

Jan Burke – Quick Facts

For press kits, review copies, and other contact with Jan's publisher:

Rebecca J. Davis
Publicity Department - Trade Division
Simon & Schuster, Inc
1230 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020
212-698-7539

Literary Representation: Philip Spitzer

Film Rights: Joel Gotler & Associates

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 a partner in a private tutoring company, The English Advantage.

They have two dogs, Cappy and Britches, whose photos are on her Web site.

Books:

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.

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

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.

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 tenth Irene Kelly book.

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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.

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. 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 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.

In July, 2007 she will be the keynote speaker at the annual conference of the National Institute of Justice, which brings together "criminal justice scholars, policymakers, and practitioners at the local, State, and Federal levels to share the most recent findings from research and technology." The NIJ is part of the Department of Justice.

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 books, and she took courses in it long before the current craze.

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:

Twenty of Jan's short stories are currently available. Others are in the works. 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.

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 Sisters in Crime, the American Crime Writers League, Private Eye Writers of America and International Thriller Writers.