



## The Heartbreak Messenger

*Alexander Vance*

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**Breaking up is hard to do?so why not pay someone to do it for you?**

Twelve-year-old Quentin never asked to be the Heartbreak Messenger. It just kind of happened, and he can't let a golden opportunity pass him by. The valuable communication service he offers is simple: He delivers breakup messages. For a small fee, he will deliver that message to your soon-to-be ex. If you order the deluxe package, he'll even throw in some flowers and a box of chocolates. You know . . . to soften the blow.

At first, Quentin's entrepreneurial brainchild is surprisingly successful, which is great, because he suspects his mom, who works as a car mechanic, is worried about money. But as he interacts with clients, message recipients, and his best friend, Abigail, it doesn't take long for him to wonder if his own heart will remain intact. In *The Heartbreak Messenger* by Alexander Vance, Quentin discovers that the game of love and the emotions that go with it are as complicated as they come?even for an almost-innocent bystander.

## The Heartbreak Messenger Details

Date : Published June 3rd 2014 by Square Fish (first published July 2013)

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Author : Alexander Vance

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Genre : Childrens, Middle Grade, Realistic Fiction, Romance, Humor, Contemporary, Young Adult

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## From Reader Review The Heartbreak Messenger for online ebook

### Ms. Yingling says

Quentin's pretty content to hang out with his best friends Rob and Abby, eat dinner with his mom at the repair shop where she works, and just get by, but when Rob's brother offers him \$20 to tell his girlfriend they're through, Quentin thinks it's not a bad idea. It's an easy \$20, and the girl gives him great advice (page 23): "Someday when you break up with a girl of your own, you're going to want to use flower and chocolates. Flowers at least say 'Thanks for the memories.' And chocolate, well, you don't want to leave a girl completely alone." This gives Quentin an idea for a deluxe break up package, and when he finds out that his single mother is having trouble paying the rent, he is glad that he has high school boys looking him up so that he can break the news to their girlfriends. Some of these breakups go better than other-- getting punched in the face by one soccer playing girl isn't fun, but at least he didn't have to give her the chocolates! It's good to have something to distract himself with since Abby is going out with an 8th grader, Justin, whom she has met through her interest in art. Quentin tells himself that he just misses her, but has a feeling that he might be a little jealous. He gets more breakups to deliver, including one boy who wants a package deal to break up with three, and one girl who wants him to deliver a dead rat to her ex-boyfriend. These give him pause, but when Justin hires him to break up with Abby for him, Quentin has to decide what the best thing is to do.

**Strengths:** Wow! Exactly the sort of book I am asking for all the time. It's funny, it includes romance, and it even includes dead rats, dog poop and a motorcycle/bicycle chase! Awesome! And I even cried a bit at the end. Excellent message about middle school romances which is not heavy handed. Fantastic cover, too. It's a bit early, but this may be my nomination for the Cybils Award in the fall.

**Weaknesses:** I usually don't like books where students set up improbable businesses, but this was so good that I didn't care. Oh, my daughter reminded me that there was an episode of *The Middle* where the one boy had a similar business. Again, don't care!

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### May Abbey says

This is outside my genre. Anyone who knows me knows that I love clean romance. Romance is my bread and butter. But when I got the opportunity to read this book, I have to admit that I was *instantly* sucked in. Haha. The last sentence of the synopsis gave me a promise for romance and that was enough to push me to open the book.

But as he interacts with clients, message recipients, and his best friend, Abigail, it doesn't take long for him to wonder if his own heart will remain intact. Quentin discovers that the game of love and the emotions that go with it are as complicated as they come—even for an almost innocent bystander.

There is so much I liked about this book. First, I thought the writing was wonderful. It was direct and to the point. It brought me into elementary school again and all the heartache that came with it. Quentin is a good kid. His relationship with his mother is so sweet, but not overdone. In fact, all the relationships in the book

were sincere, realistic, and had substance to them. There was history and feeling and depth. Loved the relationships.

The writing was also great and subtle. Perhaps it is not a surprise that my main focus in the story was his relationship with his friend Abigail. And this was done so well. It was obvious to the reader that she really liked Quentin and wanted more than friendship, and that Quentin was just being a boy and was completely unaware. Abigail had integrity and sincerity and goodness to her that was endearing. She also wasn't going to sit around and wait for Quentin, she hinted to him, in the most feminine way (which is not seen often anymore) that she liked him, but when he did not pick up the hint, she kept her pride and she moved on, teaching Quentin a thing or two in the process.

