

MEDIA & PRESS KIT

THE DEADLINE PLATE

Book One of The Chronicle Keepers



A student-journalism time-travel mystery

Author: Eric Jourgensen, Ed.D.

Series: The Chronicle Keepers, Book One

Format: Paperback, 6 x 9 inches, 334 pages; Kindle eBook

Pricing: \$16.99 paperback; \$9.99 Kindle

Audience: Young adult readers, educators, librarians, journalism programs, and historical-adventure readers

Setting: 1887 New York, in the orbit of investigative journalist Nellie Bly

Publisher: Dr. Jourgensen Media

Availability: Amazon links and ASINs will be inserted as soon as each edition becomes purchasable.

Website: ericjourgensen.com

Four student journalists. One impossible printing plate. A past someone is trying to erase.

Media use: Review copies, interviews, speaking appearances, school and library programming, and high-resolution campaign images are available by request through ericjourgensen.com.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Palm Beach County journalism teacher launches young adult time-travel mystery

The Deadline Plate sends four student reporters to 1887 New York, where the truth has a deadline

WELLINGTON, Fla. | RELEASE UPON AMAZON AVAILABILITY

Journalism teacher and student-media adviser Eric Jourgensen is launching The Deadline Plate, the first novel in The Chronicle Keepers, a young adult historical-adventure series about the people who record history while it is still happening.

Four student journalists uncover a printing plate buried inside a school time capsule. It does not simply preserve a front page. It sends them to 1887 New York, where they cross paths with Nellie Bly and discover that the Redactor is trying to erase part of the public record.

Jourgensen wrote the book as an adventure first. The students solve problems the way reporters do: they observe, verify, protect records, question convenient explanations, and decide what the public needs to know.

“Journalism is not just about recording what happened. It is about protecting what people need to know.”

Jourgensen teaches journalism and advises student media at Palm Beach Central High School in Wellington. His work connects media literacy, classroom journalism, and the belief that young people are capable of serious reporting when adults trust them with serious work.

The Deadline Plate will be available through Amazon at \$16.99 in paperback and \$9.99 on Kindle. Each Chronicle Keepers book sends the student journalists toward a pivotal moment in reporting history. Signed review copies, interviews, photographs, and educator-focused materials are available through ericjourgensen.com.

BOOK OVERVIEW

What the book is

The Deadline Plate is a fast-moving young adult mystery about four student journalists who discover that a printing press plate hidden in their school time capsule is not an artifact. It is an assignment.

The plate carries them to 1887 New York, where reporting is dangerous, records are vulnerable, and Nellie Bly is beginning the work that will make her a legend. The students must learn the rules of the plate, protect a story someone wants erased, and get home without changing the history they came to preserve.

Why it stands out

- The heroes are student reporters whose tools are observation, verification, records, questions, and nerve.
- Historical journalists are active characters rather than names in a textbook.
- The mystery works for general readers while giving teachers and librarians natural entry points into journalism, history, media literacy, and civic responsibility.
- Book One opens a continuing series, with the next proof pointing toward Watergate.

Reader promise

They thought they were covering history. Then history assigned them a deadline.

Themes

- Who gets to write the public record
- Truth, evidence, and the danger of erased context
- Young people earning trust through real responsibility
- Teamwork under deadline pressure
- The difference between preserving history and freezing it

AUTHOR

Eric Jourgensen, Ed.D.

Full biography

Eric Jourgensen is a journalism teacher, student-media adviser, author, and media-literacy advocate based in Palm Beach County, Florida. At Palm Beach Central High School, he teaches journalism, broadcast journalism, newspaper, and yearbook, and advises the Bronco Media Group. His work centers on helping students report with curiosity, verify before they publish, and understand that journalism is a public responsibility as well as a craft.

Jourgensen earned a bachelor's degree in communication from Florida Atlantic University, a master's degree in educational leadership from Lynn University, and a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Florida. He is certified in English, social sciences, journalism, and educational leadership, with a reading endorsement. He brings experience across education, photography, media production, and professional communication to both his classroom and his writing.

The Deadline Plate grew from a question at the center of his teaching: What would happen if student journalists had to protect the historical record while it was still being written? The answer became The Chronicle Keepers, a time-travel mystery series that puts young reporters inside pivotal moments in journalism history.

