



# Survivor

*James Phelan*

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## **Survivor** James Phelan

Jesse is alone. His friends are gone. His supplies are gone. And the chasers, the zombies, are getting bolder. So when he starts to see signs of life, of other humans, he can't believe his luck. But in post-incident New York, the only thing more dangerous than the chasers, are the survivors.

## **Survivor Details**

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Author : James Phelan

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# From Reader Review Survivor for online ebook

## Jacob Norby says

### Personal Response

I thought this was a pretty good book. It was definitely an improvement on the first book in the series. It has more action than the first one and consistently keeps the story moving. The story is still good, and the characters are still likeable. The only real downside to this book is that the plot is somewhat more predictable in this one.

### Plot Summary

New York City has been bombed by some sort of missile that spread an unknown disease. The disease infects people and turns them into zombies that are always thirsty. Most of them just drink water, but others attack people and drink their blood. A teenage boy named Jesse survived the attack and is on the search for other regular people. Jesse is exploring the city when he finds a video camera in someone's apartment. The camera shows footage of a girl named Felicity who managed to survive the attack. Jesse leaves a note telling the girl where to meet him. He starts to go back to his hideout, but he first stops at the Central Park Zoo. There he meets another survivor named Rachel. She lets Jesse stay with her. Everyday, Jesse attempts to make it to the meeting spot with Felicity, but usually he's late or she doesn't show. During one of these days, Jesse meets another survivor named Caleb. He and Jesse become good friends. Caleb doesn't seem to want to join Jesse's group, though. Eventually, Jesse goes back to the meeting spot and finally meets Felicity. They both travel back to the zoo. One day, Caleb comes by and tells Jesse there's a big group of survivors he met. Jesse sets off to find these people, hoping they can all come together and leave the city.

### Characterization

Jesse is a strong-willed character. He never gives up his wish to eventually make it back home. He attempts to bring all the survivors together to better all of them. Jesse generally leads the survivor group, though he isn't over controlling of them. He didn't change much by the end of the book, other than becoming more hopeful that he can get back home.

Rachel and Felicity are two somewhat different characters who Jesse brought together. Felicity wants to leave the city, but Rachel wants to stay with her animals. They both get along despite their differences. The other survivor, Caleb, didn't want to join the group because he'd rather be alone and fend for himself.

### Recommendation

I'd recommend this book to anyone who enjoyed the previous book in the series. This book picks up right where the last one left off. It's a decent dystopian future-themed book, but there are much better books out there. The series is meant for at least high school level readers due to some violence and bad language. I think any gender can enjoy this book, because the main characters can relate to anyone.

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## Kathleen says

3.5 stars

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## **Mel says**

This book follows on almost immediately after Chasers. I read it in a day. Jesse finds survivors in this one and discovers a few things about the Chasers as well.

In all zombie/post apocalyptic books there is a "safe" area. Somewhere where the contagion or problem is less if not completely absent. This is what Jesse wants to find. He wants a way home.

The twist in this book wasn't nearly as good as the twist in the first one but still a decent one. The outcome of the book has left me wanting more. I need to know what will happen and who is dropping the bombs and missiles.

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## **Bonnie says**

When I finish a book that I'm going to review, I usually try to write about it straight after so my thoughts are still fresh and I still remember the feeling it left with me, but that wasn't the case with Survivor. I'm still writing this review within a couple hours of finishing it, but I'm also procrastinating.

I finished reading Survivor and opted to potter around the house, do a little housework, and I admit I let out some discontented sighs every now and then because of the book... This sounds like I'm going in a negative direction doesn't it? I'm not. It's been awhile since I read a novel in part of a series or trilogy that left me wanting more; left me wanting more enough to lament reading it in the first place and ruing the decision not to wait till the next book!

I find Survivor, just like its predecessor, to be one of those books that are hard to put down, make you want to miss out on sleep, and get so sucked in to the character's world that it can take awhile to come back again. The trilogy so far is, in short, addictive.

After the twist at the end of Chasers, and thankfully to a re-read just before I began Survivor, I was left saddened and wondering how Jesse was going to cope with not only his revelation, but being alone from then on. I was a little thrown by where he was when we first come across him because of where the previous book had left him and the idea of where he would be had taken a deep root into my brain, but it soon became clear what was going on and once again I was able to be sucked into his story.

The way Survivor is written gives you a chance to mourn and come to grips with the loss of his friends at the same time Jesse does, which is great because that revelation was quite the shell shocking kind if you didn't see it coming.

For the rest of my review, please visit my blog.

