



Twelve

James Phelan

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This is where you die, Sam.

The nightmare is real and Sam must face his destiny. Will the chilling prophecy and the ultimate battle against Solaris come true?

Nothing could have prepared Sam for this terrifying new life as one of the last 13 Dreamers. From New York to Egypt, to Italy - the search for the rest of the last 13 will take Sam across the globe. He cannot do it alone, but who can he really trust? He must find the rest of the last 13.

The race has begun.

13 books. 13 nightmares. 1 destiny.

Are you one of them?

Twelve Details

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Author : James Phelan

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From Reader Review Twelve for online ebook

Conan Tigard says

The Last Thirteen: 12 is another exciting chapter in the life of Sam, a first teenager that has the ability to true dream. At the beginning of the book, he is the only one of last thirteen that have been found. His job is to find the other twelve, and they will save the world from Solaris. Not only must Sam try to avoid dark, shadow man that haunts his dreams, he must also evade all of the Enterprise Agents that are after him. After discovering who the second of the last thirteen will be, Sam, flies to Italy to try and convince the singing pop star, Gabriella, that she needs to accompany him. Plus, the Star of Egypt he was able to snag in the previous book . . . well, it isn't the gem that is so important. It's what inside the gem that really matters. Will Sam and Gabriella be able to avoid all of the Enterprise Agents that seem to pop up wherever they go, or will they be captured? How does the object that was placed inside the Star of Egypt fit into the puzzle? Who will be the next found . . . of the last thirteen?

Having really enjoyed the first book in this series by James Phelan, which I read twice, I was excited to sit down and begin this story. Since the first book ended in a cliff hanger, this one is forced to start off with a bang. I had wondered what good the Star of Egypt would do them, and then it is revealed that it isn't the gem that is what is important, but what is inside. And who placed this item there? Leonardo Da Vince himself! So cool. I like stories that twist history making famous people be more than they were, like what the television show Sleepy Hollow does with all of the historical figures of early American colonial times. As for this story, it is an exciting one filled with chase scenes, fights, struggles for survival, and great characters. And to top it off, one of Sam's friends will end up switching sides and join the Enterprise! No! Say it isn't so!

James Phelan has created an interesting series that is sure to have young readers longing for more. The good news is that there are thirteen books in this series. Even though the series takes place in Australia, it isn't necessary to be Australian to enjoy these books. Anyone that enjoys a fast-paced thrilling book filled with mystery, action, and adventure will surely love this story. There are still a lot of unanswered questions floating around out there, and only a few of them are answered in this, the second book of thirteen, in The Last Thirteen series. So, I am going to have to read the rest of them if I truly want answers to all of these questions, and I cannot wait. Do I feel like thirteen books is too many for a young reader? No way! I love a long series and cannot wait to get my hands on all of them. The more, the better.

Overall, The Last Thirteen: 12 is an excellent book in a series that promises to take the reader on a roller coaster of a ride. With ups and down, twists and turns, screaming drops, and exhilarating highs, The Last Thirteen: 12 gives the reader one heck of a fun read. James Phelan has drawn me into this series and hooked me like a fish on the line. I look forward to seeing what happens next in The Last Thirteen: 11. Who will be the next of the last thirteen? Who knows . . . but I look forward to finding out. How about you? Are you one of them?

I rated this book a 9 out of 10.

Dinah Browne says

Good, but the cliffhanger at the end is frustrating

Abby Grace27 says

I loved this book so much. It was just as good as the first one and didn't disappoint me. I didn't realize that Sam was going to have 13 nightmares. I thought he was going to meet people with one nightmare each. I'm just wondering weather Gabriela will make it into the rest of the series. Will there eventually be a group of dreamers helping to find the rest? I think that, that should be a very good possibility

Anna Field says

The thrill continues. I read this one much faster than the first. Couldn't put it down.

Shaheen says

Sam is one of the Last Thirteen - exceptionally talented Dreamers who are prophesied to save the world. *Thirteen* ended with Sam locked in battle with Solaris, who doesn't want the prophecy to come about, and *Twelve* picks up at exactly the same moment.

