



## Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of Character Narration

By James Phelan

Download now

Read Online 

### Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of Character Narration By James Phelan

In *Living to Tell about It*, James Phelan takes up the challenges offered by diverse narratives including Kathryn Harrison's *The Kiss*, Ernest Hemingway's "Now I Lay Me," Kazuo Ishiguro's *Remains of the Day*, Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes*, Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita*, and John Edgar Wideman's "Doc's Story." Phelan's compelling readings cover important theoretical ground by introducing a valuable distinction between disclosure functions (communications from the implied author to the authorial audience) and narrator functions (communications from the character narrator to the narratee). Phelan also identifies significant types of character narration (also known as first-person narration), including restricted, suppressed, and mask narrations. In addition, Phelan proposes new understandings of such ingrained concepts of narrative theory as unreliable narration, the implied author, focalization, and lyric narrative.

Utilizing what Phelan and Peter J. Rabinowitz have called "theory practice," a critical method that aims to combine theory and interpretation in mutually illuminating ways, *Living to Tell about It* also makes a major contribution to ethical theory and criticism. Phelan develops the concept of "ethical position" and explores the interactions among the ethical positions of characters, narrators, authors, and audiences. This approach emphasizes not only the close connections between narrative technique and ethics but also the important interactions between the ethical positions of the authorial audience and the flesh-and-blood reader.

 [Download Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics o ...pdf](#)



# Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of Character Narration

By James Phelan

## Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of Character Narration By James Phelan

In *Living to Tell about It*, James Phelan takes up the challenges offered by diverse narratives including Kathryn Harrison's *The Kiss*, Ernest Hemingway's "Now I Lay Me," Kazuo Ishiguro's *Remains of the Day*, Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes*, Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita*, and John Edgar Wideman's "Doc's Story." Phelan's compelling readings cover important theoretical ground by introducing a valuable distinction between disclosure functions (communications from the implied author to the authorial audience) and narrator functions (communications from the character narrator to the narratee). Phelan also identifies significant types of character narration (also known as first-person narration), including restricted, suppressed, and mask narrations. In addition, Phelan proposes new understandings of such ingrained concepts of narrative theory as unreliable narration, the implied author, focalization, and lyric narrative.

Utilizing what Phelan and Peter J. Rabinowitz have called "theory practice," a critical method that aims to combine theory and interpretation in mutually illuminating ways, *Living to Tell about It* also makes a major contribution to ethical theory and criticism. Phelan develops the concept of "ethical position" and explores the interactions among the ethical positions of characters, narrators, authors, and audiences. This approach emphasizes not only the close connections between narrative technique and ethics but also the important interactions between the ethical positions of the authorial audience and the flesh-and-blood reader.

## Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of Character Narration By James Phelan Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #786401 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Cornell University Press
- Published on: 2004-09-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.96" h x .67" w x 5.96" l, .76 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 256 pages

 [Download Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics o ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online *Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of Character Narration* By James Phelan

---

### Editorial Review

#### Review

"A well-known, prolific scholar of literary theory, Phelan takes on a difficult subject here. 'Character Narration' refers to narratives in which the 'speaker' of the narrative is not the author-writer but a character within the narrative. Phelan has found significant, meaningful aspects of this type of narration, and he explores all of them in this subtle, detailed book."?Choice, February 2005

"Of the many books dealing with the intricacies of narrative technique, and the impact of stories (especially the ethical impact), James Phelan's is the best I've read. It should be studied by every student of fiction. Unlike most current works on narration, this one makes me wish I could have read it before writing my own works on these issues."?Wayne C. Booth, Professor Emeritus, University of Chicago

"This is an admirable book?solidly grounded in narrative theory, both subtle and sensible in its analyses of specific texts, and, above all, humane and gracious in linking the rhetorical and ethical elements of reading. The appendix, in which some famous literary character-narrators engage in a dialogue, is clever, and the glossary of critical terminology is clear and helpful."?Robert Scholes, Brown University

"Living to Tell about It makes a significant contribution to our understanding of a kind of fiction central to the study of modern, and particularly modern American, literature. James Phelan's definition of 'character narration' and the apparatus he creates for understanding it are useful and suggestive, and I predict they will be widely adopted."?Harry E. Shaw, author of *Narrating Reality: Austen, Scott, Eliot*

"Living to Tell About It is a wonderful blend of theory and criticism. Lucid, precise, and generous, it illuminates the functioning of character narration."?Gerald Prince, author of *A Dictionary of Narratology*

#### About the Author

James Phelan is Professor of English at The Ohio State University and Editor of *Narrative*. His books include *Narrative as Rhetoric: Technique, Audiences, Ethics, and Ideology*; *Beyond the Tenure Track: Fifteen Months in the Life of an English Professor*; and *Reading People, Reading Plots: Character, Progression, and the Interpretation of Narrative*.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

#### Octavio Martin:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a book. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled *Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of Character Narration*. Try to stumble through book *Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of Character Narration* as your close friend. It means that it can being your friend when you experience alone and beside that of course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you. The book makes you more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So , let me make new experience and also knowledge with this book.

**Carol Williams:**

Here thing why this specific Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of Character Narration are different and reliable to be yours. First of all reading a book is good nevertheless it depends in the content of computer which is the content is as delicious as food or not. Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of Character Narration giving you information deeper including different ways, you can find any reserve out there but there is no publication that similar with Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of Character Narration. It gives you thrill looking at journey, its open up your personal eyes about the thing that happened in the world which is possibly can be happened around you. You can bring everywhere like in park, café, or even in your method home by train. If you are having difficulties in bringing the imprinted book maybe the form of Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of Character Narration in e-book can be your option.

**Melvin Smith:**

You could spend your free time to study this book this publication. This Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of Character Narration is simple to deliver you can read it in the area, in the beach, train along with soon. If you did not have much space to bring the actual printed book, you can buy the e-book. It is make you quicker to read it. You can save often the book in your smart phone. And so there are a lot of benefits that you will get when you buy this book.

**Susan Bondurant:**

Beside this particular Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of Character Narration in your phone, it can give you a way to get closer to the new knowledge or data. The information and the knowledge you might got here is fresh through the oven so don't possibly be worry if you feel like an outdated people live in narrow small town. It is good thing to have Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of Character Narration because this book offers to you readable information. Do you at times have book but you rarely get what it's exactly about. Oh come on, that will not happen if you have this inside your hand. The Enjoyable agreement here cannot be questionable, including treasuring beautiful island. Use you still want to miss the idea? Find this book in addition to read it from today!

**Download and Read Online Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of Character Narration By James Phelan #U26ESD7TOI1**

## **Read Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of Character Narration By James Phelan for online ebook**

Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of Character Narration By James Phelan Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of Character Narration By James Phelan books to read online.

### **Online Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of Character Narration By James Phelan ebook PDF download**

#### **Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of Character Narration By James Phelan Doc**

**Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of Character Narration By James Phelan Mobipocket**

**Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of Character Narration By James Phelan EPub**

**U26ESD7TOI1: Living to Tell about It: A Rhetoric and Ethics of Character Narration By James Phelan**