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## **Tayler Carpenter says**

### **Personal Response**

I really like this series so far and it is a very enjoyable book to read. I liked that Jesse was able to find more survivors and make more friends. I liked how Jesse was able to bring together a group of kids around his age.

### Plot Summary

Jesse finds himself getting shot at by soldiers who think he is one of the infected. Shortly after they stop after realizing that Jesse is healthy and Jesse is able to learn a little bit of information about this contagion. Jesse meets a soldier named Starkey and he tells Jesse that he needs to head north because the contagion doesn't survive in the cold. After that Jesse goes to find a girl named Felicity who went to find a group of docile chasers. While looking for her he comes across a zoo and meets Rachel, who has been taking care of the zoo by herself for 12 days, and she is a little skeptical of Jesse. Later Jesse goes out to find Felicity and actually meets her and they run into another USAMRIID convoy that gets attacked by a US drone. They run to the zoo and Caleb has learned of a group at Chelsea Piers.

### Recommended

I recommend this book to kids 13 and older. The book has some words that might be hard for some kids younger to pronounce. There are some instances where it can be gory for younger kids.

### Characterization

The main character Jesse really becomes aware of the dangers he is putting himself in every time he goes into the city, he has become somewhat careless it seems. He starts running into more chasers and I'm not sure if that is because the chasers are getting better at hunting or Jesse is becoming careless. Jesse also starts to realize that the group can't stay at the zoo much longer and he is getting the other to realize that. Jesse is becoming more of a leader with every day that goes by.

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## Maximillian Meyerhofer says

### Personal Response:

I like this book because it flowed really well from the last book to this one. In this book, there was a lot more action. Which is what I look for in a book because that's the kind of material I like to read. The second book contained a lot more mystery than the first one. It also explained in greater detail what happened to the city and the world and why there are zombies.

### Plot Summary:

In the beginning of the book, there were soldiers that started shooting at Jesse because they thought he was infected. Most of the soldiers didn't accept him, so they parted ways. Next, Jesse is on the run trying to find survivors and a girl named Felicity. He goes to Central Park to a zoo and sees a girl. Then he starts helping her and the animals, who are starting to run out of food, so Jesse goes out to find some. When he is out there he meets a guy named Caleb and they gather food together. The next day they bring the food back to the zoo. Then, Jesse goes out again to find Felicity and they meet and go to the zoo together. When all of them are at the zoo, Caleb goes out one night on his own. Jesse chases after him and he ends up at his parents house and finds his parents dead. Then they hear a killer drone and run for the city. When they're in the city, there is a militia and they start fighting Chasers and try shooting the drone. There is a missile which has the infection inside of it, in there truck. The drone blows up the militia and, then, Caleb runs in to save a Starkey, one of the soldiers. There was a big explosion and it turns him into a chaser. Jesse runs back to the zoo and talks to the girls about what happened. Later that night, he goes back out to look for survivors to escape the city.

### Recommendation:

I would recommend this book to anyone age 13 and up. I say this because it has swearing in it and it can get bad in some parts. I would rate this book 9/10. It was an extremely interesting book and I did not get bored of it at anytime. It would be a 10/10 if it was a shorter book, but other than that it is a great book.

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## **Shannon says**

Whilst not as good as "Chaser" (which actually rendered my speech to as little as "What? What? What?" after the end) I still really enjoyed "Survivor". The new characters really added something special, and the plot definitely thickened throughout. Plenty of action and well, the hunting breed of chasers just gave me the creeps. Definitely a recommended read for those aged 9-12. Where's "Quarantine"???

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## **Harrison says**

When you imagine yourself in a book you know its worth reading

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## **andrew looker says**

### Personal Response

I think that the book was very good and it had a lot of action and tense moments. I love to read books that are like this with a lot of action and a lot of tense moments. The author did an amazing job

I would say in making the book. I have some questions. 1. Why did a plane shoot at their own truck? Why was the truck carrying a biological missile?

### Plot

What happens first is that Jesse finds signs of life and then running from the infected ends up seeing another survivor that is hiding in a zoo. The survivor doesn't let him in and he jumps a fence to get in. They become friends and it turns out that the person is actually caring for all the animals in the zoo. Then Jesse leaves on a trip and finds a house with a video camera that has a message of another survivor for anyone who sees that tape to meet her at a certain place and he meets up with her and they got to the zoo together. Then on another trip finds another survivor holed up in a bookstore and they become friends he has a pretty nice setup with food and video games. Then Jesse sees a military truck driving through town with soldiers. An airplane fires at them making the truck explode. Turns out the truck was carrying a biological missile that went off and turned Caleb into a chaser.

