

IN THE COUNTRY

THE CHEESE WHIZ

A highly unlikely career choice—cheesemongering—has led the young, blonde, beautiful and Yale-educated Liz Thorpe on a ten-year odyssey through places both weird and wonderful: Wisconsin aging caves, the French Laundry's kitchen, the Amish hinterlands. The food-world insider, now the second in command at New York's revered Murray's Cheese shop, dishes about it all in *The Cheese Chronicles* (Ecco; \$15.99). While Thorpe doles out a first-rate education on all things artisanal, there's nothing pedantic in these pages. She zips engagingly from tasting notes and the best makers to the aging process. Through Thorpe's eyes, readers truly will behold the power of cheese. **M.P.**

