



Fat Cat

By Robin Brande

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An experiment so bold, anyone might think it was a little crazy...

Catherine Locke is smart, ambitious, and--okay, not the slimmest girl around. But she's always cared more about her brain than her body. So far that's gotten her where she wanted: into the most advanced, competitive science class at her high school, where she'll once again face her fiercest rival, Matt McKinney.

The guy who once broke her heart.

If Cat's plan works, she'll win it all: a huge improvement in her body and her lifestyle, first prize at the science fair, admission to the college of her choice, and best of all, revenge on Matt McKinney.

But as every scientist knows, even the best experiments can go wildly out of control...

"Fat Cat was AWESOME. I couldn't stop reading it!" Meg Cabot, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Princess Diaries* and more

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Editorial Review

From the Author

INTERVIEW WITH THE AUTHOR:

Q: FAT CAT reads like a romantic comedy, but you seemed to have just as much fun with some of the other relationships in the book. Can you talk about that?

A: What I've heard most from readers is that they love the friendship between Cat and her best friend Amanda, and the brother-sister relationship between Cat and her little brother Peter. I loved writing all those side scenes. I've never liked friendships (either in fiction or in real life) where the girls are competitive with each other or otherwise snarky and mean. The relationship between Cat and Amanda is based on my own friendship with the same best friend I've had since high school. We're both happy to see the other one succeed. That's true friendship to me.

As for the relationship between Cat and her brother, I loved writing that, too! I'm friends with my own siblings, and I see that all around me in other families. I love it when siblings genuinely like and support each other.

Q: Besides FAT CAT, you've written other science-oriented young adult novels: EVOLUTION, ME & OTHER FREAKS OF NATURE and the PARALLELOGRAM series in particular. Have you always been interested in science?

A: Not at all. I was very intimidated by science when I was younger. I never thought I was "good at it." I didn't realize you could be interested in it and want to know more even if you didn't necessarily understand all the math behind it. But now in my adult life I watch science shows and read science books all the time. I'm definitely a late-blooming science nerd. There's so much cool science being done out there, and it's fascinating to learn about all of it.

Q: Aside from the science-oriented books, what other books would fans of FAT CAT enjoy?

A: If they want another book of mine that's funny and sweet, I'd send them to DOGGIRL. If they're looking for cool phenomena more on the paranormal side, then definitely REPLAY, which explores reincarnation and near-death experiences.

Q: What's coming up next?

A: I'm very excited about my new series, THE BRADAMANTE SAGA, which is unlike anything else I've written. It's an epic historical medieval fantasy featuring a tough, fearless girl warrior. It's a series I've wanted to write for decades! The first book, BOOK OF EARTH, was recently released, and several more installments in the saga will follow this year.

Q: Any message you'd like to share with your readers?

A: First of all, thank you. I know as well as any of you that there are only so many entertainment hours available to us every day, and they need to be split among our favorite shows, some movies here and there, and then that big stack of books we all keep adding to every month. So I appreciate whenever someone spends some time with characters I've created.

Second, please never be shy about reaching out to me. I try to answer every email. If you take the time to write to me, I'll take the time to answer! You can find me on my website, robinbrande.com.

About the Author

Robin Brande is the award-winning author of the fantasy series THE BRADAMANTE SAGA; the young adult novels EVOLUTION, ME & OTHER FREAKS OF NATURE; FAT CAT; DOGGIRL; the PARALLELOGRAM series; REPLAY; and THE GOOD LIE; and the adult novels LOVE PROOF; FREEFALL; HEART OF ICE; and FIRE AND ICE.

She is a former trial attorney, entrepreneur, law instructor, yoga teacher, martial artist, outdoor adventurer, and certified wilderness medic.

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"You're all good little machines," Mr. Fizer told us. He sat there this afternoon in his tweed jacket and his white shirt and plaid bow tie and glared at us over the top of his half-glasses. Which was a seriously scary sight.

"You know how to take tests," he said. "You know how to memorize facts and mimic everything your teachers have taught you--but do any of you really know how to think? We're about to find out."

I know I should have been concentrating. I should have kept my eyes locked on Mr. Fizer, practically reading his lips to make sure I caught every word. His class is going to be the hardest thing I've ever taken in my life.

But sometimes my body parts have a mind of their own. And there my eyes were, straying off to the right, seeking out that one particular face in the crowd the way they always do, no matter how many times I've told them to stop. And since this was a crowd of only nine, he was way too easy to find.

Unfortunately, right at that moment Matt McKinney was looking back at me, and our eyes met for just that one split second, and even though I instantly looked away, it was too late. I had to see that subtle little smirk of his, and it made me wish more than anything I had something sharp and heavy to throw at his head.

"Here are the rules," Mr. Fizer said.