### Recommendation

I would recommend this book to middle school boys who like a lot of action and tense moments in there books because it is very fun to read. I would not recommend this to girls because they usually do not like killing and disgusting moments.

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## **Kirsti says**

I read book one in this series over five years ago, so it took me a little while to pick up where I left off. In fact, I enjoyed this book more than the first (apparently) because I rated it a three and this one a four. Perhaps my appreciation for apocalypse has changed and grown in five years, or perhaps this was genuinely a better book. Who knows?

Jesse has lived alone since realizing his friends are gone. He is desperate to find more survivors like himself,

but who else has survived the catastrophe that has turned most of humanity into mindless drones, or killing machines? This book mainly deals with Jesse encountering them, and trying to persuade them to leave the city with him.

This definitely felt like a bridging book, but in a good way. There are still no real answers, but it feels like it's leading into that. Now maybe I wait another five years and read book three? Hopefully it's sooner than that!

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## **Bree T says**

I read the first book in this trilogy, *Chasers*, last year as it was part of the 50 Books You Can't Put Down for the Get Reading 2010 campaign. In the first novel, 16yo Australian Jesse was on a leadership camp in New York being run by the United Nations when a catastrophic event occurred while he was riding the subway. Crawling out of the wreckage, he saw chaos everywhere and anyone it seemed who had survived had developed an insatiable thirst. Most were content to drink from puddles, fire hydrants, lakes, etc but there were some who hunted people down and drank from them. At the end of the book when he flees his safe spot to search for other survivors, he finds a video camera with recordings on it by a young girl who like him, seems unaffected.

The second book opens with Jesse's continued search for Felicity, the girl on the video camera. He leaves a note for her in her apartment and goes looking for her in Central Park, where she mentions that she saw a bunch of humans that although appear infected, they are friendlier than others and could possibly be able to communicate. Jesse has seen the same people himself and he tries to find her there to no avail. He does however, encounter some suspicious looking 'Army' men who have found a way into the city for reasons unknown and appear to be systematically searching for something. After they almost kill him, Jesse tries following them for a while but eventually is discouraged of that and turns back. He then finds a student named Rachel who is bunkered down in the zoo, left caring for a handful of animals. She's running out of food for them though and Jesse vows to leave and go and search out food so that she can continue caring for them. While he is undertaking this mission he encounters yet another survivor, a teenage boy named Caleb who is holed up in the bookstore he worked in before the event, claiming that it is more secure than most residences. He gives Jesse some information about the chasers and helps him take some things back to Rachel but he's also got a bit of a sinister side and Jesse isn't really sure whether or not he can trust him. When Jesse also finally finds Felicity, the four of them get together at the zoo and try and decide what they want to do.

Jesse is all for leaving, like the so-called Army characters he encountered told him to do. Leave, move north towards Canada where it's colder, where the disease/infection/whatever it is doesn't seem to have the prevalence. Caleb swears he's spotted a group of some 40 odd survivors that don't seem infected hiding out somewhere and that they should go and join them, or at least talk to them. Rachel is skeptical and also adamant that she cannot leave her zoo animals. They are her responsibility now and she has to stay and ensure that she can look after them as best she can. Felicity opts to stay with Rachel so when Caleb takes off one night, Jesse goes after him, splitting the group up.

It seemed that after spending the first book alone, survivors came crawling out of the woodwork everywhere in this novel – that's not unlikely on it's own. After all if Jesse survived and is uninfected than it's logical that there are other people in the same situation, holed up like he was, trying to survive on what they could find from nearby and avoid the chasers. It just seems so easy that he keeps stumbling upon these people,

especially Felicity, whom he leaves a note for telling her to meet him in a certain location. He doesn't make it to the location on time for several days but keeps going, only to find her the first time he manages to get there at the time he suggested, which is also the first time she went there! It's all sorts of coincidences, all the time.

I found it interesting that we learned a bit more about the chasers in this novel but I did also feel that it wasn't enough. It's been over two weeks since the incident occurred while Jesse was on the subway, probably closer to three weeks by the time this novel draws to a close and we're still not really much the wiser about what has happened, other than a vague sort of biochemical type of incident. There are more questions than answers and give that there is only one book to go (and these books aren't really that big) it seems like a lot to tie up in a final installment. It also seems like everyone is awesomely resourceful – rigging up generators and taking the time to hook up X-boxes to plasma TV's and play a few games of this and that. I'm beginning to think that if ever I'm stranded in some sort of apocalyptic event, my chances of survival are pretty much zero because I wouldn't know a generator if I fell over one, much less how to use it to power my little awesome hidey-hole, completely equipped with all the mod-cons a person could want!

