

Author Bio

James Ponti is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* Bestselling author of four Middle Grade book series, including *City Spies* and *The Sherlock Society*. His novels have been named to more than seventy state award lists, translated into sixteen languages, and sold over one million copies. *City Spies* has been optioned by Amazon MGM Studios for development as a film franchise. He's a two-time Edgar Award-nominee, winning in 2018 for *Vanished!*

James was born in Italy and grew up in Atlantic Beach, Florida, where he could usually be found on the beach, at the movie theater, or playing sports. Despite being a reluctant reader, he decided to become a writer in the fifth grade.

A graduate of the University of Southern California's film school, James spent thirty years working in television, first as a scriptwriter for Nickelodeon, Disney Channel, and PBS; and then as a writer/producer for History Channel, Spike TV, Golf Channel, and NBC Sports. He wrote, produced, and co-directed the Emmy-nominated documentary *27 Years: The Exoneration of Valentino Dixon*.

He loves to travel with his family and visit museums, historic landmarks, major league baseball stadiums, and, most of all, bookstores. He lives in Orlando, Florida.

Social Media

Instagram – @jamespontibooks

Facebook – @jamesponti.1

YouTube – @jamespontibooks

Threads – @jamespontibooks

Representation

Literary Agent – Rosemary Stimola, Stimola Literary Studio – stimolaliterarystudio.com

Film Agent – Jason Dravis – The Dravis Agency – thedravisagency.com

International Editions – Clementine Ahearne – ILA – ila-agency.co.uk

Simon & Schuster Speakers Bureau – Emily Varga – Emily.Varga@simonandschuster.com

National Bestseller Lists

- New York Times Bestsellers List (*City Spies*, *Golden Gate*, *Forbidden City*, *City of the Dead*, *Mission Manhattan*, *London Calling*, *Europa*, *Sherlock Society*, *Hurricane Heist*)
- Indie Booksellers Bestsellers List (*City Spies*, *Golden Gate*, *London Calling*, *Europa*, *Sherlock Society*, *Hurricane Heist*)
- USA Today Bestseller List (*Mission Manhattan*, *London Calling*, *Europa*, *Sherlock Society*, *Hurricane Heist*)

National Awards and Recognition

- Edgar Award, Best Juvenile (*Vanished!*)
- Edgar Award Nominee, Best Juvenile (*Framed!*)
- Kid's Indie Next List (Golden Gate, Sherlock Society)
- Barnes & Noble Monthly Pick (*City Spies*, Sherlock Society)
- Junior Library Guild (*City Spies*, *Golden Gate*, *Forbidden City*, *City of the Dead*, *Mission Manhattan*, *London Calling*, *Europa*, *Sherlock Society*, *Hurricane Heist*)
- New York Public Library Best Books of the Year (*City Spies*)
- Bank Street Best Children's Books of the Year (*Framed!*, *Vanished!*, *Trapped!*, *Sherlock Society*)
- Agatha Award Nominee (Sherlock Society, *Hurricane Heist*)

State Awards

2016 – Florida Book Award – Bronze Medal – *Framed!*
 2017 – Edgar Award Nominee – Mystery Writers of America – *Framed!*
 2018 – Edgar Award – Mystery Writers of America – *Vanished!*
 2019 – Mark Twain Reader's Award – Missouri State Readers' Choice – *Framed!*
 2019 – Nevada Young Readers' Award – *Framed!*
 2021 – Florida Sunshine State Young Readers Award – *City Spies*
 2021 – Florida Book Award – Bronze Medal – Golden Gate
 2022 – President's Award – Florida Association of Media Educators
 2022 – Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Book Award – *City Spies*
 2022 – Sakura Medal – International Schools of Japan Best Book Award - *City Spies*
 2023 – Minnesota Youth Readers Award – *City Spies*
 2023 – Nevada Young Readers' Award – *City Spies*
 2023 – Young Hoosier Book Award – *City Spies*
 2024 – Nēnē Award – Hawai'i's Children's Choice Book Award – *City Spies*
 2024 – Charlie Mae Simon Children's Book Award – Arkansas – *City Spies*

Honors

2017 – Bank Street Best Children's Books of the Year – *Vanished!*
 2018 – Bank Street Best Children's Books of the Year – *Trapped!*
 2020 – Junior Library Guild Gold Standard – *City Spies*
 2020 – New York Public Library Best Books of 2020 – *City Spies*
 2020 – Parents' Magazine Best Books of 2020 – *City Spies*
 2020 – Parent's Choice Recommended Books – *City Spies*
 2021 – Barnes & Noble Children's Pick of the Month – *City Spies*
 2021 – Indie Next – *Golden Gate*
 2021 – Junior Library Guild Gold Standard – Golden Gate
 2022 – Junior Library Guild Gold Standard – *Forbidden City*
 2023 – Junior Library Guild Gold Standard – *City of the Dead*
 2024 – Junior Library Guild Gold Standard – *Mission Manhattan*
 2024 – Junior Library Guild Gold Standard – *The Sherlock Society*

2024 – Indie Next – *The Sherlock Society*

2024 – *The Week Junior* Best Books of the Year – *The Sherlock Society*

2025 – Junior Library Guild Gold Standard – *London Calling*

2025 – *The Week Junior* Best Books of the Year – *London Calling*

2025 – Junior Library Guild Gold Standard – *Hurricane Heist*

2025 – Barnes & Noble Children’s Pick of the Month – *The Sherlock Society*

2026 – Junior Library Guild Gold Standard – *Europa*