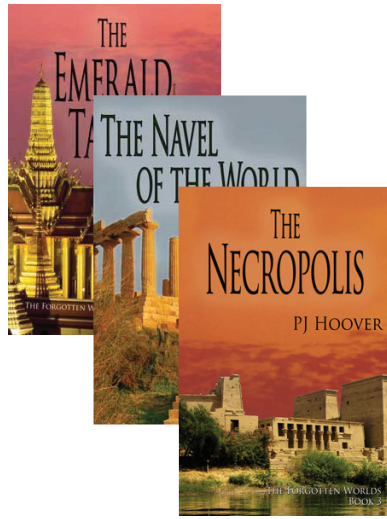


ABOUT THE TRILOGY

Benjamin and his best friend Andy love being different from the other kids. They like being able to read each others minds and to use their telekinesis to play tricks. In fact, they are getting set to spend their entire summer doing just that when Benjamin's mirror starts talking. Suddenly, he's looking at eight weeks of summer school someplace that can only be reached by a teleporter hidden in his hallway. And the summer only gets stranger.

At school, Benjamin discovers that he isn't really human but something called a telegen. It turns out that the powers he always thought made him special only make him normal. But then the mysterious Emerald Tablet chooses him as its champion, and all chances of an uneventful life disappears.



ABOUT PJ HOOVER



PJ Hoover lives in Austin, TX with her husband, two kids, Yorkshire Terrier Cissy, and two sulcata tortoises, King Tort and Nefertorti. She used to design chips (not the baked variety, and certainly not ruffled), but now she writes full time.

AN INTERVIEW WITH PJ

How did you start writing?

I wasn't always an author. I actually had a life as an electrical engineer before I started writing. But even back in college, I loved the unknown and took an extra year to get a History major so I could be an archaeologist. I never actually became an archaeologist, but I'd still love to give it a shot, maybe on a vacation or something someday.

I started writing after the birth of my second kid. Writing seemed like a great way to take a lifelong love of reading and a fascination with the unknown and blend them together into a perfect career.

What interested you about Greek mythology?

I'm drawn to Greek mythology the most largely because it was the first real mythology I learned. I remember early on reading all the cool stories about the gods and goddesses tricking each other and falling in and out of love. That's the stuff stories are made of, and I had to incorporate it into my books.

Benjamin and his friends have some weird powers. How did you think of them all?

I think, though telepathy is cool, I wouldn't really want to know what people are thinking about me. I think, though telekinesis would be wonderful, especially when it was time to wash the dishes or clean the house, it would inherently lead to laziness. I think telegnosis could be useful when trying to predict the ups and downs of the stock market. But over all else, I think teleportation would rock the house. Being able to travel the world in the blink of an eye would really cut down on the hassle of airport security with two young kids in tow. My mom could teleport to my house and fold my laundry and then teleport home after dinner. Now that would be nice!

Do you have any other mythology themed books planned?

A better question to ask is do I have any books planned without mythology, and so far the answer is no. I love all kinds of mythology from Greek and Roman to Egyptian to Norse to Asian to Indian. I love seeing how different world mythologies link together into common pasts. The great thing about mythology is there is so much basis there already to play around with and research and incorporate into stories.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. There are several novels right now grounded in Greek mythology. How does this trilogy embrace that tradition? Move away from it? How does it incorporate other mythologies into one?
2. Benjamin is quickly thrown into a situation he knows little about.