The third book, Quarantine is due out in Australia next month and I am still invested enough to want to see how it ends and find out if Jesse ever makes it back to Australia. How widespread is this event? Is it just the east coast of America? Or will we learn that it's affected a much larger area? I said in my review of the first book that I think this would be the sort of book I'd recommend to adolescent teen boys and I still would – I think it's a subject matter that would interest them and just 'gory' enough to keep them going. It's not the sort of YA that crosses over easily into adult readership, but I don't think it's supposed to.

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### **Adrielle says**

Jesse is alone, his friends are gone and he needs to find his own way through this ravaged city. It is quite a sad story in a way but this in no way slows down the pace. It is definitely a teen read.

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### **Nickcucinella says**

I thought this book was a very good read because it kept me on the edge of my seat through the book. The main character shows a lot of courage and bravery throughout the book and even though it's a non fiction book it still teaches a lesson. It showed me to be courages and do my best to help others.

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### **Melissa says**

So good I can't believe I have to wait for quarantine !

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### **Charlie Lewis says**

Personal response

I thought that this book was a very intriguing. This book had a lot of suspenseful moments.



## Plot

Jesse was still in the same building as he was in the last book when he was hiding from the chasers. He was in an apartment that had a video recorder that said someone was there that survived the attack but she went out. He left a message to meet him at 30 Rock at 10:00am on the video recorder and then left. He found a group of USAMRIID and only one will talk to him. Starkey tells him if he gets out to head north. He went to get supplies but was spotted by a group of chasers. He ran to a zoo but it was locked. He looked in through the window and saw someone inside. He climbed the fence to the zoo and went to see who was in it. He found a girl named Rachel who had been staying there since the attack caring for the animals. He helped her with feeding and watering the animals. The next morning Jesse woke up late so he didn't make it to 30 Rock on time and saw no one. Jesse also had to go get food for the animals because it was running low. When he was out he found a guy named Caleb. They saw three chasers and hid behind a car. Jesse was getting ready to shoot them when Caleb told him not to and used his riot shotgun so they didn't die. He then went with Caleb back to his "crib". When they got there Jesse and Caleb played video games and ate. That night Jesse and Caleb both brought one bag of food to the zoo before dark but Caleb went back to his place instead of staying. The next morning he woke up late again and saw no one again. On the third day he got up and made it to 30 Rock on time and saw a someone. He found out that it was the girl from the video and her name was Felicity. He took her back to the zoo. The next day he went to talk with Caleb and ended up staying the night. He was spotted on his way back to the zoo and hid in the bathroom of a cafe. When he finally went to see if the cost was clear he saw Rachel in the doorway crying. She told him that the chasers had attacked the snow leopards killing one and injuring the other. They went back to the zoo and Rachel showed him the snow leopard. Jesse ran to Caleb's for a generator but saw blood all around his door. He runs to the door and knocks on it. When Caleb opens it Jesse asks what happened and Caleb explained. Jesse passed out and hit his head on a car shortly after. Jesse wakes up and doesn't remember why he was supposed to be there. He talks with Caleb and goes to the 9/11 memorial where Caleb tells him of a group he found at Chelsea Piers. They head back and Caleb refills a generator which makes Jesse remember that's why he went to Caleb's. The two take it back to the zoo. Caleb stays and they figure that they will check out the group at Chelsea Piers. They have dinner and Jesse goes to sleep. He wakes up and finds out by the girls that Caleb got really drunk and went to go see his family's place. Jesse goes out after him and finds him destroying a hotel lobby. They start to head back to the zoo when they see the USAMRIID truck as it's attacked by a drone. Caleb goes and starts pulling people out of the blown up truck. Starkey yells at them to run because it has an unexploded missile. The missile blows up and infects Caleb turning him into the hunting kind. Jesse runs back to the zoo.

## Characterization

Jesse is a Australian who went to New York City because of a UN tour he was on. He survived the first 12 days by pretending that his group was still alive till he realized he didn't need them. He found the other 3 and tried to bring them together.

Rachel is a zoo employee who survived too. They lived together at the zoo to take care of the animals.

Felicity is the survivor from the apartment that went to check out some docile chasers. She wants to leave like Jesse.

Caleb is a boy who survived the attack. He refuses to kill the chaser unless absolutely necessary. He toward the end was convinced to leave for the group at Chelsea Piers. He died trying to save the USAMRIID troops from earlier.

Starkey is the only USAMRIID soldier that talked to him. He saves Jesse by warning him of the missile they have that was about to explode.

### Recommendation

I would recommend this to high school and middle school boys. I recommend to them because this book is filled with action, suspense, and shocking moments.

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