

Man Alive: A True Story of Violence, Forgiveness and Becoming a Man (City Lights/Sister Spit)

Thomas Page McBee

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"Thomas Page McBee's *Man Alive* hurtled through my life. I read it in a matter of hours. It's a confession, it's a poem, it's a time warp, it's a brilliant work of art. I bow down to McBee—his humility, his sense of humor, his insightfulness, his structural deftness, his ability to put into words what is often said but rarely, with such visceral clarity and beauty, communicated."—**Heidi Julavits**, author of *The Vanishers* and *The Uses of Enchantment*

What does it really mean to be a man?

In *Man Alive*, Thomas Page McBee attempts to answer that question by focusing on two of the men who most impacted his life&mash;one, his otherwise ordinary father who abused him as a child, and the other, a mugger who almost killed him. Standing at the brink of the life-changing decision to transition from female to male, McBee seeks to understand these examples of flawed manhood and tells us how a brush with violence sent him on the quest to untangle a sinister past, and freed him to become the man he was meant to be.

Man Alive engages an extraordinary personal story to tell a universal one—how we all struggle to create ourselves, and how this struggle often requires risks. Far from a transgender transition tell-all, *Man Alive* grapples with the larger questions of legacy and forgiveness, love and violence, agency and invisibility.

Praise for Man Alive:

"Man Alive is a sweet, tender hurt of a memoir ... about forgiveness and self-discovery, but mostly it's about love, so much love. McBee takes us in his capable hands and shows us what it takes to become a man who is gloriously, gloriously alive."—**Roxane Gay**, author of *Bad Feminist* and *An Untamed State*

"Thomas Page McBee's story of how he came to claim both his past and his future is by turns despairing and hopeful, exceptional and relatable. To read it is to witness the birth of a fuller, truer self. I loved this book."—Ann Friedman, columnist, *New York Magazine*

"'Whoever's child I am, my body belongs to me,' McBee writes, and his book is an elegant, generous transcription of the journey toward this incandescent, non-aggrandized, life-sustaining form of self-possession—the kind that emanates from dispossession, rather than running from it."—**Maggie Nelson**, author of *Bluets* and *The Art of Cruelty: A Reckoning*

"Well aware that memory and identity rarely follow a linear path, Thomas Page McBee attempts to answer the question, 'What does it really mean to be a man?' Weaving past and present to do so, the book's journey connects violence, masculinity and forgiveness. McBee has an intelligent heart, and it beats in every sentence of this gorgeous book."—Saeed Jones, author of *Prelude to Bruise*

"Exquisitely written and bristling with emotion, this important book reminds us of how much vulnerability

and violence inheres to any identity. A real achievement of form and narrative."—Jack Halberstam, author of The Queer Art of Failure

About the Author:

Thomas Page McBee was the "masculinity expert" for VICE and writes the columns "Self-Made Man" for The Rumpus and "The American Man" for Pacific Standard. His essays and reportage have appeared in the the New York Times, The Atlantic.com, Salon, and BuzzFeed, where he was a regular contributor on gender issues. He lives in New York City where he works as the editor of special projects at Quartz, and is currently at work on a book about modern American masculinity.



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From reader reviews:

Carissa Taylor:

As people who live in the particular modest era should be up-date about what going on or information even knowledge to make all of them keep up with the era which can be always change and move forward. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to anyone is you don't know what type you should start with. This Man Alive: A True Story of Violence, Forgiveness and Becoming a Man (City Lights/Sister Spit) is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Amy Mueller:

People live in this new day of lifestyle always try and and must have the spare time or they will get wide range of stress from both day to day life and work. So, if we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not only a robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity are you experiencing when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer may unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading guides. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, the actual book you have read is Man Alive: A True Story of Violence, Forgiveness and Becoming a Man (City Lights/Sister Spit).

Barbara Corbin:

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Doris Garcia:

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