



## The Messenger

*Jan Burke*

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Who is Tyler Hawthorne? Beneath the Caribbean Sea, a salvage diver hears an eerie voice calling to him from the wreckage of a nineteenth-century ship. In return for promised riches, the diver becomes the servant of Adrian deVille, Lord Varre, the creature who has called to him. It's a bargain the diver will come to regret. Varre enlists him in a hunt for a man named Tyler Hawthorne.

Ten years later, in a canyon in the foothills above Los Angeles, Amanda Clarke has become curious about her new neighbor, Tyler Hawthorne. He's not home much, but others tell her that her new neighbor is about her age -- twenty-four. He's also wealthy, handsome, and single.

Amanda soon suspects that another description can be added to the list of Tyler's attributes: con artist. When Tyler shows up at the hospice room of her friend Ron and tells the dying man he'll live, Amanda angrily resents Tyler for giving Ron false hope.

Until Ron begins to recover.

Although Tyler continues to puzzle her, Amanda finds herself drawn to him.

Tyler finds himself drawn to Amanda as well, but he has a secret he must keep from her: he's been twenty-four for almost two hundred years.

Two centuries ago, he bargained for his life. In exchange, he became a Messenger, one who hears the final thoughts of the dying and conveys those last messages to their loved ones. Since that time, his life has been nomadic and -- except for the companionship of a remarkable black dog -- solitary.

The dying also convey messages to Tyler and now they are hinting that his long service may be coming to an end. He begins to hope that he can return to a normal, mortal life and allows himself to grow closer to Amanda, unaware that he is being pursued by an old enemy who will stop at nothing to destroy him and that he can only leave his role as the Messenger behind at a dreadful cost.

## The Messenger Details

Date : Published December 30th 2008 by Simon & Schuster (first published December 20th 2008)

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Author : Jan Burke

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## From Reader Review The Messenger for online ebook

### Ryan Mishap says

I love Burke's mysteries, so while I don't usually go for the supernatural thriller, I decided to check this out. The story holds your interest but, ultimately, it is a supernatural thriller that lacks the darkness and mad fantastical elements of urban faerie tales/urban fantasy.

Tyler Hawthorne has been alive for two hundred years--his task, in payment for this gift he now views as a curse, is to communicate with the dying so he can relay their last messages to loved ones. Several of the dying warn him that things are going to change. When Tyler tells Amanda's friend Ron that he will recover from leukemia, she confronts him with what she views as his manipulation. From here, their relationship plays out while an old enemy tries to regain corporeal form and target Tyler. There's a cemetary dog, too, that bites bad guys and they burst into flames--that was pretty cool.

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### Elizabeth says

guess who's back, liz's back, tell a friend!

ok. i have taken a bit of a break but after reading most of this book i couldn't be silent for long. erg. have you read the dialogue in this book? here is a sample taken from the part were amanda's cousin betrays them to an evil undead guy bent on destroying love and happiness and kittens....

friend of amanda not really important to the story except to add possible love non-triangle: "Do you know that they tried to kill Tyler that night, and almost killed Amanda?"

annoying rich dude who almost killed tyler and amanda: "What?"

tyler, almost dead dude: "We're both okay. Please don't add that to your worries [annoying rich dude:]. I think we should probably thank you really....We got to know each other because of that accident, so yes, thank you."

SERIOUSLY? seriously? he's all like hey fuhgeddaboudit, i met some chick and might get some nookie so it's all good?? really? who's like that? ARGH!!!!!!

ok, ok. i'm fine now. maybe it will get better...and maybe i will sprout wings and save money on plane tickets. who knows, anything is possible.

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### Cindy says

I'm a longtime fan of Jan Burke's Irene Kelly series. This standalone horror/occult/whatEVER novel is a mess, though. I had to go back and reread several passages in an effort to understand the logic of the plot. Even then, it just didn't make sense. She could have had a more interesting story leaving out the villain and the supernatural crud, and focusing on the main characters. I was extremely disappointed.

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### **Marlyn says**

Jan Burke's latest book is a standalone that could best be described as a paranormal mystery. Tyler Hawthorne was born in 1791, and died in the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. While he lay dying on the battlefield, he spoke to a mysterious person who gave him a ring, and a dog, and the task of Messenger. The Messenger carries the wishes of the dying who can no longer communicate verbally to their living loved ones.

When we meet Tyler, he is living in present-day Los Angeles. He lives a solitary life, with only his dog Shade as a real companion. Somehow, Tyler knows when dying people need his services, and he goes to them to offer comfort and more. Yet, after over 200 years, having outlived all his peers and being unable to die, he wishes he had given a different answer to the being who approached him on the battlefield. He buys a mansion in the hills, and befriends Ron, the grandson of the previous owner. Ron's friend Amanda, a "trust-funder" who lives nearby, is suspicious of Tyler's Samaritanship, but is unsure what to do about her misgivings.

Driving home from a party in the desert, she witnesses a truck running him down on his motorcycle, and is pretty sure he's dead. But he's still alive, despite what Amanda saw. Now the men in the truck are after her, too, and Tyler has to tell her about himself so he can protect her.

Jan Burke has crafted another spellbinding tale. She is an amazing writer, and has obviously done painstaking research for this book. Don't pass it by because it's not part of the Irene Kelly series!

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### **&#x1f339;Rose?? says**

This was utter rubbish! I can't believe she wrote a book like this. It was really, really bad on so many levels that I can't begin to list them. I did finish it cuz it was an easy read and silly and light and for the moment I was in the mood for light reading, just not this bad.

Be warned, don't bother!

