



## Messenger

*Edward Lee*

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# **Messenger**

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A little bit of Hell has just come to earth.

Would you like to become someone else? Well, someone else is about to become you. He will share your heart and your mind, he will seep into your body, he will feel all your ecstasy...

And then he will take you on a slaughterfest.

Occult rites. Ritualistic murder.

You have become possessed.  
But not by a ghost.  
Not by a demon.  
It's something much worse.

Just as God has a messenger, so does the devil, and that messenger is here, now, in your town. He has a message to send...

The Messenger.

A diabolical novel of ultimate erotic horror...

## **Messenger Details**

Date : Published August 1st 2004 by Leisure Books

ISBN : 9780843952049

Author : Edward Lee

Format : Mass Market Paperback 337 pages

Genre : Horror, Fiction, Splatterpunk

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## From Reader Review Messenger for online ebook

### DJMikeG says

Disclaimer: the 4 stars I am giving this book is not on the same rating scale as all literature. This is so out there, you couldn't review it with the same rating system as say, *Moby Dick*. That would be like stacking up *The Toxic Avenger* against *The Hurt Locker*. The only thing these works have in common is their medium, so I've decided to rate this book on its merits as a work of Pulp Horror alone. And in that arena, this book kicks serious slimy demon butt.

Ed Lee has a reputation in the literary horror world as being *the* most intense, most grossest, most disgusting writer there is. Apparently his mass market novels published under the Leisure Books imprint are somewhat toned down when compared to his small press, hard to find work. If this is Ed Lee toned down, I can't even fathom what his 'hardcore' stuff is like. I mean, how much more intense and nasty could fiction possibly be? Are his small press books printed on poisonous paper that burns your fingers when you turn the page? Is the copy printed in a font that eventually makes your eyes bleed? Does the book explode when you close it? The only way any book could be harder and nastier than this book is if it did those things.

Back in 2006, when my discovery of the works of Brian Keene, Jack Ketchum and Richard Laymon stoked my post Stephen King interest in horror fiction, I picked up Ed Lee's newest novel, *The Backwoods*. I figured 'hey, if all these authors I love love this guy, he must be awesome.' The book sucked. Really hard. In fact I couldn't even get more than about 80 pages into it. It was embarrassingly bad. Since then I've never picked up another book by Lee, until the other day when I was doing laundry. I forgot the book I was reading at that time at home, so on the way to the laundromat I stopped into the local library. I picked up this book, read the summary and the first page and decided to give old Mr. Lee a whirl. I read the first 70 pages in the laundromat. I wonder if the little Mexican kids there thought I was weird, this big bearded dude reading some creepy looking book with his eyes bugging out of his head, turning the pages as fast as he could.

The premise is pretty silly sounding: The Messenger, a mysterious demonic figure possesses postal workers in a small Florida town and uses them to carry out his heinous acts. Lee takes this idea, and basically pumps it full of steroids, LSD, crack and demon blood and lets it loose. This is one king-hell, rip-snortin' beast of a horror novel. Its also very well plotted and actually has a soft tender side that doesn't beat itself over your head, but is there enough so that you actually care about the main characters.

I think that's the book's greatest feat. Combining mayhem, gore and violence that goes as completely over the top as it definitely does here with characters you actually care about is not an easy feat, and Lee pulls it off seemingly without effort.

The Messenger is an amazing villain, as well. I don't want to go into too much detail into what he does and how he does it, as I don't want to give away too much and ruin this book for someone brave enough to read it. Lets just say that he's one of the most nefarious bad guys I've come across in a horror novel, and I read tons of horror fiction. The level of nastiness is cranked up to 11 here, and all because of this one bastard.

Also there are some deliciously clever twists towards the end that will seriously take you by surprise.

Basically, if you like pulpy horror, you have an iron stomach and are brave enough, give this book a try. You won't be disappointed. (But it may make you question your own sanity for reading these kinds of things.)

## **Brian Steele says**

You may not like his supernatural splatter-punk style, or his obsession with sex, but you've *got* to admire Lee's completely irreverent, insane take on... well, everything. This is a novel about about why some Postal Workers go Postal, and that's just hysterical. Hell's Infernal Messenger likes to occasionally ship unmarked boxes to Earth filled with such atrocious evil that it possesses the workers and propels them on killing sprees? Even better!

This is sort of a "side book" to Lee's brilliantly depraved Infernal Series, much in the same fashion that *Flesh Gothic* is. While we readers never directly deal with Mephistopolis, that's almost better. This is a more character driven tale (just like *Flesh Gothic*) yet still retains the unimaginable abominations dreamt up for those Infernal tales.

This is now the 8th book I've read and own by Edward Lee, and while I'll happily forget his boring *Brides Of The Impaler* or the awkwardly paced *The Golem*, this particular book comes close to being my favorite of his.

