



## The Leviathan Effect

*James Lilliefors*

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Homeland Security Secretary Catherine Blaine receives a frightening communication from a hacker identified only by the pseudonym Janus. The message is the latest in a series correctly predicting natural disasters around the world—disasters that, Janus claims, were manufactured, not natural at all. And, according to the email, unless the United States does as Janus instructs, another disaster is coming—a Category 5 hurricane that will hit the Eastern Seaboard and destroy the lives of tens of millions of people.

Unaware of the crisis in Washington, investigative journalist Jon Mallory stumbles on a list of seven prominent scientists who have been murdered over the past dozen years. When the person who gave him the list disappears herself, Jon realizes he has unwittingly become part of a deadly chain of events and contacts his brother, private intelligence contractor Charles, for help. Meanwhile, Catherine Blaine has also come to Charles for help tracking down the hacker Janus and uncovering the frightening new weather technology that threatens the world.

## **The Leviathan Effect Details**

Date : Published March 19th 2013 by Soho Crime (first published January 1st 2013)

ISBN : 9781616952495

Author : James Lilliefors

Format : Hardcover 336 pages

Genre : Thriller, Mystery, Fiction, Science Fiction, Suspense

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## From Reader Review The Leviathan Effect for online ebook

### Charity says

I won this book in a giveaway on GoodReads.com, and from the moment I started it, I absolutely loved it. I enjoy the Thriller genre, but I get annoyed at all of the cliches (i.e., Independent, abnormally strong woman with troubled marital past due to her career-oriented mindset and cop/FBI agent/otherwise tough but misunderstood guy spend entire book engaged in sexual tension only to finally give in in a trite sex scene just before everyone else realizes the two of them were right all along about Bob - he is the killer!).

The Leviathan Effect was just the opposite. Although there was a little love story in there for those who enjoy that, it was not overblown and did not detract from the main story in the least. The subject matter of this book is original and engaging, and from the very first page, the reader is drawn into a complicated mystery that keeps him turning the pages.

Although there is some bad language, it is minimal, especially compared to other books in the genre. Sex scenes are not described in detail, which is a plus for me. Sex and swearing are not necessary in books, and usually they just detract from the main tale. If a writer can't find a better way to express himself than through vulgarity, that shows an inherent problem with the writer's abilities.

Lucky for me, James Lilliefors can tell an awesome story without being vulgar or using curse words on every other page. Overall, just an awesome book for this genre and compelling enough to be enjoyed by people who aren't thriller junkies like me.

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### Heidi says

I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

An interesting story about how weather manipulation could be used as a terror threat. Loved all the talk about weather since my Husband is a Meteorologist and would be interested to see what he thought about the book after reading it. I am definitely curious if there is going to be another book with how this one ended and would definitely read it.

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### Elizabeth A says

Don't you just hate when you settle in with a pot of tea and a new book and the book lets you down? I was in the mood for a thriller, a fast paced story that would keep me turning the pages, but this was not it. It should have been. It's got a great premise, but I simply do not understand all the rave reviews. Color me not thrilled. I was bored and bailed on page 42.

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### Rena says

This book was sent to me as a winner on Goodreads. This is the author's second book, so I went to the library to read his first one, *Viral*, before getting to this. I actually liked this book a little better than the first, so I was pleasantly surprised. The premise was really good and I like the science aspect. It brings up a lot of questions. Since this is an advanced copy, I'm not sure if the author would be adding any info if this weather stuff is really being studied by our government or other private research. I would be curious to find out. The story is well-written, very thrilling. The ending is a little ambiguous, there may be more in-store.

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### **Tad says**

The Leviathan Effect is a very interesting type of thriller. It has computer hacking, shadowy foreign agents, and weather control. The use of weather as a weapon is a truly frightening yet very believable concept. Mother nature as an implacable and capricious villain who may or may not be controllable by terrorists manages to keep the suspense ramping up throughout the novel.