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### **Jennifer says**

Terrible book, sort of an occult Harlequin's romance, in which our homely heiress falls (chastely) for an immortal Tyler Hawthorne, who is blessed/cursed with the ability to hear the wishes of the dying. (people in comas, for instance, people who can talk are on their own). He has a dog, who is also somewhat spooky and there's an evil mastermind who, like Voldemort, has died and has to reconstitute himself. why do I read this tripe?

Oh, yeah, it's moderately entertaining. And I pulled it almost at random from the new books shelf at the library.

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## **Kay says**

I am a fan of Jan Burke's entertaining light mysteries. I opened this book and found it wasn't what I expected. But since my family says I am OCD I decided to read it. [After all I'd read all her others:] Not my kind of book at all [ghosts, immortals, magical spells etc:], but I did enjoy it [not as well as her 'Irene' books. This book is set up for a series with these same characters which disappoints me since I'm ready for Irene.

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## **Jennifer Wardrip says**

Reviewed by Steph for TeensReadToo.com

Tyler Hawthorne is a mystery. He is never sick and seems to heal from any injury at an alarming rate. He's suave, confident, and extremely wealthy.

But Amanda Clarke doesn't like him. In her opinion, bringing hope to her dying best friend, Ron, is just plain stupid. Ron has been sick for ages and will most likely die - how dare Tyler bring him hope of recovering?

Only Ron does recover. And as Amanda begins to learn more and more about this Mr. Hawthorne character, she becomes more intrigued and enamored with him.

But Tyler's past doesn't come free. Someone's out to get him, and will go to any means to get a hold of a precious lost item that Tyler now has. And that puts others in danger, such as Amanda, whom Tyler has grown very fond of. Sometimes even man's best friend - the enormous, black-as-night dog, Shade - can't help his master get out of every dangerous situation.

Jan Burke writes a thrilling tale of a mysterious man and a normal woman. Throughout the story, more is learned of Tyler and his "powers", which only intrigues the reader to keep going to the next chapter to find out the next puzzle piece of his life. Then there's the actual plot of who is after Tyler and why, which unfolds in such a way that the reader will never want to put the book down until the last page.

Burke's story is truly engrossing, and with its many mysteries and plot twists, it is sure to entertain all readers.

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## **Marjorie Campbell says**

I would recommend this book to anyone looking for a quick read who likes supernatural romance stories and who isn't looking for anything too challenging for the brain.

In the Publisher's Weekly review on Burke's website they make a comparison between this work and those of Charlaine Harris which I object to. This book while entertaining, lacks some of the believability of Harris' supernatural series and does not manage to make the characters' as fully fleshed or engaging. The same

review draws another comparison to Dean Koontz's works which also falls flat as this book is nowhere near as dynamic as his books are - and has none of his grotesk horror.

I like the central male character, and the notion of cemetery dogs is an interesting one, however the female protagonist is barely drawn and hardly believable in her motivations. This novel is a bit of a 'me too' which I reckon was published off the back of the recent success of other better books in this genre - designed to be read while waiting for the next Sookie Stackhouse adventure (due May 2010)! ;o)

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### **Stephanie Harchar says**

This is the type of book that you can read in one sitting and it leaves you wanting more. Much more. It is on the odd side but the people are who you love. And if you happen to be a dog person there is something in for you also. WARNING!!!! If you don't like insects this might not be the book for you at all.

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### **Triinu says**

Mõnus põnevik väikeste paranormaalse sugemetega. Amanda on kindel, et tema uus naaber Tyler on petis, sest ta ütles tema vähki surevale sõbrale Ronile, et ta saab terveks. Aga Ron hakkabki paranema ja Amanda hakkab huvi tundma, kes tema naaber on. Amanda saab teada, et Tyler on sõnumitooja, kes edastab surijate viimaseid soove. Sündmused lähevad põnevaks, kui püütakse tappa Tylerit.

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### **Liviu says**

Excellent reviews and interesting excerpt led to high expectations for this one and I was very disappointed. The style is flat, even some newspapers columns have more emotion, the characters uninvolved and there is no suspense, no sense of the fantastic, just a thriller with extra stuff.

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### **Carole says**

This was not her usual detective story. It was very sci-fi-ish and not up my alley.

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### **Lolly K Dandeneau says**

This book was a bit cheesy. Mostly I felt like I was reading a book that wanted to be and borrowed VAMPIRE themes. It was a bit weak. Not an entirely horrible read, it just didn't have any meat to it. Nothing a reader could really sink their teeth into. In some ways I felt like I was just reading a romance. I think with the 'messenger' aspect, the author could have gone much deeper and darker. Somehow the last words of the dying seemed silly. Or maybe it was just me?

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## LJ says

THE MESSENGER (Para/Super-Amada/Tyler-California-Cont) - DNF

Burke, Jan – Standalone

Simon & Schuster, 2009, US Hardcover – ISBN: 0743273877

First Sentence: Come to me.

Amada Clark lives in the house left to her by her parents. She is not alone as the ghosts of her parents, aunt and uncle are there with her. She has a new neighbor, Tyler Hawthorne, and his black dog, Shade.

Tyler, ever aged 24, has been alive since the 1800s and was injured at Waterloo. It is Tyler's responsibility to comfort the dying. Tyler and Amada team up against Lord Varre, from whom Tyler received a memento more ring those 200 years ago and who must be destroyed in order that Tyler may be mortal again.

Although I am a long-standing fan of Jan Burke, this just did not work for me at all. I did read past my normal 50-page rule, but finally had to give up.

The writing seemed very simplistic, although it was written for young adults. The protagonist, Amada, annoyed me beyond words. Admittedly, I didn't read terribly far into the book, but there seemed to be little character development.

I would love to be wrong and know others found the book improved significantly as it went on, but it just wasn't for me.

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