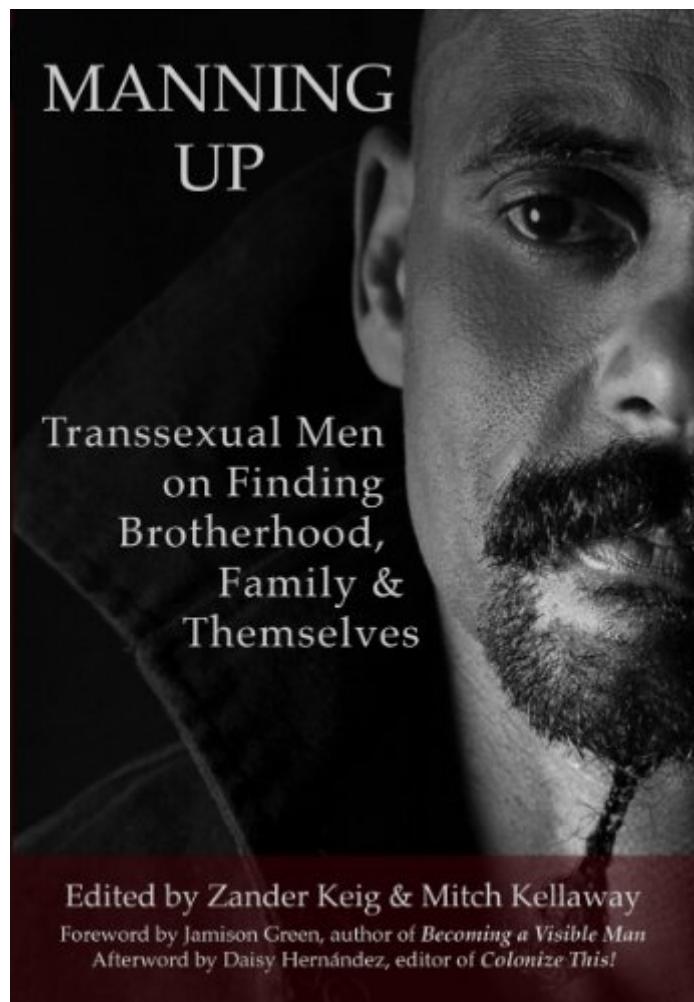


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# Manning Up: Transsexual Men On Finding Brotherhood, Family, And Themselves



## **Synopsis**

Twenty-seven men who transitioned from female to male discuss their roles as male community members: fathers, sons, brothers, husbands, boyfriends, friends, and mentors. Not since Max Wolf Valerio's The Testosterone Files and Jamison Green's *Becoming a Visible Man* has nonfiction seen such thorough and sensitive explorations of manhood, masculinity, and male embodiment and never in a collection with such a diversity of voices. Contributors offer an incredible range of cultural, class, ethnic, spiritual, and generational backgrounds. Their work addresses topics including birthing and raising children, gay male sexuality, facing racism, and finding solace in deeply held religious beliefs. Contributors include established writers such as Valerio, Aaron Devor (author of *FTM: Female-to-Male Transsexuals in Society*) and Ryan Sallans (author of *Second Son*), as well as exciting new authors.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I bought this book because transmen are the part of the LGBT community I felt I understood the least, as I don't have many (any) in the circle of friends that are close enough to allow for talking about gender identity. After reading the intro, I was worried I would be angry throughout the whole book. With my background and gender experience, I have little patience for people who speak of

"manning up" as if there's something men have to do to lift themselves *\*above\** women and children, as well as for pressures for men to act a certain way to be taken seriously. I also missed out on the part of social development where we want to "present" ourselves to the world around us-- where we want to dress in a way that shows our personality or whatever-- so the concept of being so concerned about showing ones gender is confusing to me. But once the individual stories started, everything was honest and laid bare. It's been a wonderful read, fascinating and enlightening without being a skeevy reveal all ("oh that's how they do it"). The group of men is diverse, different ages, ethnicities, and religions. And very different life paths. They've given me insights into parts of their life I never would have thought about. I still want to shake every person who ever tried to force these men into a skirt growing up, but I'm no longer bewildered as to why someone would insist that others treat them as they treat men. They all are being true to themselves, and trying to show themselves as honestly as they can to the world around them. It's not an impulse I share, but it's one I can recognize as inherent to these men.

I purchased this book being a trans man myself for the past 18 years and searching for answers to questions that have haunted me my entire life. The read is excellent, and I could not help but feel so much fellowship with the other trans men as I read their accounts of transition and becoming self-made men. The title is so keen in its meaning, and I can personally relate to the accounts present in this book. Recommend this to all fellow trans men and their significant others, family, and therapists. I found this book EXTERMELY HELPFUL to myself by specifically shining a light on my past experiences growing up and allowing me to understand that I have not been alone all these years. There have always been men like myself searching for ways to live their lives authenically, and that gives me courage to continue and "man up" to the challenges I will face ahead.

Manning Up is an inspirational, thought-provoking book with a diverse collections of stories by transgender men. The stories, relatable to transgender and cisgender people alike, show resilience, courage, compassion, and human struggle. These personal stories humanize the experiences of transgender people and provide wonderful perspective on both diversity within the transgender community and the shared struggle and challenges that come along with being transgender. I highly recommend that everyone pick up this book and become engulfed in the powerfully-told stories in this collection.

This is a excellent book! Truly 1 of a kind. Very inspirational!

I enjoyed this book of essays although I was expecting more "how to" details. Most authors began their transitions before the age of 35, which seemed somewhat repetitive. Then I read of a man who began his transition as a mature adult after having been a wife, mother and Christian minister and found the story inspiring. If you want to know how transmen feel about their transitions, this will be an interesting read.

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