

## Jan Burke - Bio - Updated 02/03/11

Jan Burke's fourteenth book, *Disturbance*, is a sequel to *Bones*, which won the Edgar® for Best Novel.

Her twelve novels of crime fiction, many featuring newspaper reporter Irene Kelly, include *Flight*, *Nine*, and *Bloodlines*. Her books have appeared on the *USA Today* and *NY Times* bestseller lists, have been published internationally, and optioned for film and television.

Burke's short stories have received the Agatha, the Macavity, and other awards. *Eighteen* is collection of her stories.

Her books are published by Simon & Schuster and have received outstanding reviews in *Publisher's Weekly*, *Library Journal*, *USA Today*, *People Magazine*, *Booklist*, *the Los Angeles Times*, *the South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, *the Chicago Tribune* and other publications.

She is also the author of a supernatural thriller set in Los Angeles, *The Messenger*, which is among her books which have received starred reviews from *Publishers Weekly*.

Burke was born in Houston, Texas. She has spent most of her life in Southern California, often in coastal cities—several of which combine to make up the fictional Las Piernas, where Irene Kelly works and lives.

Burke is a Distinguished Alumna of California State University, Long Beach, where she obtained a B.A. in history and worked on oral history projects as a graduate student. She later became the manager of a manufacturing plant for a large corporation.

From the age of seven, though, she wanted to write. She completed her first novel, *Goodnight, Irene* in the evenings after work. It was sold unagented and unsolicited to Simon & Schuster. She soon left her day-job to write full-time.

She received a surprising boost from a new fan when, during his first White House interview after taking office, President Bill Clinton said he was reading *Goodnight, Irene*.

She and her husband of twenty-three years, Timothy, share their home with two dogs, Britches and Wylie. Tim Burke is a musician and owner of a private tutoring company, The Traveling Tutor.

Burke is an advocate for the improvement of public forensic science. In addition to being the founder and director of the Crime Lab Project and the Crime Lab Project Foundation, she has been a speaker at meetings of the National Institute of Justice, 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 is a member of the honorary board of the California Forensic Science Institute. 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.

Burke is one of seven American women to win the Edgar® Award for Best Novel since it was first awarded in 1954. She also received an Edgar® nomination for Best Short Story for "The Abbey Ghosts." Her short stories have won the Agatha, two Macavity awards, and the *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* Readers Award. (She is the first woman to have won the EQMM award.) She has received several Reviewers Choice awards from *RT Booklovers*, including Career Achievement for Suspense. She has also received Anthony, Nero, and Barry Award nominations. She was the Guest of Honor at Left Boast Crime 2010 in Los Angeles.

Burke taught writing for the UCLA Extension Writers' Program and has been the keynote speaker at the Book Passage Mystery Writers Conference. She has taught writing, research, and forensic science for writers at numerous conferences. She edited the first edition of *Breaking and Entering*, Sisters in Crime's guide to getting published, and served as an Associate Editor on *Writing Mysteries: A Handbook by the Mystery Writers of America*, edited by Sue Grafton. She is a longtime member of Sisters in Crime and has served on the national boards of Mystery Writers of America and the American Crime Writers League. She served as President of the Southern California Chapter of MWA.

You can learn more about Jan Burke and her work at her Web site, <http://www.janburke.com> .

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