



Press release: **Sphinx: The Second Coming** by James Thornton

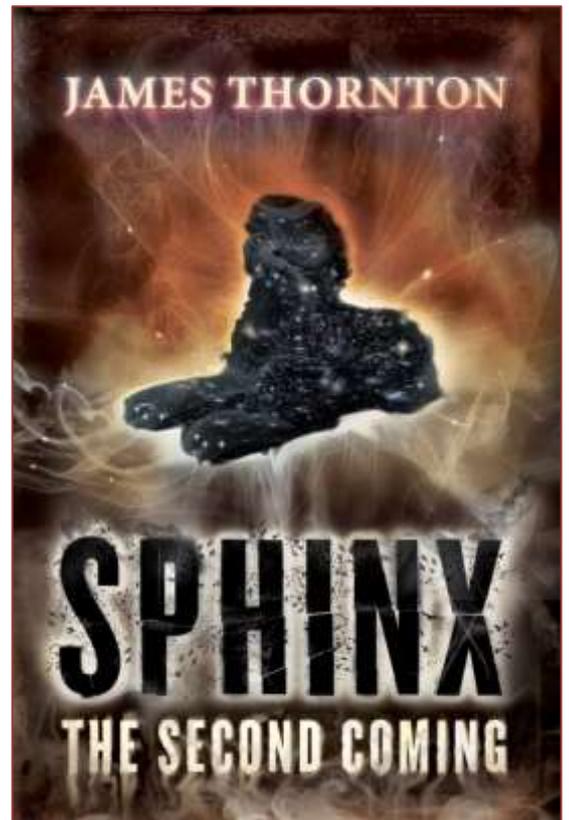
released May 15th 2014

The second novel from 'one of ten people who could change the world' -*The New Statesman*

James Thornton was named one of the UK's Hot 100 lawyers for 2013 by *The Lawyer*. *The New Statesman* called him 'one of ten people who could change the world.' He is the founding CEO of ClientEarth, Europe's top legal environmental NGO with sixty staff and offices in London, Brussels and Warsaw.



Beyond that, this second novel shows the wilder side to this Irish-American lawyer, resident in London since 2001. SPHINX draws on years of study and travel in Ancient Egypt; James's years running a brain science institute focused on applied psychedelics; a life of total dedication to environmental pressures on the planet; and the powers he draws on as a Zen Buddhist priest.



'Why write the novel?' says James. 'Look where the old myth got us. Hell in a handbasket. The planet's in peril and we keep on destroying it. The religions, frankly, have had nothing worthwhile to say on the issue. We need a new myth, a new story. How about digging up an Ancient religion that isn't shy of taking revenge for all mankind has done? I love people. I love my characters. And I love making them live with the consequences of screwing up the planet. My novel delves into ancient history, roams the universe, melds science and the supernatural. I aim for a great read that might frighten you a little and let you see the world in a new way.'

Synopsis

The Sphinx presides over the desert while methane bubbles beneath the ocean's beds. Catastrophe is coming. A team of westerners is set to unlock a code found deep in the fabric of the Great Pyramid. The puzzle goes beyond time – for secrets of Ancient Egypt are alive beneath modern Cairo. The puzzle stretches into the universe, where distant galaxies stay alert for the future of planet Earth. It's enough to shake the Ancient Gods to action.

Barbican Press was founded in 2009. SPHINX: The Second Coming launches a scifi list, since science fiction tackles the most cutting edge issues of our time.

For interviews with James, please contact: Michelle Thomas mthomas@clientearth.org

t. +44 20 3030 5982

Published by Barbican Press

Out May 15th 2014 £12.99 pp.356 ISBN: 9780956336446

229 x 152 mm perfect bound on white with gloss/lam. Typeset in Garamond: 11.75 / 15.5pt

ebook: £7.99 ISBN: 9781909954007

Cover by Rawshock Design

Website: www.barbicanpress.com Email: info@barbicanpress.com

Distributed by Central Books

T: 020 8525 8800 F: 0208525 8879 E: orders@centralbooks.com W.centralbooks.com