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## **Jason says**

### **Terrifyingly terrific**

A fun romp of murder and mayhem. A look into hell and it's messenger. If you like gore this is for you.

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## **Will Kilby says**

Brutal! Totally out there! A great intro to a wonderful author! i hope to read more from him in the future.

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## **Elusive says**

In 'Messenger', employees of a post office are suddenly committing mass murders before finally taking their own lives. Amidst the chaos and bloodbath, the residents are living in fear while the police can't figure out the connection shared by the killers. Unbeknownst to them, the Messenger has arrived and he will do anything to be heard..

Despite the promising premise, this book was incredibly boring - something that's completely unacceptable for a horror story. Why was it dull? Well the repetition resulted in predictability. When you can see what's coming next, it takes away the suspense and scare. Basically, whenever an unsuspecting character went to the basement of the post office, the Messenger would brainwash and possess the unlucky character. Subsequently, expect lots of demonic rape and sex (which truly wasn't as interesting as it sounds, trust me) as well as tons of gore (the aforementioned comment applies here too).

The idea of a normal person losing their minds and embarking on a murder spree is terrifying, right? Unfortunately, here it was just a snoozefest because the author didn't delve into the details. Everything

happened offscreen or 'off page', in this case. It went something like this: *Character A walked into the post office with a maniacal expression, wielding an axe. It was time to kill...* -shifts to the next scene- Instead of showing what exactly the character did to each victim, the author instead devoted many pages to the dumb, dull main character Jane. It didn't help that her budding relationship with a cop was unconvincing and laughable.

Perhaps the worst thing was, the pivotal showdown scene simply didn't take place at all. It's like the author ran out of ideas or didn't care anymore and decided to wrap everything up in a few sentences. It's like waiting for hours on someone's doorstep only to have the door slammed in your face - that's how I felt about this lazy writing. There's no point trying to make the Messenger appear to be formidable only to dismiss him in the end. Nothing - not even the twist - could save this painfully mediocre story.

Overall, 'Messenger' should have been titled 'Mess' because that was what it was - from beginning to end. Don't waste your time on sloppy writing, repetitive content and barely even one-dimensional characters. If you're looking for something with a similar storyline, check out Bentley Little's 'The Mailman' which is far better than this.

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### **Russell Hall says**

The Leisure version of Edward Lee is far different from the gross out Lee but you get with titles like the big head. His writing is consistent in the still delivers, but on a more mainstream level.

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### **Michael says**

Am Anfang machte mir die übertriebene Gewalt und der viele Sex irgendwie spaß weil man sowas in Büchern selten hat aber nach einer Weile wurde genau das sehr langweilig und eintönig ... die Geschichte an sich ist nicht schlecht aber in genau dieser Form auch in unzähligen Büchern und Filmen zu erleben ... mein Fazit: nettes Buch für Gorehounds aber nicht wirklich sehr interessant auf Dauer

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### **John Bruni says**

Another excellent tale from the master of Hell-type stories. The concept is kind of silly: demons using the U.S. Postal Service as messengers of rape and death. Yet I totally bought into it. Lee does not pull punches; he goes all out, including a particularly hurtful betrayal that ends with no simple solution. Also, I kind of hope Lee gets together with Brian Keene so they can write a story in which Lee's Dhevic meets up with Keene's Levi Stoltzfus for an adventure. I don't know if Dhevic is a recurring character, but I hope he is and that I run into him again in the future.

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### **chucklesthescot says**

Now this was a much better offering from Edward Lee. A postal worker opens up a package addressed to the depot, which is an unusual thing and when he opens it he becomes infected, going on an immediate killing

spree in the neighbourhood. Now years later to meet demand, the old depot is reopening and something lurks inside waiting to possess again...

This book has the sex, violent and horror that you expect in an Edward Lee story. The big difference here is that there is also a good story to tie it in together, with plenty of tension and a few twists. There is decent character development as well which is a bonus though not required in this type of horror novel.

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### **Juxian says**

This one was pretty weak.

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### **Jennifer says**

Not bad, but not of one Edward Lee's best.

I felt like there were no rules to the messenger. In fantasy, there are supposed to be rules that the world abides by. But the messenger is able to possess some people and not others. Why? No real hint of an explanation is given, which makes one of the "twists" at the end not very twisty at all.

Another problem is that the end feels very quick. Suddenly it's just over. Edward Lee tries to draw out the ending a bit by cheating, but it feels forced and, like I said, it was a cheat.

A quick, fun read like most Edward Lee stories, but the lack of rules left it feeling empty. It's like Edward Lee had a plot he wanted to follow and he made the characters and monster fit that mold without any direction to guide the journey.

