

## NEWS RELEASE

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### *You'll Have a Gay Old Time*

#### *Bedtime Stories Come Out of the Closet in MacGregor's Novel*

In B MacGregor's debut novel "A Fag for Her Fifties" the author uses his pen to wage war on a word once used to belittle his sexual orientation. He turns "fag" into "Fag," a deliciously flamboyant fairy godmother-like gay man who parades his Fag-aciousness with pride and changes one woman's life for the better with the flick of his sequin-covered, pink boa-lined wand. Published by AnyWho Editions, it's a tale readers will relate to, whether we call ourselves Fags or call others fags, and whether we are standing in the dark with our hand on the closet doorknob, or if we're unintentionally holding the door closed on someone else.

•By Laura Pieper

#### **What's in a word?**

Homosexuals and heterosexuals alike shudder at the word "fag." It's a derogatory term meant to belittle homosexuals. Except when you travel to Great Britain, where a "fag" is a cigarette, or a noun or verb associated with an annoying task; nothing rude or inflammatory about that.

A word is defined by how we relate to it. So what happens when you turn a definition on its head?

You get a book like B MacGregor's "A Fag for Her Fifties."

If you have already seen the title in the bookstore or Amazon, I'm willing to bet the title made you wrinkle your nose in distaste and think, "who on earth would want to read THAT?"

I had those same misgivings myself when I first saw the pink, flowery cover with that horrid word in the title.

But this time a fag isn't a fag – he's a Fag. Work with me on this one.

MacGregor, a former Iowa resident, used the novel as an outlet to show off his pride of being a gay man, after being belittled for his sexual orientation for many years. He was labeled a fag in high school and didn't like it.

While many homosexuals stand aside and grumble at their stereotyping, MacGregor has a weapon to wage war on words: a pen. As an author, he can rewrite history if he wants to, and that's just what he does in "A Fag for Her Fifties" – he turns "fag" into "Fag," a deliciously flamboyant fairy godmother-like gay man who parades his Fag-aciousness with pride and changes one woman's life for the better with the flick of his sequin-covered, pink boa-lined wand.

"If I can redefine a word, then I can redefine other things too," MacGregor writes in the author's note. "So, I think this story is about redefining life – if you choose to."

#### **What's in a story?**

While "A Fag for Her Fifties" is a lesson in bringing Fag-ness back (so to speak), the tale originated as a gift for one of MacGregor's closest friends. She wanted him to tell her a bedtime story.

"To me, a good bedtime story is like a good drag queen; one-third fantasy, one-third adventure, one-third comedy, and one hundred percent about love," MacGregor writes in the preface, throwing it out to the world that this book is going to be Fag-tastically unique. "Unlike a good drag queen, the tale should focus on someone else."

The narrator unconsciously struggles with this notion throughout the novel. It's all about him and his over-the-top Fag-adelic personality and his drive to have a fan base – even if it's just one person. The narrator, B, is a bankrupt children's author from San Francisco who answers a Craigslist ad for a woman seeking to become a gay man. Wait...what?

"Give me a different way to see my world," Beulah Mae Osguard writes in her ad. "Show me the gay side. Bring out the Fag in me."

In her eyes, gay men are proud of their status and not afraid to flaunt their wares or say exactly what they mean. She has found herself "wrapped tightly in a dull and boring life – her closet," in a loveless marriage in a small Iowa town full of larger-than-life nosy neighbors.

The message is this: everyone has a closet, and a time to come out of that closet. It takes courage and self-confidence. It means being true to yourself, choosing you over everyone else. In Beulah Mae's case, that means standing up for herself, her values, and what she wants out of life.

"There's something sexy and wonderful about a woman who thinks she deserves better things," the narrator says. "There's something gorgeous about a woman who realizes she's worth it."

For someone like Beulah Mae, who is selfless to a fault, doing something for herself is a daunting, terrifying task after being a generous doormat for most of her life. B respects her selflessness and devotion to making others happy – he gives her the nickname "Charity" – but recognizes that she needs a morale boost to let her true colors shine. He does this in as colorful and hilarious a way as only a true Fag can, with disco dancing parties, a Pretty Woman makeover, and even a smack-down fight between a fat, fluffy transvestite dog and a Chihuahua.

B's narration overflows with wit and biting sarcasm. MacGregor flawlessly captures B's internal battle between being a diva – having the world worship him in all his Fag-tastic glory – and letting go of his own fears of being forever alone. While their friendship begins with Beulah Mae wanting to learn from B, in the end it's B himself who learns from Beulah Mae. He finally commits one selfless act in a bittersweet ending that reminds us life goes on even after the "happily ever after."

Following the bedtime story theme, MacGregor weaves his own takes on popular fairy tales and children's stories throughout the book. Each chapter begins with a brief retelling of such classics as Sleeping Beauty or Peter Pan or even Lord of the Rings – all with a wickedly Fag-gy twist. And each chapter also includes a "once upon a time" story that recalls Beulah's original Fag transformation as she struggles to stand on her own once and for all in a situation where many others would simply give up and crawl back, defeated, into their closets.

Each of B's stories is a "fragment of time that enables her to escape temporarily into the past, a place where she's free."

A place where dreams come true, friends are forever, and no good deed goes unpunished. It's a tale we can all relate to, whether we call ourselves Fags or call others fags, and whether we are standing in the dark with our hand on the closet doorknob, or if we're unintentionally holding the door closed on someone else.

"A Fag for Her Fifties" is available in both print and electronic editions. E-books can be purchased at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, iBooks Store and other venues. To purchase a print edition directly or to find a bookstore, visit AnyWho Edition's website, anywhoeditions.com.

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Contact Lori Lott, Publisher, AnyWho Editions at [llott@anywhoeditions.com](mailto:llott@anywhoeditions.com) to arrange an interview with B MacGregor, to obtain high-resolutions images, and for additional information. Review copies available upon request.

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**B MacGregor**