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**Big Moose Prize-Winning Novel: *The Last Will & Testament of Zelda McFigg*
by Betsy Robinson (Black Lawrence Press, September 2014)**

Cousin to Ignatius J. Reilly (*A Confederacy of Dunces*) and Homer Simpson, protagonist Zelda McFigg believes she could have been somebody, if only someone had recognized her inner beauty and star quality. She runs away from home at age 14, and at age 49 ¼—in the depth of the Great Recession—writes this furiously funny memoir to “set the record straight.”

Says writer and filmmaker John Sayles: “Zelda is an iconic voice of our media-struck age, ferociously trying to rectify the gross injustice of her non-celebrity. A character angry, proud, and desperate to be seen.”

Chosen from 398 entries as winner of Black Lawrence Press’s third annual Big Moose Prize, the novel emerged “pretty much full-blown,” says author Betsy Robinson. “I wrote the first draft in the year and a half following the implosion of the economy when I lost my managing editor job at a magazine. It had been gestating for a couple of years, so to tell you the truth, I was glad to have unemployed birthing time.”

“In parts funny, tragic, angry, heartbreaking, caustic, absurd and totally all-too true. A comic *geshrei* from the heart, and pleasure from first page to last!” says popular Hollywood script consultant and author of *The Hidden Tools of Comedy* Steve Kaplan.

Black Lawrence Press is an independent publisher of contemporary poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. We also publish the occasional translation from the German and the French. Founded in 2004, Black Lawrence became an imprint of Dzanc Books in 2008. In January 2014, we spread our wings and became an independent company in the state of New York. Our books are distributed nationally through Small Press Distribution to Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and various brick and mortar retailers. We also make our titles available through our website and at various conferences and book fairs. Through our annual contests and open reading periods, we seek innovative, electrifying, and thoroughly intoxicating manuscripts that ensnare themselves in our hearts and minds and won’t let go.

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WHERE TO BUY:

Amazon.com, BN.com,

Small Press Distribution (<http://www.spdbooks.org/Products/9781625579218/the-last-will-testament-of-zelda-mcfigg.aspx>) which has a book club discount,

Black Lawrence Press (<http://www.blacklawrence.com/the-last-will-testament-of-zelda-mcfigg/>)

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BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was your initial reaction to the book and the character of Zelda McFigg? And depending on that reaction, were you propelled to read on, or turned off? Why?
2. How credible or believable was Zelda? Did you get the true story from her or through her?
3. How did she and the other characters change throughout the story, and how did your opinion of them change?
4. What character or characters did you connect with? Could you connect with Zelda? Do you have any of her characteristics or secrets?
5. What did you think of the ending?
6. If you were to imagine what happens to Zelda after the book is over, what would it be?
7. Did the book change your opinion about anything? Is there anything that you found yourself thinking about after finishing it?
8. If the book were made into a movie, who should play the parts?
9. What were the themes of the book? Did you notice or think about the epigraphs at the beginning? If so, how did they affect you?
10. What did you think of Zelda's affinity to Jack London's *The Call of the Wild*?
11. Did you find the book funny? Sad? Why?
12. What did you think of the plot?