



When **Phillip Gwynne** makes school visits, the students are often surprised to learn that the big (6'4") former Australian Rules professional football player standing before them is actually someone who makes his living from writing! They quickly learn how passionate he is about reading, particularly for boys, especially those who, like him, may have come from a background with no books at home and no incentive to read.

Despite the lack of encouragement, a rural environment and growing up with seven siblings, as a child Phillip did love books and reading. Nevertheless he spent a number of years in other professions – marine biologist, computer programmer, even fruit picker – before the bedtime stories he made up to share with his son spurred him to sign up for a creative writing course. His

very first piece of writing became the seed for his first novel! In addition to this novel, now an Australian classic as well as a film for which he wrote the screenplay, Phillip has had several other YA titles as well as picture books and an adult detective novel published.

Then came the challenge of *The Debt*, his new six-book high-octane thriller for teens recently released here in the US by Kane Miller Books, a division of EDC Publishing. Phillip uses his substantial literary skills and his first-rate ability to tell a good story to keep his teen readers engaged and eagerly awaiting the next installment. According to Phillip, "The greatest compliment you can have as a writer is when somebody tells you they couldn't put the book down."

The six thrilling installments of *The Debt* are just that – an edge-of-your-seat adventure that required a lot of research, careful plotting, and a bit of a nod to some American TV series! (Phillip also cites Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* as another influence in writing the series!) And more than that, Phillip explains there's a deeper idea: "We like to think we are born free, but actually I think we are all born with some sort of obligations, be it to our parents or to society. So I did that classic thing as a writer, upping the ante so that this kid has a horrendous responsibility."

Now a resident of Bali and author of over 25 books, Phillip enjoys giving school talks and running writing workshops, as he has for the last fifteen years – when he's not writing, that is. Characterized as a dynamic, edgy speaker, he's keen to encourage creativity in his audiences and share his writing experiences and expertise in presentations marked by warmth and humor. He looks forward to the opportunity to visit and speak with students at schools and libraries in the United States in the near future.

The six installments of *The Debt* are currently available exclusively through Usborne Books & More, the direct sales division of EDC Publishing, its more than 7000 independent sales consultants and online at [usbornebooksandmore.com](http://usbornebooksandmore.com).

