APPENDICES

A. Biography of James Dashner

James was born and raised in Georgia on November 26, 1972 but now lives in the Rocky Mountains with his family. He has four kids, which some might think is too many but he thinks is just right. Once upon a time, James attended Brigham Young University where he studied accounting and worked in the field of finance, but has been writing full time for several years. (He doesn’t miss numbers. At all.) In his free time, James loves to read, watch movies and (good) TV shows, snow ski, and
read. (Reading was mentioned twice on purpose.) Most of all, he’s thankful that he gets to make a living writing stories and considers himself pretty much the luckiest guy on the planet. After several attempts, Dashner eventually created the character of Jimmy Fincher. Dashner would expand his story into an outline and eventually produced four books in a series, collectively known as The Jimmy Fincher Saga. After repeated rejections from publishers, Dashner’s manuscript was well received by Cedar Fort and his writing career began to take from.

After completion of the four books in the Fincher series, Dashner began another planned trilogy: The Maze Runner. Like the previous saga, the series would again focus on a young boy in a perilous situation. Reviews of The Maze Runner were positive with many comparing the series to the wildly popular The Hunger Games series. Dashner has also completed a prequel to the series, The Kill Order. Dashner has stated that this series is heavily influenced by William Golding’s The Lord of the Flies and Orson Scott Card’s Ender’s Game.

Inspiration

James wanted to be a writer from a very early age. He read every book he could get his hands on, from Superfudge to Narnia, Hardy Boys to Lord of the Rings. And telling stories just seemed like the right thing to do. His parents had an old typewriter and he wrote a few on that just for fun, and boy were they awful. But hopefully he’s gotten better over the years. All the many books he’s read, and all the
movies and TV shows he’s watched, have served to inspire many of his stories. For example, The Maze Runner was heavily influenced by Ender’s Game and Lord of the Flies. Whenever James has a tough time writing, he takes a break to watch a movie or read a book, and then the ideas flow so fast he can’t get them all down. He’ll be the first to admit he’s lucky to have the greatest job ever.

**B. Summary of the Novel**

When the novel begins, the teenaged Mark, his girlfriend Trina, their friends Toad, Misty, and Darnell, together with army veterans Alec and Lana, have formed something of a makeshift family and live together to destroy a virus. They are encamped in the Appalachian Mountains of western North Carolina, living in a village of huts and crude shelters. For the first time in a year, things seem settled. One day Mark and Trina are shocked to discover that a Berg, an airship, comes to the village, and men in hazardous material suits begin shooting the villagers with darts. Mark and Alec gain entry to the Berg, only to discover the darts are full of a dangerous virus, which comes to be known as the flare. It drives people insane, ultimately killing them.

Mark and Alec return to the village to discover that Darnell has come down with the virus. Eventually, he dies. Misty later contracts the virus and dies, as does Toad. Mark, Alec, Trina, and Lana decide to head to the Berg’s headquarters, seeking a cure. They trek through the woods, encountering a little girl named Deedee who is unaffected by the virus, as well as the members of her village who have been ravaged...
and rendered insane by the virus. Mark and Alec are separated from Lana, Trina, and Deedee by a fire caused by the insane people. They are captured by people at the Berg’s headquarters. Mark and Alec infiltrate the base to rescue them, and they discover three things. First, the city of Asheville has turned its back on the Berg base; second, the virus is being spread deliberately to wipe out half the world’s population to conserve resources; and third, Asheville has a Flat Trans, a transportation device linked to Alaska, where the PFC, the Post-Flare Coalition international government, is based. Orders have been issued to unleash the virus. The Berg base negotiates with the crazed locals, giving them Trina, Deedee, and Lana as random for time to attack Asheville. Mark and Alec rescue Trina and Deedee. Alec puts Lana, who is near death, out of her misery.

Then, they fly a stolen Berg to Asheville, where Mark sends Deedee through the Flat Trans with a note saying she is immune to the virus, and she is somehow the cure as well. Meanwhile, the Berg base’s operatives storm Asheville with an army of the infected, crazy people. Mark, Alec, and Trina have all come down with the virus. As Trina and Mark embrace, Alec crashes the Berg into the PFC building that houses the Flat Trans.

Two years later, two men and a woman dressed in black suits and protective masks take a boy from his willing mother. One of the men notices the light bulb in the boy’s apartment and gets the idea to name the boy after Thomas Edison.