



**Born:** Parkville, Melbourne.

**Currently lives:** Richmond, Melbourne. James lives in a warehouse apartment that he designed and built himself.

**Author of:** *The Spy*, the Lachlan Fox thriller series, the Alone trilogy and *13*, the first book in the new Last Thirteen series.

**What was your favourite book growing up?** I have three that I cannot split: *The Hobbit*, *The Jungle Book*, and *The Little Prince*. Each of those books meant something special to me, and I've read them countless times throughout my life.

**What were you like in school?** I started school aged four, so I was usually the youngest in every year level. That said, I was usually one of the tallest, reaching my 189 centimetres by age 16 or 17. I really enjoyed the arts and humanity subjects, especially English and literature, and anything to do with creative writing and history. I also enjoyed playing football and being in a cycling club.

**What is your favourite food/colour/movie?** Cuisine: Italian. OMG! I'm like a Labrador — just try to stop me eating my fav food! Colour: blue (to wear). Movie: *Casablanca*. It's got all the elements of a good story: thrilling, funny, romantic, sad, musical, suspenseful, surprising, etc.

**Who inspired you to write?** There's no one person; it's an amalgamation of all the authors and books that I admired through a lifetime of reading. My passion for writing was born out of reading books that took me into a world and kept me there for the duration of the story and beyond. I admire storytellers who dare to take readers on an unexpected adventure.

**Why did you want to be a writer?** Because I loved stories, and it seemed like the coolest job in the world! I've been writing full-time since 2006, working from home, with no boss, doing my own thing, every day spending time with characters in a world that I get to make up from scratch. It's fun! And I love to get feedback from readers who have enjoyed my books.

**What is the best thing about being a writer?** Not having to wear pants to work. Oh, and having complete creative freedom while doing a job I love.

**What would you have chosen to be if you were not a writer?** I started out at university studying architecture, so I would probably be designing our real world by now instead of my made-up one.

**Which famous person from the past would you like to talk to?** Leonardo da Vinci. He was a genius, and a polymath: painter, sculptor, architect, musician, mathematician, engineer, inventor, anatomist, geologist, cartographer, botanist, and writer. Kinda like myself really...

**Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself?** I think we should all try to live our dreams.

You can learn more about James and the books he has written at [www.jamesphelan.com](http://www.jamesphelan.com)

