

Jan Burke – Quick Facts

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About Jan:

Born in Houston, Texas.

Although she has close ties to the Lone Star State through her friends and relatives there, she has lived in Southern California most of her life.

Graduated from California State University, Long Beach with B.A. in History. She was named a Distinguished Alumna of CSULB in 2007.

Worked on "Rosie the Riveter" oral history project as a graduate student.

Active in music and took courses in film during college.

Went to work in the family business, a manufacturing company that was later sold to a major corporation. She became the plant manager for the corporation.

Met Tim Burke in 1985. Married in 1988. Tim is a musician and also owns a private tutoring company, The Traveling Tutor.

They have two dogs, Britches and Wylie. (Cappy, whose photo is on some of the book jackets, died in 2010.)

Books:

Jan is the author of fourteen books: thirteen novels and a collection of short stories.

Wrote first book (*Goodnight, Irene*) in evenings after work.

Sold the book unsolicited to Simon & Schuster, which offered her a three-book contract. She now writes full-time.

President Bill Clinton held up a copy of *Goodnight, Irene* during his first interview in the White House, and mentioned that he was reading it.

A list of her books can be found on the Publications pdf, which is in the "About Jan" section of her Web site, on the Press Kit page.

There are currently ten books in the Irene Kelly series: *Goodnight, Irene*; *Sweet Dreams, Irene*; *Dear Irene*; *Remember Me, Irene*; *Hocus*; *Liar*; *Bones*; *Bloodlines*; *Kidnapped*; and *Disturbance*.

Flight, a spin-off of the series, features homicide detective Frank Harriman.

Nine is a standalone featuring Alex Brandon, a homicide detective with Los

Angeles County Sheriff's Dept.

The Messenger is a supernatural thriller set in Los Angeles.

Eighteen is a collection of her short stories.

She is currently at work on another novel (a standalone, non-mystery) and has plans for the eleventh Irene Kelly book.

Her books have been on the *USA Today*, *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times* (extended), *Booksense*, *Independent Mystery Booksellers Association*, and other bestseller lists, and have been optioned for film and television. They are published internationally -- countries include Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

Her books are available on audio from Recorded Books.

Among other awards, she won mystery writing's "Oscar®," the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar® Award for Best Novel for *Bones* and the Agatha Award for Best Short Story. (Only seven women who have lived in the U.S. have won the award since 1957.)

She has an Edgar® nomination for Best Short Story as well.

Forensic Science/The Crime Lab Project:

Jan is the founder and director of the Crime Lab Project, a national nonprofit organization which advocates for better support for public forensic science. The CLP works to make the public aware of the benefits of forensic science and the need for better funding for crime labs and coroners/medical examiners' offices in U.S.. Learn more at <http://www.crimelabproject.com>

She has been keynote speaker at the annual conference of the National Institute of Justice, and spoken before the American Society of Crime Lab Directors, the California Association of Criminalists, the California Association of Crime Lab Directors, and other forensic science organizations. She has written about forensic science advocacy for *Forensic Magazine* and other publications.

She is a member of the honorary board of the California Forensic Science Institute and has served on the American Society of Crime Lab Director's Public Policy Committee.

Through the Crime Lab Project Foundation, thousand of dollars have been donated to forensic science labs, forensic science education and research, and forensic science awareness programs.

Each week, she produces an e-mailed newsletter with links to news stories about forensic science, the CLP News.

Forensic science has always been a part of her crime fiction, and she took courses in it long before the current craze. She has a lifelong interest in science.

About the series:

Irene Kelly is a newspaper reporter working in fictional Las Piernas, a city that is a combination of Long Beach, Venice, Laguna Beach, and cities along the coast of Southern California. Irene is married to homicide detective Frank Harriman. Tensions between their work places can cause conflicts at home.

Irene is smart, resilient, and compassionate. She's independent but isn't a loner. Her connections to others and her sense of humor often get her through the worst of times.

Short stories:

The collection *Eighteen* includes two new and sixteen previously published stories.

Three stories, "Call It Macaroni," "Devotion," and "A Fine Set of Teeth" are Irene Kelly short stories.

Her most recent short story is "The Fallen," which appeared in *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*.

Jan's stories cover a wide variety of settings, time periods, and subjects.

Her stories have won two Macavities, an Agatha, and garnered both Anthony and Edgar® nominations. She is the first woman to have won the *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine's* Readers Award.

Other notes:

Jan served as an associate editor, to editor Sue Grafton, of *Writing Mysteries: the Handbook of the Mystery Writers of America*.

She contributed a chapter to the serial novel, *The Sunken Sailor*.

She established and was the first editor of Sisters in Crime's guide for new writers, *Breaking and Entering*.

She has taught writing as a member of the faculty of the UCLA Extension's Writers' Program and at workshops, conferences, and in other venues.

She is a member of a number of writers organizations, including Mystery Writers of America and Sisters in Crime. She is a past president of the Southern California Chapter of MWA, and served on its national board.