

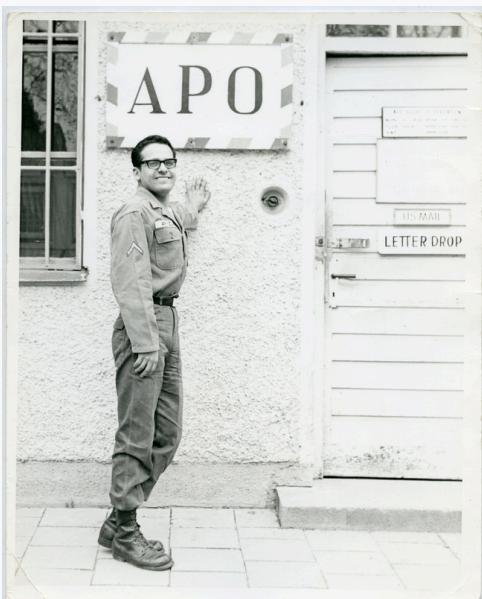
FROM BARRIO TO  
TRANSGENDER PIONEER

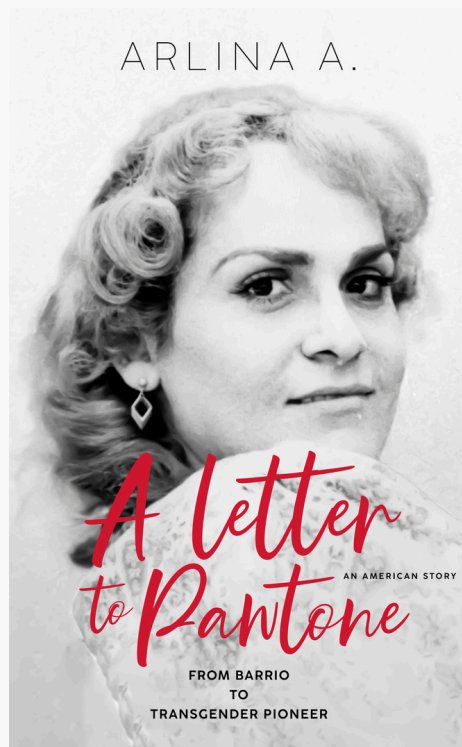
# ARLINA A



*ABOUT*  
ARLINA A

The story of Arlina A is one of resilience, devotion, and courage. She began life as a male and later became one of the first generation of transgender people in the US.





## A LETTER TO PAWTONE

Becoming Arlina is a poignant and inspiring autobiography that chronicles the extraordinary life of Arlina, one of the first individuals in the United States to undergo gender reassignment surgery in 1972. Born as Arnold in 1934 in Phoenix, Arizona, to Mexican immigrant parents, Arlina's story unfolds through her personal diary entries, starting from the tender age of seven. Growing up in the vibrant landscapes of Arizona and Los Angeles, Arlina's early years are painted with colorful references to TV shows, movies, and music that shaped her youth. Despite the societal expectations and norms of the time, young Arnold always felt a disconnect between the body and soul.

After being drafted into the Army during the 1960s, Arnold made the bold decision to undergo gender reassignment surgery, changing everything about his life and identity. He became Arlina, a groundbreaking and courageous step that set her on the path to becoming her true self.

Settling in Monterey, California, Arlina achieved her dream of living in the picturesque town she adored, working for the Postal Service throughout her career. Her narrative is a testament to her unwavering devotion to her parents, her deep faith, and her relentless pursuit of authenticity.

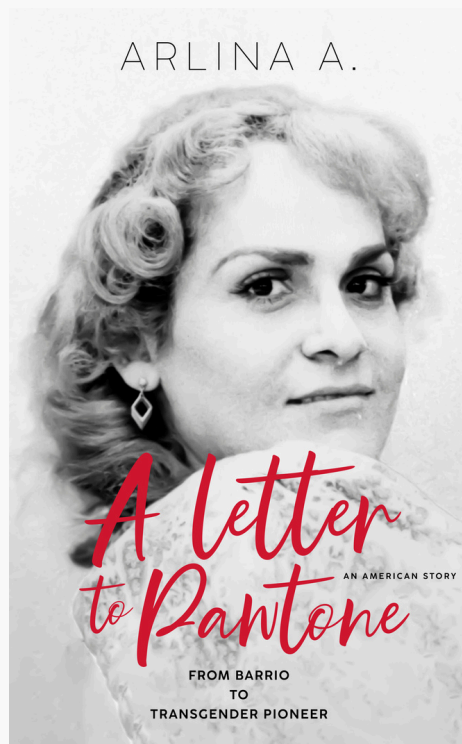
Becoming Arlina is not just a personal memoir; it is a powerful reflection on identity, resilience, and the transformative power of living one's truth. Arlina's story is a beacon of hope and inspiration, shedding light on the struggles and triumphs of the transgender community, and the enduring human spirit.

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## A LETTER TO PAWTONE

### Questions You Might Want To Ask Arlina

- Your book is titled *A Letter to Pawtone*—what is the significance of that title, and how does it reflect your story?
- In 1972, you became one of the first people in the US to receive gender reassignment surgery. Can you share what that experience was like and how it challenged societal norms of the time?
- Given the heated political debates surrounding transgender rights today, how do you feel your story challenges the arguments of those who oppose gender-affirming care and transgender representation?
- How do you see your story contributing to the current dialogue around transgender rights and acceptance in a world that still struggles with intolerance?
- What advice would you give to individuals who are currently struggling with their gender identity or facing similar challenges in an increasingly polarized environment?

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