# **About J. V. Hilliard**

**BORN OF STEEL,** fire, and black wind, J.V. Hilliard was raised as a highlander in the foothills of a once-great mountain chain on the confluence of the three mighty rivers that forged his realm’s wealth and power for generations.

His father, a peasant dwarf, toiled away in industries of honest labor and instilled in him a work ethic that would shape his destiny. His mother, a local healer, cared for his elders and his warrior uncle, who helped to raise him during his formative years. His genius brother, whose wizardly prowess allowed him to master the art of the abacus and his own quill, trained with him for battles on fields of green and sheets of ice.

Hilliard’s earliest education took place in his warrior uncle’s tower, as his uncle recovered from grievous wounds suffered in a forgotten war. He learned his first words there, and his uncle, who’d sacrificed so much both for him and for others, helped him to learn the basics of life – and, most importantly, creative writing.

After years of education at the hands of the highlanders and at the great cathedral, Hilliard ventured to a place of wonderment in the capital of all capitals, where he trained to defend his homeland and help his people.

It was then that he met his lady, a Ranger of the Diamond, and over the chords of an orchestra, he fell in love with her. Once his time serving the kings and queens of his Camelot had come to an end, he returned home to gather his own band of merry men. Together, they served the underserved – those without a voice – and rode to Camelot, fighting for those who couldn’t defend themselves.

Soon it was time for him to move on from that battlefield and to take up something mightier than a sword. A pen that would scribe the tale of the realm of Warminster, filled with brave knights, harrowing adventure and legendary struggles. He returned home for the last time to the city of silver cups, hypocycloids and golden triangles. It is here he built his castle, not far into the countryside, guarded by his own two horsehounds, Thor and MacLeod.

Hilliard is the author of the Last Keeper, the first book in the fantasy adventure series, Warminster.