The characters of Homeland Security Secretary Catherine Blaine and ex-CIA agent Charles Mallory are exceptionally well-written. From the beginning, it is clear that James Lilliefors is a very good writer who knows how to write characters. Their actions feel realistic. At times it was almost maddening how slow they were to take action, yet at the same time, it was probably a more realistic portrayal of how someone would really act in those situations.

Lilliefors also skillfully mixes a mystery of murdered scientists and journalists with a clear and growing threat to the United States in the form of a hurricane of unprecedented proportions. The merging of these storylines feels organic and well-plotted.

The Leviathan Effect is a highly intelligent thriller with great plot, great characters and plenty of suspense. Lilliefors is a writer to watch and I look forward to his next book. Highly recommended.

I was fortunate to receive an advance copy of this book.

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### **Linda Munro says**

Can weather be manufactured? The following is from chemheritage.org: "Today some climate engineers claim they are the first generation to propose the deliberate manipulation of the planetary environment. History says otherwise. Over the past two centuries dreams of weather and climate control have produced a series of ill-considered and ill-fated interventions aimed at what at the time seemed the most pressing issues of the day: from health and farming in the 1830s, western drought in the 1890s, and fog and aviation in the 1920s, to cold-war attempts to use weather as a weapon, and on to current heroic responses to global warming."

What if they are wrong and someone can control the weather, causing worldwide natural disasters? What if someone tries to use that technology to blackmail a nation, or worse nations until someone actually bites and pays them off? It's a frightening aspect, but reading a story based on this fact is even more frightening. What if the technology exists and falls into the hands of enemies of the U.S.?

This is an on the edge of your seat book, with bits of terrifying technology thrown in. An awesome idea.

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### **Sarah says**

29/09 - This is even better than Lilliefors' first book Viral. I'm enjoying his writing more and I've always been a big fan of weather related disaster stories (two of my favourite movies are *Twister* and *The Day After Tomorrow*) and this is a great example of that genre.

This book focuses more on Charles than Jon and you get to see a softer, more relatable side of him than you did in Viral, which focussed on Jon. I like Charles a lot more, but it seems that Lilliefors can't give both brothers personalities at the same time, it has to be one or the other, and so Jon's personality seems to have disappeared and I don't really care about him like I did in Viral - which is weird, because I always like reading a sequel that continues the story of characters from the first book (check out my complaints, in other reviews, regarding reading books that are part of a series out of reading order). If this series is going to continue I really hope Charles and Catherine stay together as I was really disappointed at the beginning of the book to find out that Charles and Anna Vostrak had gone their separate ways because Anna didn't like the quiet life that Charles now wanted after living the life of a CIA operative - country hopping, always looking over his shoulder for enemies and never letting anyone get close to him in case his enemies try to use them against him - it was kind of like a depressing end to the book, at the beginning. To be continued...

30/09 - I was a little disappointed with the ending as they only managed to catch one bad guy, and when I say *catch* I mean a sniper bullet in the head - so there was no interrogating of that guy. The next guy up in the chain, Easton, had a weak motive that no one ever got to question him about because *he* was taken out by a poison implant from the bad guys, obviously he did have some incriminating information on Volkov, Zorn or Petrenko (I think that's the right spelling) or they wouldn't have bothered. Inside the back cover it says that Lilliefors is working on the next Mallory Brothers book, I hope that's where we'll learn the real reason behind the weather terrorism, because all the motivations given were weak and unrealistic, and who Janus really is. I also wonder whether that thing with the weather plane pilot, Dr. Wu and Blaine all seeing faces in the clouds is going to be 'something' in the next book, because if not it just seems like a completely unnecessary distraction from the main story \*shrugs shoulders\*, we'll see.

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### **Jeffrey says**

I got 3/4s of the way through this book, and found I just could not pick it up anymore. I just didn't care about anything that was happening. I think the concept of weather manipulation is fascinating, the "intrigue" and politics in this book was boring.

I certainly is no thriller.

