

J. A. MERKEL

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6 PUBLISHED BOOKS

15K ACTIVE FOLLOWERS

4.7 GOODREADS RATING

GENRES: FANTASY, SCI-FI, DYSTOPIAN, CYBERPUNK

ABOUT ME

Job is a writer who found his passion for storytelling while growing up on a farm as one of nine children. After graduating from college with a Biology degree and English minor, he moved to South Korea to teach English as a second language. While there, he also learned about writing, publishing, and marketing, and wrote five novels. Upon returning to the US, he worked in television for three years, an experience which further fueled his desire to write short stories. He then embarked on a self-directed program to hone his craft and published three novellas in his sci-fi fantasy Fall Gauntlet series in 2023. He is currently planning to release two more novellas and his debut fantasy novel in 2024.



The Hunger Games meets Gladiator in this heart-pounding sci-fi dystopian thriller where family loyalty is tested in deadly arena battles, political schemes run deep, and survival means everything. The Fall Gauntlet Omnibus, Volume I combines the first three novellas into one collection.



SYPNOSIS

Ten years after his mother was thrown into her off-world prison, Benji finally has a chance to save her. All he has to do is win the Fall Gauntlet, a fight-to-the-death tournament on the planet of Calypso, designed to please the gods and goddesses and keep them at bay.

REVIEWS



The world-building and the characters are fantastic, and I read the whole story in one session.
- Paul Brooks, Page Turnerz Podcast



SYPNOSIS

When a strange man and his "rat" followers offer to help the brothers leave the capital by sewer, the brother's escape plan takes a dark turn. If they can't rise above their own past hurts, and the lies that continue to haunt their family, Soren and Benji may indeed die at each other's hands.

REVIEWS



RAT like the first book BEAR starts off with a blast and never lets up from beginning to end.
- The Avid Reader

REVIEWS AND ENDORSEMENTS



The story of Benji and Soren pulls you in and doesn't let go. Great writing with awesome action.

- SCOTT COON, AWARD-WINNING SCI-FI AUTHOR



J. A. Merkel is a master of imagery and a terrific storyteller. The Fall Gauntlet is a non-stop thrill ride featuring exhilarating fight scenes and futuristic tech.

KAM BROOKS, REEDSY
DISCOVERY REVIEWER



The story was a mix of Gladiator and The Hunger Games vibes, with a great unique sci-fi spin.

- ALANA FAYE WILSON,
BOOKSTAGRAM AWARDS WINNER:
SCI-FI NOVEL OF THE YEAR



I'm excited to share that I'm currently working on the next Fall Gauntlet stories, BOOKS SEVEN, EIGHT, & NINE. Stay tuned for my upcoming releases: BOOK FIVE: MANTA, and BOOK SIX: SHARK, summer 2025!

Job's passion for writing began in childhood. He was born seventh out of nine children, and being one of the youngest, assumed more of an observer role, watching, learning, and filling his mind with stories while chaos and laughter ensued around him.

On the childhood farm he grew up on, he'd often escape to hidden nooks, and fantasize about powers that would take him away from his ordinary existence. Unfortunately, he never got those powers, but some of his characters did ...

When he's not spinning webs and building worlds, Job can be found hiking and camping in different national parks with his husband, playing soccer with his San Diego-based travel team, or reading a new book that he hopes will transport him to another world, at least for a little while.

Job would like to thank all his readers and supporters who believe in him as an author and buy his books. He believes connections and good marketing are what sell (an already good) book.

Your support means the world to me. Join the conversation on social media [[@jamerkel_author](#)] and share your thoughts using [#JAMerkelReads](#). I love hearing from my readers and connecting with them!



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For interview requests, review copies, or media inquiries, please contact:

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NOTE TO MEDIA:

If you'd like more information, a review copy, or to schedule an interview, please get in touch with the media contact listed.