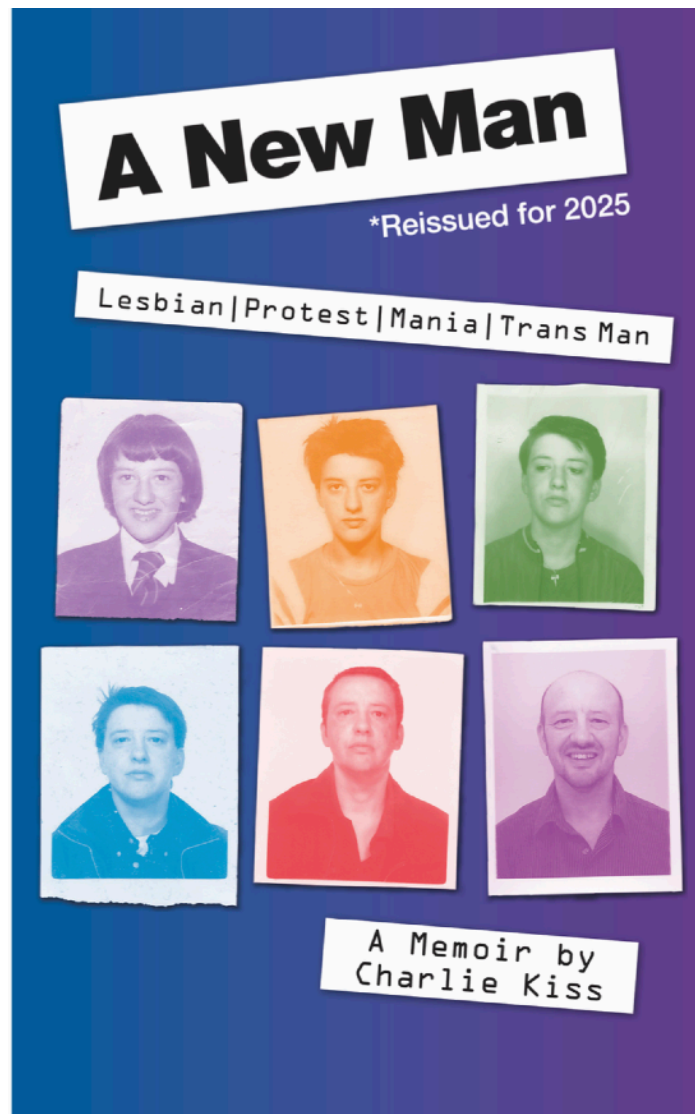


Charlie Kiss: A New Man

Talking points



A New Man

About Charlie Kiss

Charlie Kiss was a prominent British political campaigner, trades unionist and trans pioneer. Born in London in 1965, Charlie became the first openly transgender man to run for Parliament in the UK, standing as Green Party candidate for Islington South & Finsbury in 2015.

Charlie published his memoir, *A New Man*, in 2017. It chronicles his extraordinary journey from proud lesbian and feminist, through the crisis of gender dysphoria to his eventually transition to a new and far more stable life as a man.



Charlie died from the lung condition IPF in 2022. His book was reissued in 2025 with all proceeds donated to the Charlie Kiss Fund, established to provide mental health support and counselling for trans people through CliniQ at King's College Hospital in London.

Talking points

Charlie's voice

- Which moments in Charlie's story did you find particularly surprising or intriguing?
- How does the book challenge misconceptions about trans identities?
- Which moments really stood out to you as epitomising Charlie's struggle and self realisation?
- How would you describe Charlie's writing style? What does his use of language suggest about his personality?

Empathy and understanding

- How does the book foster empathy for those with different journeys?
- Did this book challenge any of your own assumptions or preconceptions about transition?
- Were there any moments in the book that particularly resonated with your own experience or perspective?
- What moments in the book reveal Charlie's vulnerability, and why are they impactful?

Changing the narrative:

- Discuss the impact of Charlie's transition on his family, friendships, and romantic relationships.
- How have attitudes toward transgender people evolved since Charlie's story began? How might his story be different today?
- How does this book contribute to changing societal narratives about transgender lives?
- How does this memoir align with or differ from others you have learned about?
- What actionable insights can allies take from Charlie's experiences?

Creative writing & reflection - practical exercises

- Create a collaborative timeline of the political, social and LGBT+ situation in the UK, integrating events mentioned in *A New Man*.
- In small groups, create an empathy map for Charlie at a key moment in the book, focusing on his thoughts, feelings, words, and actions.
- Write a letter to Charlie as if you were supporting him during a challenging time in his story.
- Compare this memoir with another trans narrative, such as *To Be A Trans Man: Our Stories of Transition, Acceptance and Joy* by Ezra Woodger, *She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders* by Jennifer Finney Boylan, or suggest another memoir you have learned from.

Thank you!

These discussion points were compiled by Charlie's family. We know Charlie would be delighted that his book is still being read, and shared and discussed.

If you have any suggestions for further talking points, or any other feedback about the issues we've explored here, please let us know on info@charliekissfund.org

Resources

- **Charlie Kiss obituary**
The Guardian, 23 June 2022
- **Charlie Kiss Archive**
Bishopsgate Institute
- **Prison is a desperate place if you're trans - I was lucky, others are in hell**
The Guardian, 4 December 2015
- **The idea that trans men are 'lesbians in denial' is demeaning and wrong**
The Economist, 3 July 2018
- **Remembering Charlie Kiss**
Charlie Kiss Fund
- **A New Man**
Housmans, radical booksellers