Quentin was a good kid and his adventures, and misadventures were fun to read. He made friends and enemies along the way, learned a whole lot about what really matters in life, and came away from the whole situation much wiser than he had been to begin with.

His epiphany was something that thrilled me when I read it, knowing that this great message would be read by kids. (view spoiler)

I am super happy I have this book. When my daughter gets older, I would love for her to read it. It was so enjoyable, I finished it in just a few hours. I look forward to the sequel to this... because it definitely was left open for new adventures for Quentin...

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### **Danny Phantom says**

Me gusto mucho el libro, fue un libro entretenido, es un libro middle grade, obviamente es rápido de leer y es fluido, no es una lectura muy compleja que se pueda esperar, los personajes son buenos en mi opinión, si bien no son los grandes personajes son personajes entretenidos que llegas a empatizar con ellos, lo que les sucede, te ríes, sientes pena con ellos.

Les recomiendo el libro, fácil y rápido de leer, una lectura ligera para un buen rato de quitar el estrés.

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### **juan carlos says**

Muy pocos libros provocan en mi que no deje de leerlos, y este mensajero de corazones rotos los hizo :). Lo acabe en un día ya que no podía soltarlo.

Esta historia te remonta a tu etapa de la secundaria, cuando eres bobo y te diviertes con tus amigos. Te trae los juegos y los dolores del primer romance y lo delicado que es la palabra amor y el rompimiento.

La palabra amor y la palabra relación son sinónimos de mucha responsabilidad y encontrar al ser adecuado no es tan fácil como uno piensa, ya que para alcanzar la plenitud de la sinceridad y el amor de pareja, se deben pasar y afrontar muchos corazones rotos.

Genial historia que por su ligereza y sencillez logró absorberme hasta el final. Si eres chavo o chava de 13 a 15 años, esta historia te fascinará, si eres más grande dale una oportunidad te divertirá.

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### **Brandy Painter says**

Originally posted here at Random Musings of a Bibliophile.

One look at the cover was all it took to hook me in. Then the premise, a boy who carries break up messages for a fee, sealed the deal. *The Heartbreak Messenger* by Alexander Vance is so much fun to read.

Quentin is a delightful main character. He is savvy enough to take advantage of a great business idea, yet so clueless when it comes to understanding relationships. He is not completely in his money making scheme for selfish reasons, but he isn't completely altruistic either. He comes across as genuine. He learns some important lessons about love and the human condition from his encounters with the people he brings his break up messages to. The impact this has on him is believable. Quentin's new business also affects his relationships with his two best friends. I appreciated how the friendships are portrayed, despite it being the oh so typical two boys-one girl friendship that pops up so much in MG books. It is used so much because it works well. Watching Quentin face the truth of his feelings for Abby was amusing and excruciating. Everything about them is so typical of the age.

The different scenarios Quentin finds himself in due to his job are hilarious. I wondered if it would start to get old, but it didn't. Vance wrote each encounter in a fresh way giving life to all of the heartbreakers and heartbreakees. All of them have the humor that comes from Quentin's awkwardness, but each also stresses the reality of how hard relationships really are.

*The Heartbreak Messenger* will have wide appeal. Boys. Girls. Romantics. Anti-Romantics. There is something here for everyone.

I read a galley made available by the publisher, Feiwel & Friends. *The Heartbreak Messenger* is available for purchase July 23, 2013.

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### **Pati Kantún says**

Una historia divertida de adolescentes para adolescentes. La historia es bastante sencilla pero cada cosa que sucede a lo largo de la historia hace que te la pases genial leyendo este libro. La escritura es bastante sencilla y fácil de seguir, el libro es cortísimo apenas tiene 286 páginas y bueno la portada es divina, un poco femenina pero muy linda. Yo termine el libro en un día porque es super rápida la lectura. El libro es ameno y los personajes me han parecido divertidísimos :) Recomendadísima.

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### **Izzy H says**

The theme that I think goes good with the stories is you might get yourself into something and it not be good for you. I chose this because in the story the main character becomes a messenger but then after a while he has to give a message to his best friend and he knows she may not like it.

