

"Dorky fun of the highest order."

People, Must-Reads list 2023

"Thomas strews the increasingly suspenseful competition with teachable moments and traces learning curves not only for the students but for teachers and parents, too. Reminiscent of E. L. Konigsburg's *The View from Saturday*."

—Booklist (starred)

"Creative and hilarious...the novel's narration shifts among many perspectives, giving a rich, panoramic view of how stressful yet ultimately rewarding these learning experiences are for the overachievers, the socially awkward, the kids with complicated home lives, and all those who just need to see each other a little differently."

—Kirkus

"Thomas's debut novel is a refreshing take on middle-school life—smart kids who know they are going places but learn to take care of one another along the way."

—Horn Book

"J.E. Thomas knows how to show readers just how much is going on in a tween's world. Rich characters, realistic portrayal of middle school life, and action makes *Control Freaks* a perfect book for kids, parents, and educators alike."

—Fleur Bradley, author of *Midnight at the Barclay Hotel*



About J.E. Thomas, MG Author



J.E. Thomas grew up near Colorado's Front Range mountains. Her mother forged a love of reading by recording Mother Goose stories on an old tape recorder when J.E. was a toddler. By the time she was in middle school, J.E. spent summers stuffing grocery bags with books at the local library, reading feverishly, then repeating the process week after week.

She attended an urban elementary and middle school and a suburban independent school for grades 9-12. She has bachelors' degrees in Mass Communications and Political Science, as well as a master's degree in Public Communications. She wrote *Control Freaks* while working as an administrator at the same independent school she attended as a teen.