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“Pro-health laws” lead to size acceptance sanctuary in new novel FatLand
New Jersey author Frannie Zellman’s fantasy inspired by current events

NASHVILLE, TN—In the near future “anti-obesity” initiatives in the United States become so oppressive that people seeking freedom over their bodies establish a new country, **Fat Acceptance Territory Lease Accession Non Dated—FATLAND**. Or they do in the new novel by that name by New Jersey author Frannie Zellman.

In *FatLand*, life is good and scales are forbidden. Free from the hatred and discrimination of the Other Side, FatLanders have built productive lives. But as the book (first of a planned trilogy by New Jersey author Frannie Zellman) unfolds, a group of FatLanders and freedom fighters on the Other Side face forces threatening the health and happiness of all.

FatLand may be fantasy, but its premise is reflected in real-world news. In 2008 alone, anti-fat initiatives in the U.S. have included Mississippi state legislators sponsoring a bill forbidding restaurants from serving fat people and Alabama’s State Employees’ Insurance Board approving a plan to charge \$25 more a month for insurance to “overweight” employees who fail to “progress” in losing weight. Meanwhile, Japan launched a waistline-measuring campaign in which those larger than the narrowly defined ideal and have “weight-related” conditions are given dieting advice and “further re-education” if they do not lose weight.

As Zellman noted in a recent interview with Pearlsong publisher Peggy Elam, Ph.D. (<http://www.pearlsong.com/pearlsongconversations.htm>), all these and other “anti-obesity” initiatives have been enacted even though there is no safe, effective, permanent means of making fat people thin. Such initiatives have increased the stigma and discrimination experienced by fat Americans and further stressed people of all sizes struggling with eating disorders.

Frannie Zellman received her M.A. in creative writing from Boston University in 1980 (Zellman is a pseudonym for Fern Kant Ghauri). She is a member of the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance (NAAFA) and has taught writing workshops for people of size. *FatLand* (\$19.95, 212 pages, original trade paperback) is her first novel.

FatLand is available from Amazon.com and other online retailers, as well as directly from the publisher at www.pearlsong.com.

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