

# AUTHOR INFORMATION: JAMES JAUNCEY

Scottish novelist James Jauncey has written for adults, young adults and children. After a 10-year break from fiction he returned to print in 2007 with the hugely acclaimed literary thriller for young adults, **THE WITNESS**. This is followed in November 2008 by **THE RECKONING**.

**THE WITNESS** tells the story of 18 year-old John MacNeil, his eight year-old companion Ninian, and their desperate flight through the Highlands in an independent Scotland of the near future, where the nationalisation of land has led to civil war.

- 'A seriously grown-up book for young adults.' **James Robertson**, author of *The Testament of Gideon Mack*.
- 'Instantly gripping ... a tale which seamlessly blends thought-provoking politics with a white-knuckle adventure story. Riveting stuff.' **Big Issue**
- 'Politics, suspense and compassion abound in THE WITNESS...' **TES**
- 'THE WITNESS is a rare kind of adventure - a page-turner that is also well written and bursting with ideas.' **Scotsman**

THE WITNESS has been shortlisted for both the **2008 Royal Mail Scottish Children's Book Awards** and the **Highland Children's Book Awards** and is recommended by the **Richard & Judy Book Club**. For more reviews see [www.jamesjauncey.com/reviews](http://www.jamesjauncey.com/reviews)

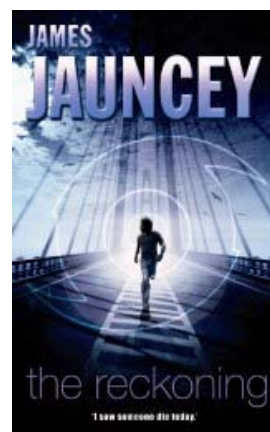
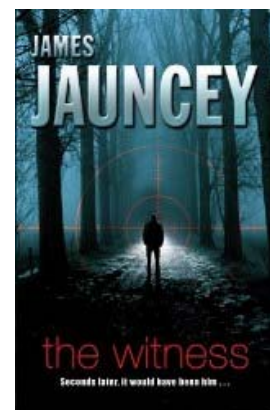
**THE RECKONING** When 18 year-old Fin Carpenter sees a body falling through the mist from a bridge he's convinced that it wasn't an accident. But the more he investigates, the more he discovers that there's something rotten at the heart of the remote island community where he lives. As the mystery deepens and Fin finds that those closest to him are in danger of their lives, he is forced to confront uncomfortable questions about who he is, where his loyalties lie, and what it is that holds a family together.

**JAMES (JAMIE) JAUNCEY** was born in Perthshire in 1949. He was brought up in Edinburgh and Perthshire and went to boarding school in England where he studied classics. After reading law at Aberdeen University, he moved to London and worked as a journalist, publisher and business writer for 20 years before returning to Scotland in 1990. Today he lives on the edge of the Highlands and divides his time between writing fiction, working in the business world as a writer and trainer, and playing the piano in various bands. He is married with four children.

Jamie sits on the board of the **Edinburgh International Book Festival**, the world's largest literary festival. In the past he has been chairman of the **Society of Authors in Scotland** and a member of the **Scottish Arts Council's Literature Committee**. He has also chaired the judging of both the **Pushkin Prizes** and the **Scottish Children's Book Awards**.

**THE RECKONING** Young Picador (Macmillan) November 2008  
**THE WITNESS** Young Picador (Macmillan) July 2007  
**THE CRYSTAL KEEPER** Hippo Fantasy (Scholastic) 1996  
**THE MAPMAKER** Andre Deutsch/Sceptre (Hodder) 1994/1995  
**THE ALBATROSS CONSPIRACY** Ad Lib (Andre Deutsch) 1990

**EVENTS** Jamie is an experienced and engaging speaker. He regularly visits schools, libraries and festivals to talk about his books and run creative writing courses and workshops. Contact him direct to check availability.



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