

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

MBM Press

Contact: Darwin S. Ward

Tel: 608-445-6530

Email: mbigmistake@gmail.com

Web: <http://www.lulu.com/content/1002557> or <http://www.roomofonesown.com>

Local Author's First Novel Tackles Transgender Issues and Lesbian Life in Chicago

February 25, 2008, Madison, Wisconsin- Darwin Ward will be reading from and signing copies of her first novel, *Becoming Alec*, at Room of One's Own on Friday, March 14, 2008 at 6pm.

Sashe Mishur, event coordinator for Room of One's Own Feminist Bookstore in Madison, WI says of *Becoming Alec*, "My girlfriend and I are very impressed by how Darwin got the dynamics and feel of butch/femme relationships right in this novel. Not many do."

Ward published the book on a print-on-demand basis through Lulu.com and her own publishing company, MBM Press. Copies of the novel are available at Room of One's Own bookstore.

The novel includes an intimate look at the emotional and physical changes that the main character and his friends, family, and lovers go through as he finds his identity. Though the book is set in Chicago, Madisonians will find plenty of familiar references to their hometown too.

Becoming Alec is a coming of age story as well as a story of putting one's demons to sleep. It describes in intimate detail the process of gender transition, while also touching on the ideological conflicts between the butch-femme community and the FTM (female-to-male) community. The story also highlights how people can choose to form unique and unconventional families as well as unique and unconventional gender identities. While a few memoirs and collections of essays have been published on FTM issues, few fictional works on the topic are currently available.

Jamison Green, internationally respected FTM and author of *Becoming a Visible Man* says, "Honest and heart-felt, Darwin Ward's characters ring true. Ward's story is firmly grounded in working class experience and values, and explores the struggles of transmen in the Midwest . An FTM story that can speak to anyone who has worked hard to survive and to be her- or himself."

*****END*****