Whereas the earlier book was primarily concerned with explaining the prophecy, the roles of the Dreamers and who their enemies were, *Twelve* includes a lot more action and adventure. There are car-chases and flights in private jets galore, with Sam and his team breaking into ancient monuments and uncovering their secrets.

Although I liked the book, I was disappointed in its depiction of foreigners. Sam and his friend were caught at the top of the Great Pyramid at Giza, and were understandably hauled off to a police station and questioned. The author decided to make one of the police officers exceptionally hairy, with the other sporting very bad breath and body odour. They were treated as smelly, ignorant foreign people, regardless of how Sam and Will had disrespected a huge symbol of Egypt's history. I just didn't like it.

Twelve has an action filled plot which I enjoyed a lot, but I admit I found it ridiculous that Sam and Gabriella were able to so easily access the Vatican's library and steal one of the previous books kept there. They're just kids, and even Robert Langdon had a hard time getting into that place. In fact, *Twelve* has a lot in common with the Robert Langdon books, and I got a very *The Da Vinci Code for middle-graders* vibe from it.

My favourite plot development is Alex's story-line, because it reminds readers that the Dreamers are basically just kids, and can be manipulated easily by adults who claim to have their best interests at heart. His story is one I'm looking forward to continuing.

The series is definitely hotting up, and I'm interested to see where the books take Sam and the rest of the Dreamers next. *The Last Thirteen* series is perfect for younger teens who can read short chapter books, and is filled with enough action, adventure and humour to entertain the most discerning of readers.

A copy of this book was provided by the publisher for review.
You can read more of my reviews at **Speculating on SpecFic** .

Steph. says

Once again Phelan has managed to capture my interest from the very first line, and kept me absolutely hooked until the very end.

Sam continues his journey with the Academy to pursue the prophecy, find the remaining dreamers of the Last Thirteen, and fulfil his destiny.

Sam and his friends travel across the globe, making new allies along the way. As Dreamers stray from their "chosen" paths it seems as if the Enterprise may not be as evil as the Academy makes them out to be.

William says

Can't Same just deal with all his problems. I am still mind-blown

Parker P says

The Last 13
James Clancy Phelan

The last thirteen is a very solid book series. The book has a lot of twists and turns. The book has all the original character plus one. The plus one's name is, Gabriella. Gabriella is a dreamer like Sam, Eva, and Alex. Sam and the others have to find we and get her back to the academy before the enterprise or Solaris. Gabriella is a teen pop singer who lives in Rome with her family. She has a dream of finding Sam and a book and seeing Solaris.

The theme of this book is a great theme. It is all about committing and not giving up. Like Sam and the others, the dreams have to do whatever they can to fulfill their dreams. They have to commit to everything they do or they will probably die. That is why the theme of the book is the always commit.

Maria Carmo says

In this second volume the story begun to "take off" and I enjoyed better this sequence than the first volume. Of course, one tends to get interested and then wonder about the characters and their adventures. Looking forward to the next one...

Maria Carmo,

Lisbon, 10 March 2015.

Sean Harding says

Fast paced (not always good) filled with action (ditto) read that just passes you by and then you think did anything really happen. Second entry in the thirteen book series felt like it was padding a lot with chase sequences in order to ensure there was enough material for thirteen books. It wasn't bad but it really wasn't that brilliant and fairly forgettable.

Joe Holman says

So far the series is following the premise well and doing well in character development. I'm betting there will be a lot of redundancy in dangerous quests and narrow escapes as the series progresses.

Ashley says

The second book in the thrilling The Last Thirteen multi-platform series by James Phelan. This book takes us to Egypt and Rome in the race against evil. The Dreamers and the heroes from the Academy are often separated so there's a lot more going on than there was in Book One. The two biggest story arcs are the protagonist, Sam, recruiting another Dreamer and Alex's being kidnapped by the Enterprise, thereby sparking a brainwashing/betrayal story arc that is sure to pay off in future books. Unlike the first book, there's a little more violence as we see some real gunfire, more danger, and even some physical altercations.

We finally get a real showdown between Sam and Solaris, but Solaris' capabilities and his story are still shrouded in mystery. We've still got eleven books to go, so I'm guessing it'll be a while before we get the really juicy stuff about Solaris' powers and his past. Too bad.