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### **BookNerdsBrainDump says**

Short Take: When did sex and violence get so boring?

I can't remember when I first heard of this book. I could've sworn it was recommended by Stephen King in *Danse Macabre*, but when I double-checked, nope. Perhaps it was on one of those "Best Horror Novels EVER!!" lists. In any case, for some reason, I was dying to read it. A glance at the long list of books Edward Lee has published hinted at a new author-crush with the potential for a long-term reader relationship. I had convinced myself that I was in for a capital-T Treat.

Instead, I got tricked.

*Messenger* is advertised as a "work of erotic horror". There's plenty of sex and gore, no question, but the "shocking" scenes are repetitive, and lose their impact quickly. "Oh, someone just hung themselves with their own intestines? Again? Another demon-rape, too. How many pages do I have left in this thing, anyway?"

The first two-thirds of *Messenger* follows a pretty simple formula. A postal employee goes down into the basement, is possessed by the titular *Messenger*, then goes on to commit mass murder and mutilation. Then either the chief of police (Steve) or the manager of the post office (Jane) tries to figure out what is happening. Then someone else goes to the basement, and the cycle repeats.

A demonologist named Dhevic is familiar with the *Messenger*, and is trying to end the atrocities; however, Steve believes he is involved, so Dhevic must work in secret. Dhevic is European and has an accent, some psychic abilities, and an irregular income from shadowy “benefactors”. That’s really all we learn of him, a completely wasted opportunity. Of all the characters, he had the most potential to be interesting, had Lee gone for character development instead of page after page of “Blood! Guts!! NAKED WOMEN!!!!”

I don’t know which half of this book was worse. The gruesome murders and depictions of Hell could have been horrific, if any of the characters had been fleshed-out enough for me to care about. The sex scenes were either of the loving vanilla type, or the demon-rape, which, incidentally, every woman on the receiving end loved. I don’t need to tell you how gross that is. Speaking of the women, every woman in this book is described as having a perfect body, tan, shiny hair, etc. Flawless is boring.

Then there’s what I consider to be the “plot” half of the book, in which Jane and Steve have to figure out what’s going on in the small town of Dannelton. Unfortunately, they are both idiots. Even though every horrible crime involves someone associated with the post office, nobody thinks to check the basement. The chief of police of a small town, faced with multiple mass murderers and a body count well over forty, spends a lovely evening making pizza with his girlfriend instead of, y’know, investigating.

The girlfriend. Good grief. Jane falls in love with Steve with the speed of a Disney princess. She’s lived in Dannelton for years, but somehow never heard of the mass murderer that a fellow postman committed 20 years ago. She’s a young widow with two kids who seem to conveniently disappear whenever the plot calls for it.

And the town. We’re told several times that Dannelton is such a nice place, there’s never any crime, but at the same time, the police are familiar with the multitude of strip clubs featuring drug-addicted strippers/hookers. There’s also the incident mentioned above, in which a postal worker slaughters roughly two dozen people, and twenty years later, everyone has forgotten all about it. Let me tell you, I live in a small town, and nobody forgets anything. Ever. And even if Jane was a transplant from elsewhere (it never really clarifies that), someone would’ve filled her in. She’s managing the post office where the guy was working for crying out loud!

There’s the obligatory twist ending, and a quick wrap-up – you know, the kind you get when an author has written himself into a corner and has no idea how to get out of it.

Maybe it’s not you, Edward Lee, maybe it’s me. Maybe I’m overthinking things. I do that sometimes. But I just don’t think this relationship was meant to be.

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## **Menion says**

Actual rating: 3.5 stars

Well, color me blood-red, red as the blood that splatters this book-Edward Lee CAN write a horror novel without oceans of needless sex! Sure, he does throw a bit in, but much tamer than usual. Bottom line-this is

the first of his that I really enjoyed.

Plot-postal workers go postal with knives and guns, due to demonic influence. There is a talisman of the demon, that must be found to stop him. The end.

Hey, do you need a complex plot? Not really. This was good fun. First of all, if you like the gore aspect, Lee throws in a good amount. Also, I actually LIKED the protagonist this time, which was a first. Usually, all his characters are scumbags that you want to get whacked. One of the highlights is the hilarity that Lee throws in at times. The one that had me rolling around laughing was the animated dead guy about to rape a chick, and his dick drops off. This one actually had a few twists and turns in the plot-nothing major that you can't figure out, but it helped keep the story moving. This was a good, fast paced read that keeps you going to find out what happens. Overall, well done.

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### **Matt Neputin says**

It was an enjoyable read. It really was not as controversial as Lee's other books. But for me it was a nice relaxing read.

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### **Jon says**

Edward Lee. Nothing more really needs to be said. Raw, rough, and goes for the jugular.

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