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## May says

Mensajero de corazones rotos es una novela juvenil, más bien para adolescentes que estén entre los diez y los quince años. Lo cogí sin demasiadas expectativas y sin saber qué esperar de él. Y la verdad es que me ha parecido una novela entretenida, aunque tampoco mucho más.

La novela sin duda está enfocada para chavales de la edad que he comentado, pues tiene un lenguaje sencillo, un protagonista de doce años y una trama amena y cerca a la vida de instituto.

Lo que más me ha gustado del libro, sin duda, es Quentin. Es el protagonista y el que nos cuenta la historia. Y es un personaje de lo más adorable, entrañable y al que se coge cariño desde la primera hoja. A pesar de que parece que rompe corazones porque sí, realmente no es así. Lo hace para ayudar a su madre a pagar las facturas, aunque sabe que lo que hace está mal, pero de verdad quiere ayudarla. Es un personaje que me parecía infantil para su edad y eso lo hacía más adorable, era demasiado inocente.

El resto de personajes son de su edad también. Sus amigos son graciosos y diferentes. Abby es un personaje cuya caracterización me gustó, no es la típica niña. Se va con dos niños e intenta ser "mayor" y tener novio, aunque no lo consigue del todo.

La trama como comentaba antes es muy sencilla, se ve muy bien cómo es el instituto, los matones que existen y las relaciones que se dan cuando tienes quince años.

Es un libro que se lee muy rapidito, con una trama sencilla pero divertida, recomendable para adolescentes que quieran pasar un buen rato.

Aunque personalmente a mí no me ha aportado nada más allá de un rato entretenido.

Y sin duda tengo que destacar su preciosa edición de tapa dura, con detalles adorables en todas las páginas y su portada tan divertida y fresca.

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## Laura Mauro says

I gave this book 3.5 stars\*

I really enjoyed this book. I found it very cute. I thought for a middle grade book it was very well done and did not have over dramatic characters. I really loved the premise and the characters. It was a tad predictable but a fun read over like 2 days. I really hoped there was sequel but alas not yet. Overall such a cute read and would rec for a feb. read.

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## Itzel. says

¡QUE COSA TAN BONITA!

A pesar (de que a mi gusto) es un libro medio infantil me ha encantado! ❤? es fácil de leer, y está muy bueno, me hizo reír mucho y yo opino que si se merece las 5 estrellas!

Léanlo de verdad y si lo leen espero que les guste! ❤?

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## Bárbara says

3 estrellas

Cómico, casi inverosímil considerando los matones que aparecen. Eché en falta mayor interacción con la madre de Quentin.

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### **Claudia S. (Dream Memories) says**

*"-Amigo, tu debes tener un corazón de piedra.  
Aquello me hizo pestañear. ¿Un corazón de piedra?  
Yo solo era el mensajero."*

<http://mdmemories.blogspot.com/2014/0...>

El Mensajero de Corazones Rotos me ha parecido una historia bastante peculiar. Hay que tener en cuenta que maneja un lenguaje sencillo y su edición es de letras grandes, lo cual lo hace bastante corto y se puede considerar un libro para menores de catorce años (en mi humilde apreciación) tanto por esto como por su contenido. El protagonista incluso es un niño de doce años.

Lo que me encantó, sin duda, es el sentido del humor que maneja el autor. Si este señor escribiera un libro un poco más adulto y más profundo, lo leería sin pensarlo dos veces sólo para lograr reírme con sus ocurrencias. Esta es una historia más bien sencilla, pero bastante entretenida. Es bonito, dulce y gracioso, pero no sobresale por nada más. Aún así creo que este tipo de historias, al tratar de meterle más drama, antes que sumar, le restaría puntos. Creo que como está, cumple con su objetivo: ser una bonita historia acerca de un rompecorazones que termina por comprender el estado de su propio corazón. No aspira a más, pero creo que tampoco da para ello.

Disfruté la peculiaridad de la historia, el desenlace, los comentarios graciosos que te encuentras durante la lectura y por qué no, la sencillez de la misma. No es un libro que destaque por ser fenomenal, pero sí la recomendaría a chicos que estén empezando con la lectura y entrando en los primeros años de la adolescencia, porque toca el tema del primer amor, el amor hacia la familia, la delicadeza de los sentimientos y la seriedad con la que se deben manejar.

