

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Cheeseland navigates serious issues in tragicomic road trip Novel raises money for suicide prevention

Chicago, IL - April 27, 2012 - When two suburban Chicago high school seniors skip graduation to go on a road trip to Wisconsin they crash head-on into an adventure that will forever alter their lives.

Praised by *New York Times* No. 1 Best-Selling author James Finn Garner as a “tragic tale” that “richly captures the bravado and heartbreak of damaged boys who grow up into damaged men,” Randy Richardson’s *Cheeseland* (194 pp., tpb, \$15.95, Eckhartz Press) is for lovers of a well-crafted story, young adults and adults, but is particularly well suited for those who enjoy Midwestern literature spiced with a little adventure and mystery.

Told in two parts, the novel’s long and winding road comes full circle when these two friends must finally confront their past and come to grips with their present lives. But is it too late to heal old wounds? *Cheeseland* is about loyalty, friendship and the self-destructive nature of secret-keeping and unresolved anger.

Robert W. Walker, author of *Titanic 2012*, *Bismarck 2013* and *Children of Salem*, says *Cheeseland* “touches the reader” with “a dramatic touch that rivals Nicholas Sparks,” while Christine Sneed, author of the award-winning story collection, *Portraits of a Few of the People I’ve Made Cry*, describes it as “*Easy Rider* meets a warped version of *It’s a Wonderful Life*...“a page turner...that you won’t soon forget.”

The author is donating \$1 from every soft cover sale of his book to the Elyssa’s Mission, a Northbrook, Illinois-based not-for-profit foundation that provides help, support and suicide prevention programs to prevent teen suicide. Donations will help to fund the Mission’s Signs of Suicide Program, which they currently provide to junior and high schools in Illinois.

“My goal in writing *Cheeseland* was to both entertain and to educate,” Richardson said. “The novel examines serious issues, including teen suicide. As I attempt to illustrate in the book, teens face enormous pressures. The book is set thirty years ago, but the pressures on these kids are still there and are possibly even stronger today than they were back when I was a teen. By donating \$1 from every soft cover sale of the book to Elyssa’s Mission, I’m hoping to make a tangible difference, to go beyond the words and to have something truly positive come from the novel.”

Attorney and award-winning journalist Randy Richardson serves as president of the nonprofit Chicago Writers Association. His essays have been published in the anthologies *Chicken Soup for the Father and Son Soul*, *Humor for a Boomer’s Heart*, *The Big Book of Christmas Joy*, and *Cubbie Blues: 100 Years of Waiting Till Next Year*, as well as in numerous print and online journals and magazines. The online publication *Gapers Block* named his debut novel, *Lost in the Ivy*, one of the notable Chicago books of 2005.

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