Short biography, about 80 words

Eric Jourgensen, Ed.D., is a journalism teacher, student-media adviser, author, and media-literacy advocate in Palm Beach County, Florida. He teaches journalism, broadcast journalism, newspaper, and yearbook at Palm Beach Central High School, where he advises the Bronco Media Group. He holds degrees from Florida Atlantic University, Lynn University, and the University of Florida. The Deadline Plate is the first book in The Chronicle Keepers, his young adult time-travel mystery series about student journalists protecting history while it is still being written.

Brief identification, about 30 words

Eric Jourgensen is a Florida journalism teacher and student-media adviser whose Chronicle Keepers series turns pivotal moments in reporting history into young adult time-travel mysteries.

Suggested questions and talking points

Where did the idea come from?

A school time capsule felt like the perfect place to hide a piece of unfinished history. A printing plate is physical, specific, and rooted in journalism. Once it became a portal rather than an artifact, the series opened up.

Why student journalists?

Because they already do consequential work. They ask adults questions, build a record, make judgment calls under deadline, and publish something their community will see. That is adventure material.

Why begin with Nellie Bly?

She was fearless, strategic, and willing to challenge the stories powerful people preferred. She also gives young reporters a model of journalism as action.

Is the book meant for classrooms?

It is an adventure first. The classroom value comes from what the characters actually do: verify, observe, protect records, and argue about what the public needs to know.

What is the Redactor?

The Redactor is the pressure behind the mystery, a force trying to alter what survives in the public record. The threat is not only changing events. It is changing what people can prove happened.

What comes next?

The final proof points the Chronicle Keepers toward Washington and Watergate. The plate is not finished with them.

An adventure with real discussion value

The Deadline Plate can sit on a classroom or library shelf as a story, not an assignment disguised as one. Its strongest educational use comes after readers care about the characters and the deadline.

Natural discussion questions

- Who decides which records survive, and what happens when evidence disappears?
- What makes a source trustworthy when the reporters cannot check the internet or call home?
- When does protecting history conflict with helping a person in front of you?
- What does Nellie Bly understand about power that the student reporters do not yet understand?
- Which newsroom role would you take under pressure, and why?

Useful settings

- Independent reading and school-library collections
- Journalism, media studies, English, and social studies classrooms
- News-literacy and historical-source discussions
- Student newspaper and yearbook staff book clubs
- Author visits, career days, and journalism-program events

Programming possibilities

- “Which deadline would you cover?” student discussion or writing prompt
- Primary-source comparison using a real Nellie Bly report
- Time-capsule journalism project built around the school community
- Mini newsroom exercise: verify a claim before the clock expires

The goal is not to turn readers into cynics. It is to make them harder to fool and more willing to look for the record.

Captions, descriptions, and boilerplate

One-sentence description

Four student journalists discover a printing plate that sends them to 1887 New York, where they must help protect a story someone is trying to erase from history.

Short description

When four student journalists uncover a printing plate buried in their school time capsule, they expect an artifact. Instead, it sends them to 1887 New York, into Nellie Bly's orbit, and toward a story the Redactor wants erased. To get home, they must report, verify, and protect the public record before history's deadline closes.

Photo caption: cover

The Deadline Plate, Book One of The Chronicle Keepers, is a young adult time-travel mystery by Florida journalism teacher Eric Jourgensen.

Photo caption: author

Eric Jourgensen, Ed.D., teaches journalism and advises the Bronco Media Group at Palm Beach Central High School in Wellington, Florida. Photo credit: [INSERT CREDIT BEFORE USE].

Series boilerplate

The Chronicle Keepers follows student journalists pulled into pivotal moments in reporting history by a mysterious printing plate. Each assignment forces them to decide what must be verified, what must be protected, and what the future deserves to remember.

Asset and accuracy notes

- Use the final retail cover, not the “Coming Soon” promotional cover, once Amazon is live.
- Insert confirmed Amazon links and ASINs only after a working purchase button is verified.
- Do not claim bestseller status, rankings, review counts, or classroom adoption without current evidence.
- Do not present stickers, signed copies, or complimentary copies as payment for a review.
- Confirm photo credit and permission before distributing an author photograph.