

## Fashioning Fat: Inside Plus-Size Modeling

*Amanda M. Czerniawski*

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**Amanda M. Czerniawski : Fashioning Fat: Inside Plus-Size Modeling** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fashioning Fat: Inside Plus-Size Modeling:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Undercover Modeling Experiment: Excellent Narrative Showing How Culture Influences Women By Carla Wood Dr. Amanda Czerniawski does a great job of giving us a clear vision into the life of modeling, specifically, plus size modeling. As a secondary educator, I feel this is a great book to help girls interested in modeling see exactly what they are getting themselves into, good and bad. For all who work with teens and young adults, it's a great tool to help them and their mentees understand how culture influences self image. Amanda interweaves an interesting narrative of the science of her experience along with the personal reflections

from her point of view and also that of models which was very interesting to me. I especially appreciated her honesty in the vulnerability she had to face as she stepped into a unique world of plus size modeling. Her story is real and well researched. 0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By kemi thompson Excellent 1 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Writer appeared to feel superior and I didn't like her tone By Katarina Ortmann read about a quarter of the book and then skimmed to the end. Found it hard to read. Writer appeared to feel superior and I didn't like her tone.

For two and a half years, Amanda Czerniawski was a sociologist turned plus-size model. Journeying into a world where, as a size 10, she was not considered an average body type, but rather, for the fashion industry, "plus-sized," Czerniawski studied the standards of work and image production in the plus-sized model industry. *Fashioning Fat* takes us through a model's day-to-day activities, first at open calls at modeling agencies and then through the fashion shows and photo shoots. Czerniawski also interviewed 35 plus-size models about their lives in the world of fashion, bringing to life the strange contradictions of being an object of non-idealized beauty.

*Fashioning Fat* is an excellent book and will make important contributions to fat studies and sociology... an extremely interesting read. -Esther Rothblum, co-editor of *The Fat Studies Reader* Sociology professor Czerniawski goes undercover as a plus-size model in this expose to find out the truth: is it empowering or exploitative to strut one's size-14 (and up) self in front of the fashion industry's cameras? The answer is as complicated and obscure as our relationship to food and our weight, since, as the author states, "Frankly, fat means different things to different people." The book's personal asides and insider information are enlightening. -Publishers Weekly *Fashioning Fat* is a well-written and thoughtful book that offers an interesting contribution to feminist understandings of the body. Czerniawski's narrative writing style is engaging and accessible, making this book well suited for both undergraduate and graduate syllabi. It will be a valuable resource for scholars of gender, work, embodiment, sociology of culture, and the emerging field of fat studies. -Gender Society "Fashioning Fat is an engaging, well-researched book which provides a much-needed critique of the limitations of a politics of visibility." -Cultural Sociology "Fashioning Fat is one woman's courageous attempt to redefine beauty. It is a readable indictment of the American Fashion Industry. It is very well-argued and beautifully written." -The Washington Book .com "At once a sociological adventure and a moving personal voyage, Amanda Czerniawski's striking study of plus-size modeling shows the intense aesthetic labor that disciplines the body and shapes the self. Engagingly written, *Fashioning Fat* addresses the sociologies of work and the professions, of gender and the body, as well as the emergent field of fat studies. Like all good ethnography, this one takes us to a new world and insists upon its connections to the worlds we know." -Priscilla Parkhurst Ferguson, author of *Word of Mouth: What We Talk About When We Talk About Food* "We need, she suggests, not models of different size and shape, but a more fundamental questioning of the fashion industry itself and its current domination of our conceptions of beauty, especially the beauty of women." -First Things "[H]er book is...honest, thoughtful and insightful." -Pacific Standard "Fashioning Fat is absolutely worth reading." -XOVain.com *Fashioning Fat* is a notable work that gives readers an inside look at the plus-size modeling industry. The author succeeds at giving the plus-size model a voice and offers some fashion alternatives. -American Journal of Sociology About the Author Amanda M. Czerniawski is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Temple University.