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**“[A] powerful and fast-paced novel. . . . An acute, sharp-angled love story with a rare sense of history.”** —*Kirkus Reviews*

“Upon finishing Ward’s tantalizingly spare yet precisely powerful novel, readers will want to start all over again, looking for the clues they missed the first time around when Ward, like a cunning magician, so deftly led them astray.”— ★ *Booklist*, starred review

“In Ward’s cinematic third novel, **FORGIVE ME**, the Austin writer beautifully spans the physical and social divide between Cape Town, in the waning days of apartheid, and Cape Cod, where journalist Nadine Morgan wrestles with the all-consuming ambition that finds her both single and childless but desperately wanting to return as a reporter to South Africa. . . . Ward avoids glib answers, preferring to question the differences between perpetrators and victims--and ask who deserves to be forgiven.”—*Texas Monthly*

## **FORGIVE ME**

A new novel by **Amanda Eyre Ward**, the acclaimed author of *How to Be Lost*

A Random House Hardcover, On sale date: June 19, 2007

**FORGIVE ME** is inspired by the true story of American Fulbright scholar Amy Biehl, who was stoned to death in South Africa while driving her student home from school. When Mandela came to power, her killers came before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to apply for amnesty. Amy’s parents flew from the U.S. to watch their daughter’s killers confess, and then be set free. Amanda Ward traveled to the townships of South Africa to research her story and to try to understand firsthand the country that she is so fascinated with.

An unforgettable story of betrayal and redemption, **FORGIVE ME** explores the ideas of truth and forgiveness through its main character Nadine, a young, ambitious journalist who covers events all over the world. Since an earlier assignment in Cape Town ended in personal tragedy, Nadine has not returned to South Africa until she hears about Jason Irving, an American student, who was beaten to death by local youths at the height of apartheid. Nadine travels to South Africa to cover the trial. In a story that blends the past with the present, and the personal with the political, this is an exciting new work by an acclaimed, young writer.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** **Amanda Eyre Ward** was born in New York City, and graduated from Williams College and the University of Montana. Amanda’s first novel, *Sleep Toward Heaven*, was optioned by Sandra Bullock and Warner Brothers. Her second novel, *How to Be Lost*, was chosen as a Target Bookmarked pick and has been published in 15 countries. Amanda’s new novel, *Forgive Me*, will be published in June, 2007, by Random House. Learn more about Amanda Ward at [www.amandaward.com](http://www.amandaward.com).

### **Praise for Amanda Eyre Ward’s *How to Be Lost***

"Romantic disappointment isn't the only kind of heartbreak. It can happen just as painfully between parents and kids, siblings and friends. In this novel about a woman searching for a missing sister, Ward explores ruptured relationships with clarity and hope."--*Glamour*

"The narrative is so engrossing, so propelling, you're surprised to come upon the last page. At the end of the day, it's a damn good story."--*Time Out New York*

“Engaging...it invites comparison to *The Lovely Bones*. In the end, it's not the plot but Ward's depiction of family, with its attendant love and guilt, that will keep you turning pages.”--*People*

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“Ward, author of the celebrated *Sleep Toward Heaven*, chronicles Caroline's tale with vivid eloquence, clarity, and dark, nuanced humor...*How to Be Lost* insinuates itself into a compelling little page turner, as driven by personal revelation as by solving the mystery of Ellie's disappearance. And Ward keeps the book lively with provocative tangents and twists along the way.”--*Boston Globe*

“Ward's prose is clear-headed and crisp.”--*Entertainment Weekly*

“Ward manages family squabbles with ease. Her dialogue feels natural, and her sibling arguments that resume with each holiday are too real...It is a fun, satisfying, and sometimes painful read with endearingly defective characters.”--*Times-Picayune*

“[It] demonstrates sensitivity to family interaction and a stylistic facility that expresses both warm irony and hangover reality...affecting...sustains suspense to the very end and brings a tear to the eye.”--*Denver Post*

“Ward writes with authority, humor, intelligence and poignancy, and these qualities make the book hard to put down... moving, credible and absorbing.”--*Chicago Tribune*

“The haunting story of a functionally dysfunctional family and the way the disappearance of one sister haunts the others...this affecting tale is already finding its following.”--*New York Post*

“This is one of those sink-your-teeth-into-it novels that reminds you why you loved to read in the first place... Ward's characters are engaging and realistic. The ending is likely to elicit tears, but they will be well-earned. *How to Be Lost* is a terrific read.”--*Charlotte Observer*

“I love Ward's lean, elegant prose, which is subtly intimate, not painting the characters too broadly...take it as a testament to Ward's deft touch that the novel is anything but clichéd or cheesy and nothing less than a joy to read.”--*Austin Chronicle*

“With spare prose that heightens the emotional intensity, Ward does an admirable job of tackling a difficult subject.”--*Rocky Mountain News*

“A moving tale of hope....the story of a little sister's long-ago disappearance and the devastating fault lines it leaves in a family.”--*San Antonio Express-News*

“Entertaining...[casts] the shadows of hard-boiled pulp fiction onto the life of a modern chick-lit heroine, complete with bad dates, morning hangovers and a fussy mother.”--*Austin American-Statesman*