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### **Alyse says**

I thought it was an intense read. I finished it in 3 days because it just kept me wanting to read more to find out what was going on. I thought it had a very intelligent premise and the all the background data wove an

intricate web that all came together at the end. The whole idea that natural disasters could be manipulated or created was new (at least for me) and I found it really interesting. I enjoyed the book for the most part but only gave it 3 stars because there were a few scenes that were a bit TMI that I wish were not there but they were at least few and brief.

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### **Lucas says**

Mr. Lilliefors has written a book that I couldn't put down. With the backdrop of "unnatural" natural disasters, the book is as much scary (could this actually happen?) as thrilling (how will it all end?). I found myself getting drawn into the "inner circle" and wondering how the disappearances and deaths of seven seemingly random people had anything to do with the Hurricane heading towards the east coast of the United States. Every time I thought I got a step ahead of the characters Mr. Lilliefors added yet another layer on top of what was already a deep and captivating plot. Whether you like a good mystery book or just looking for a good book to read when it's raining, I would definitely recommend reading *The Leviathan Effect*.

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### **Lissa says**

I really enjoyed this book. Who knew, really, that weather modification was a real possibility. I didn't and spent a good hour researching it...a clear sign that it was an interesting book. Overall, the plot moved quickly, the content was exciting and I liked all of the characters. It could be confusing at times but that didn't take much away from my enjoyment of the novel. This was a Goodreads Firstreads Giveaway.

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### **Alan says**

The idea of countries meddling with the weather or other natural forces for military purposes? Intriguing. Or maybe, billionaire evil geniuses manipulating nations by threatening to use secret technologies to create natural disasters for their own hidden purposes? Pretty good, and a tried and true basis for a thriller, although overused. Unfortunately, this book never really got off the ground as a cohesive novel. It read like a series of short stories which, while individually fairly satisfying, were never effectively merged as parts of a longer narrative to form a decent, fluid storyline. The plot got more confused as it progressed and the book ended with a bit of a fizzle. In my opinion, the author set out with a good idea but he failed to bring it to fruition as a satisfying read. I blame this failure in part, as has too often been the case with books I've read lately, on the editing. So, two and a half stars for a decent, topical idea.

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### **Jim says**

Hollywood, are you listening? This book would make a great movie!

A hidden organization speaking through a super hacker called Janus has learned to manufacture natural disasters. This ability has been demonstrated to a small group of people in powerful positions, in the US government, one of whom is Homeland Security Secretary Catherine Blaine. Meanwhile ex-CIA agent Charles Mallory is concerned with the dangerous situation that his brother Jon, an investigative journalist,

has become involved in. Jon has been researching the connections between seven scientists who have all been murdered and whose names were on a list that had been given to him by a source, who is now missing. Blaine and Charles Mallory discover that they each have different pieces of the same puzzle and join forces to try and solve it. They try to work quickly, their incentive; a giant, manmade hurricane named Alexander that is aimed straight at Washington DC.

Lilliefors has crafted a fast paced thriller that hooks the reader early on and never lets go. I would recommend this book to all fans of the genre and plan on looking for his previous book VIRAL.

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### **Diane says**

Great read if you like disaster movies or books. This would be a great movie. Although if you want a read with in depth character development and history this isn't the book for you.

There is deception, intrigue and murders occurring. Someone is controlling the weather and using it against the President of the United States.

Like I said a great disaster story and a fast moving story!

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### **Kate says**

\*\*Please note that I received this book for free from Goodreads First-reads\*\*

This was a very cool book. The plot revolves around the use of new technologies to control the weather, and what type of ramifications that has in terms of relationships between governments, as well as the potential for the owners of said technology to make terroristic threats.

Anyone who is a fan of David Baldacci, Michael Chriton or James Patterson would more then likely enjoy this book. Its fast paced and the science is not so technical that it alienates the reader. There were a few secondary plot lines that I felt werent really necessary and created a bit of confusion. However, maybe the author is considering a follow up to this book where those lines would pull through more.

If there is a follow up to this book I will definitely read it!

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