As if he needed to tell us. Every one of us understood the deal long before today--Fizer's Special Topics in Research Science class is legendary, not the least because every few years someone has to run out of there on the first day and vomit because of the stress.

I had a light lunch.

"When I call your name," Mr. Fizer said, "you will come up, close your eyes, and choose a picture. You will then have one hour in which to devise your topic. You may not use the Internet or any other resources. You may not discuss it with your classmates. You will have only your own creativity to rely upon."

"We do it this way," he continued, "because true scientific progress comes through innovative thinking, not merely reciting what other scientists have taught us. Albert Einstein believed that imagination is more important than knowledge, and I agree. We must always push ourselves to discover more. Understood?"

No one bothered answering. We were all too busy staring at the folder he'd just opened on his desk, revealing this year's Stack.

The Stack. It's your whole future resting on a pick of the cards. Only in Mr. Fizer's case, the deck of cards is

actually a stack of pictures he's gathered throughout the year--pages torn out of magazines like National Geographic and Nature and Science.

If you luck out, you can end up with a picture that applies to a field you're already interested in--like for me, insects and their co-evolution with plants. It's what I spent the whole summer helping -research in one of the biology labs at the university. I figured if I ended up with a picture even remotely dealing with either plants or bugs, I'd be able to use everything I just learned about fig wasps.

On the other hand, you can also end up with something completely outside your subject field, which is why people like George Garmine had to flee the room last year to puke.

Because if you bomb, you might as well plan a career as a drone in some laboratory at some obscure college in a town nobody's heard of, because you're never going to get the premium offers. But if you do well--I mean really well--you can not only get Mr. Fizer's recommendation for college applications, but you might also win your category at the science fair and then go on to internationals. Some of Mr. Fizer's students have done just that. And then you have a great shot at winning scholarships and impressing college recruiters, so that even people like me can end up at places like MIT or Duke or Harvard or wherever. So yeah, it's a big deal.

We all just wanted to get on with it already, but Mr. Fizer still had one more rule to tell us about.

"This is not a time for teamwork," he said. "This is a competition. This is your chance to show bold thinking and a true commitment to your science. For the next seven months you will work independently and in secret. I am the only person you will share any details with until it is time to reveal your project at the science fair in March. Is that clear? Good. Miss Chang, we will begin with you."

Lindsay wiped her palms against her pants and walked so slowly to the front of the room it was like she'd just been told to come up there and drink poison. She stood in front of Mr. Fizer's desk, did the palm swipe one more time, then reached into the Stack.

You could tell Mr. Fizer was watching to make sure she kept her eyes closed. Lindsay pulled out a picture, pressed it against her chest, and went back to her seat without even looking at what she'd chosen. That seemed like a good strategy--no point in freaking out in front of everyone if it turned out to be really bad.

Next he called up Farah, Alexandra, Margo, and Nick. Then me.

I eased between the lab tables and walked to the front, and that's when I started to think about my butt. And about how Matt McKinney was no doubt looking at it right at that moment and noticing how much larger it was than the last time he saw it. Seven more pounds over the summer, thank you very much. When you're working in a lab as intense as the one where I was, all you really have time for every day is the vending machines and the Dairy Queen on the corner. Everyone at that lab was a pudgeball.

So I stood in front of Mr. Fizer's desk, my hand shaking, thinking about my future and how it was about to change, but really thinking more about my thighs and gigabutt and trying to pull my shirt down a little lower to cover them, and finally I closed my eyes and reached into the Stack. That's when I heard Matt clear his throat, which sounded like he was suppressing a laugh, and my hand jerked from where it was, and I suppose that makes it fate that I chose the picture I did.

I couldn't look. I clutched the paper against my chest and went back to my seat and did my best to control my breathing.

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Charles Stephens:

The knowledge that you get from Fat Cat could be the more deep you rooting the information that hide inside the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to know but Fat Cat giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The article writer conveys their point in certain way that can be understood by simply anyone who read the idea because the author of this publication is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We advise you for having that Fat Cat instantly.

Cheree Kramer:

In this period of time globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make professionals understand the condition of the world. The fitness of the world makes the information quicker to share. You can find a lot of references to get information example: internet, newspapers, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher which print many kinds of book. The actual book that recommended to you is Fat Cat this e-book consist a lot of the information of the condition of this world now. This book was represented so why is the world has grown up. The terminology styles that writer require to explain it is easy to understand. Typically the writer made some analysis when he makes this book. Here is why this book acceptable all of you.

Steven Jones:

Many people spending their time by playing outside with friends, fun activity with family or just watching TV 24 hours a day. You can have new activity to invest your whole day by examining a book. Ugh, ya think reading a book can really hard because you have to bring the book everywhere? It fine you can have the e-book, delivering everywhere you want in your Mobile phone. Like Fat Cat which is keeping the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's see.

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