The characters are flat, with most detail being left up to the reader's imagination. With a novel that will come to include so many important main characters, I think this works for the series. Book Two is a fast-paced read with lots of destruction and mayhem.

I was surprised and a little disappointed at Alex's willingness to forgive his parents and overlook their lies and the current situation, but the book moves fast so I guess we don't have time for his hesitation. Hopefully Alex's loyalty to Enterprise will be an exciting story arc that will be developing over the series. If you're looking for a book with great characterization, this series can't offer you that.

The book opens with a one page, bulleted summary of what happened in Book One: 13, which is a great feature. The books are short (about 200 pages), and include a few hand-drawn pictures to break up the text. Book Two:12 concludes with an exciting cliffhanger that will get readers anxious to pick up the next book.

I'm not sure how great the series will be by book thirteen, let alone book ten, since the books follow the same general story like clockwork: nightmare, travel to a new city, get pursued by the Enterprise/Solaris, track a powerful artefact, darts, gunfire, nightmares, cliffhanger. Hopefully Phelan has some plot twists up his sleeves that will keep readers interested and coming back for more.

3.5 stars

The Last Thirteen Book Two: 12 will be published February 1, 2014.
The Last Thirteen Book Three: 11 will be published March 1, 2014.

Naomi Campbell says

I am reading this whole series aloud to my 11 and 13-year-old kiddos this summer. We read through them pretty quickly. The kids love all the action. I'm not ABSOLUTELY LOVING this series myself, but the kids both actually are really into it, so we're reading on. I liked this one better than the first one, so maybe they just get better and better. There really is a lot of action and a bit of suspense. Right now we're not exactly sure who are the "good guys" and who are the "bad guys."

Lucy says

This series has such a cool concept (and awesome covers), and I love how it was marketed. I just wish it had been executed better. To me, the mark of a good children's book is that it can be enjoyed by anyone of any age, and no one is made to feel too old for it. But with this series it is so obvious that I'm not the intended demographic. The writing is so simple that it becomes tedious, and there's an abundance of "telling not showing" which usually doesn't bother me but oh boy, in this it did. James Phelan also writes adult books so I'd be interested to read some of those to see if his style is any different when he writes for a different age group.

I didn't love the first book but decided I'd give the series another chance before I passed judgement. Unfortunately, it seems this is a children's series that can only be enjoyed by children. Which is such a shame because this is the kind of plot that I usually love. Judging by most of the recent reviews here on goodreads, I'm not alone in feeling this.

DNF'd at page 28 of 185.

TheCosyDragon says

This review has been crossposted from my blog at The Cosy Dragon . Please head there for more in-depth reviews by me, which appear on a timely schedule.

Sam is still dreaming. For him, it is getting more difficult to tell the difference between dreams and reality. He's been stranded in several countries, including Egypt, but now it's his job to convince the 12th dreamer that she belongs with him.

Once again this is an action packed novel, story-focussed and story-driven. I don't think I spent a minute thinking about the individual characters, only the overall picture of action.

Alex, whose character development I complained about last time, certainly gets a lot more back-story. I can't believe I picked that! Well, at least picked him out as a probable suspect...

I still wish there was more about the actual abilities of the current Dreamers. The experiments by a certain group certainly lend themselves to me learning more about it. Not to mention extending them. It sounds good in theory, but in practice? We'll have to wait for the next book.

Each novel of this series has a nail-biting cliffhanger. I don't know if the author came up with this method by himself, or whether this is a bigger novel chopped into serialised bits, or just a fine marketing technique.

Either way, you can tell when the end of the novel is coming, because it will be just before you get a great piece of information.

Repeat from my earlier review: It's a bite-sized spy/genius/warfare novel that's going to get your non-reader interested in reading again. If you're not sure, to me it seemed similar to Robert Muchamore's Cherub series. If you're not sure if your son/daughter is ever going to get away from comic and graphic novels, offer this instead. The action is fast-paced and there's hardly any emotional baggage or 'feels' to get in the way.

I received this novel directly from Scholastic as an Advance Reader copy. This has in no way influenced my review. This novel was released to the public before I got a chance to write up my review. You can still get on it in time for Christmas!
