



James Phelan

Author

James Phelan is the award-winning author of 30 bestselling books for adults and children. His work includes thrillers, a Young Adult post-apocalyptic trilogy, Middle Grade adventures, and non-fiction. He is noted for a fast-paced writing style that appeals as much to boys as girls. James is a highly entertaining and engaging speaker who has delivered keynotes and presentations all around the world and divides his time between Melbourne and the USA.

As a teenager James discovered a love of thrillers, of being entertained and informed along the way. He has written four series of novels ranging from primary school aged readers with THE LAST THIRTEEN (Scholastic 2014) to fast paced thrillers such as THE AGENCY (Hachette 2018).

James has a passion for promoting literacy in Australia. He holds a Master of Arts in Writing, and a PhD in Literature. James is involved in many creative writing groups and regularly talks at literary events, festivals, schools and universities.

James developed the idea of his first book while still in high school, and after studying Architecture and working on the Federation Square design team, he started following his dream of becoming a novelist. James spent six years as a staff writer at The Age newspaper, while undertaking post-graduate study. He has been a full-time novelist since the age of 26.

“James was absolutely wonderful and thoroughly entertained us all with his stories.”
Teacher Librarian, St Carlo Borromeo, Greenvale, VIC

Presentation: “Follow Your Dreams” Unlimited in audience size, James delivers lively and entertaining sessions not just about writing, reading, and creating, but about the importance of following your dreams no matter the odds – and the fulfilment that comes with that.

“A finely honed story which proves the thriller genre is alive... Can’t wait for the next one.”
Sunday Times

“Phelan, a Melbourne writer, understands his genre and works it with confidence.” *The Sydney Morning Herald*

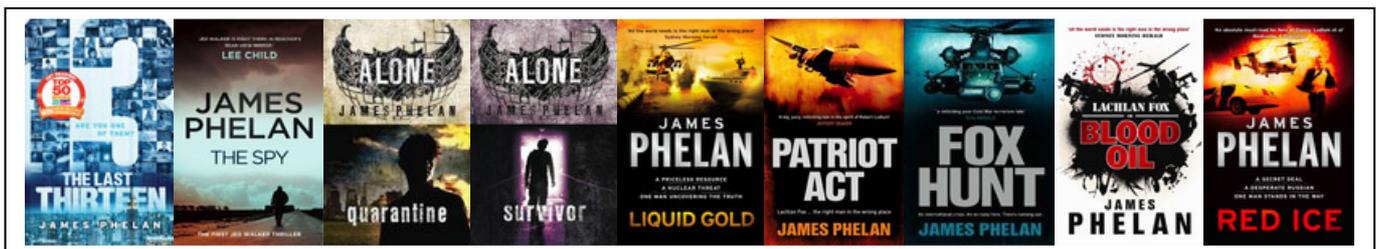
“Not since Z for Zachariah has an end-of-the-world first-person account been so gripping.” *The West Australian.*

Workshop: “Things we didn't see coming...”

You may sit down to write with astounding ideas and blazing intentions, but get lost somewhere there in the middle... No more.

Writing stories are all about getting us to the end. How do you do that? Easy - via suspense. ... But how do you do *that*?

James will teach you; trust him - he’s a doctor.



Suitable for Grade 4 upwards.
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Feedback for James Phelan

“James Phelan's virtual talk today was amazing!!! Thanks so much for organising it - our kids LOVED it! He was so funny, and also gave such great tips for writing! So impressive over WebEx too, I always feel like such a dork when I'm trying to be entertaining/funny with my kids, to what feels like an empty room of "mute all" ...but he nailed it!”

- Year 5/6 teacher, Yarraville West PS VIC

“LOVED him. Found him to be very entertaining and they enjoyed his sense of humour. This is the second time I've booked James and he is so reliable – he always has the kids eating out of his hands!”

- Siobhan Roulston, Carey Baptist Grammar School Donvale, VIC

“James Phelan shared his wisdom and experiences and left the students and staff spell bound. The LitFest was an outstanding success. Thank you!”

- Sabine Tanase, Newington College Literature Festival NSW

“Hi James, we really enjoyed your presentations for our Campbell High students at Warrambui. You were thoroughly engaging for a lengthy period and you gave many valuable tips and insights into the craft of writing and dealing with publishers.”

- Debbie Dwyer, Campbell High School, ACT

“A HUGE THANK YOU for your presentations here at NGS. Staff and students enjoyed them greatly, and were able to get your positive messages in a light-hearted way, so they did not feel it was a “lecture”. I look forward to catching up again in the future.”

- Ms Sue Bright, Head of Library Services, Teacher Librarian, Newcastle Grammar School, NSW

“Thanks so much for coming to our school. It was delightful to meet you and learn about your life and career. Our staff and students thoroughly enjoyed your presentations; much appreciated!”

- Rebecca Crawley, Hunter Valley Grammar School, NSW

“Phelan’s Jed Walker is right there in Reacher’s rear-view mirror.”

- [Lee Child](#), New York



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