Al ser un mensajero de corazones rotos, es decir, un chico que decide terminar con las parejas de otros a cambio de dinero, se verá envuelto en algunos problemas. Terminar con alguien nunca es fácil, cada uno reacciona de manera distinta, y los detalles de cada relación pueden salir a la luz sin que nuestro querido mensajero quiera saberlos ni verse envuelto. Son los gajes de su oficio.

El libro no es muy memorable ni complejo, pero no es de esos libros con los cuales te enojas porque sean así, porque no es malo ni hace falta criticarle nada. Simplemente te queda una sensación agradable hacia los personajes y hacia la historia que aunque sencilla, es entretenida. Creo que podría ser una lectura más representativa para chicos de cierta edad como lo comenté más arriba, por eso lo recomiendo.

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### **Pretty in Fiction says**

The Heartbreak Messenger by Alexander Vance took me by surprise. I expected it to be a cute, quick read. What I didn't expect was to stay up much too late because I just couldn't put the book down. I don't usually read middle grade novels, but since this one seemed on the cusp of young adult I gave it a shot, and I'm so

glad I did.

One thing that made *The Heartbreak Messenger* stand out for me was the solid business strategies of thirteen year old Quentin. Seriously. This kid could be one of the sharks on *Shark Tank* when he's older. He's desperate for cash and is willing to work for it, but not to the point of doing anything illegal. Although his business does push some moral boundaries and he knows it. But what does he care? He's thirteen and raking in dough to help his single mom pay the rent. To heck with moral boundaries. Quentin does feel guilty about breaking people's hearts though, and that's part of what makes him so lovable.

Alexander Vance sort of nails the standard young boy coming of age story. And Quentin's voice is perfection. Sometimes the cutesy cussing (e.g. "kicked my trash" instead of... well, you know) seemed a little forced, but it fit perfectly with the characters personalities, so I'm not complaining. I'd even go as far as to say this reminded me a little of *Flipped* by Wendelin Van Draanen, one of my all time favorite coming of age stories. It had the same innocence that *Flipped* had, and the same agelessness. The story takes place in the present, but it could have easily taken place in any decade.

*The Heartbreak Messenger* is great for younger readers, with its lovable, yet clueless narrator and the way he transitions from being—in his words—"too young" to think about girls as anything but best friends to maybe, possibly, seeing them as something more. And it's great for adult readers, too. It had me smiling the whole way through. And occasionally rolling my eyes at how little Quentin understood about girls.

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### **Jeff Raymond says**

Closer to a 3.5 only because of the massive dangling threads at the end of the story. Spoilers in the third paragraph, everyone.

The book is a great conceit about a kid who learns he can make money by breaking up with people for them. Soon, he's created a little universe for himself where he can make money doing these breakups and maybe help his mom pay a few bills along the way. Of course, he's oblivious to his female friend's desires, and he sees how his divorced mom is hurting, so things are complicated.

This is a cute, quick read for sure. It doesn't waste a ton of time, and balances the funny slapstick with more serious stuff very well. My one problem was how he had some opportunities to explain himself to his best friend he never took, and we never find out how his mother handles the situation either. It feels incomplete as a result, which frustrated me a lot.

Overall, though, a definitely worthwhile read. It has a lot of good depictions of relationships from the teenage male perspective, and handles a lot of different ideas about identities and finances and such that other books either avoid outright or tend to get preachy with. I just wish it ended better.

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### **Mariana says**

He aquí un libro de esos que uno lee nada más porque si. Un libro corto, fresco y súper fácil de leer, que aunque no presenta la gran historia termina siendo realmente agradable y divertido.

Cuando lo tuve en mis manos la verdad no se me antojaba mucho, pero leí un par de reseñas que me hicieron

darle una oportunidad y no me decepcionó.

Mensajero de Corazones Rotos es un libro para lectores intermedios que nos habla de Quentin, un chico de 13 años que buscando una manera de ayudar a su madre se convierte en mensajero de rupturas amorosas para chicos mayores. Pero las cosas no son tan sencillas como parecían y Quentin aprenderá eso de la manera más complicada.

Me gustó en especial que es un libro muy tranquilo, sin tanto drama adolescente y sin chicos adelantándose a ser mayores, y al final te hace pensar un poquito sobre lo que acaba de vivir Quentin. En general es un libro muy sencillo, fluido y sin la súper gran historia pero que tiene algo especial que llega a gustar y que puede disfrutarse bastante.

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