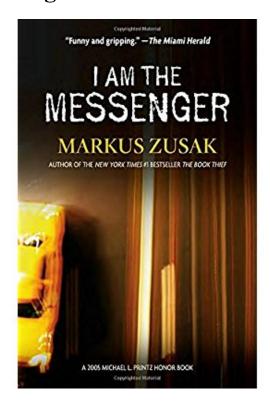
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# **Synopsis:**

From School Library Journal Grade 9 Up - Nineteen-year-old cabbie Ed Kennedy has little in life to be proud of his dad died of alcoholism, and he and his mom have few prospects for success. He has little to do except share a run-down apartment with his faithful yet smelly dog, drive his taxi, and play cards and drink with his amiable yet similarly washed-up friends. Then, after he stops a bank robbery, Ed begins receiving anonymous messages marked in code on playing cards in the mail, and almost immediately his life begins to swerve off its beaten-down path. Usually the messages instruct him to be at a certain address at a certain time. So with nothing to lose, Ed embarks on a series of missions as random as a toss of dice: sometimes daredevil, sometimes heartwarmingly safe. He rescues a woman from nightly rape by her husband. He brings a congregation to an abandoned parish. The ease with which he achieves results vacillates between facile and dangerous, and Ed's search for meaning drives him to complete every task. But the true driving force behind the novel itself is readers' knowledge that behind every turn looms the unknown presence - either good or evil - of the person or persons sending the messages. Zusak's characters, styling, and conversations are believably unpretentious, well conceived, and appropriately raw. Together, these key elements fuse into an enigmatically dark, almost film-noir atmosphere where unknowingly lost Ed Kennedy stumbles onto a mystery - or series of mysteries - that could very well make or break his life. - Hillias J. Martin, New York Public Library Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. -- This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition. Read more From Booklist \*Starred Review\* Gr. 9-12. Ed is a 19-year-old loser only marginally connected to the world; he's the son that not even his mother loves. But his life begins to change after he acts heroically during a robbery. Perhaps it's the notoriety he receives that leads to his receiving playing cards in the mail. Ed instinctively understands that the scrawled words on the aces are clues to be followed, which lead him to people he will help (including some he'll have to hurt first). But as much as he changes those who come into his life, he changes himself more. Two particular elements will keep readers enthralled: the panoply of characters who stream in and out of the story, and the mystery of the person sending Ed on the life-altering missions. Concerning the former, Zusak succeeds brilliantly. Ed's voice is assured and unmistakeable, and other characters, although seen through Ed's eyes, are realistically and memorably evoked (readers will almost smell Ed's odoriferous dog when it ambles across the pages). As for the ending, however, Zusak is too clever by half. He offers too few nuts-and-bolts details before wrapping things up with an unexpected, somewhat unsatisfying recasting of the narrative. Happily, that doesn't diminish the life-affirming intricacies that come before. Ilene CooperCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved -- This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition. Read more See all Editorial Reviews I Am the Messenger by Markus Zusak — Reviews, Discussion ...https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/190574.1/5 · 11K reviews · By Markus Zusak · 360 pagesI Am the Messenger has 100,205 ratings ... then how is it possible that I loved I Am the Messenger even more? This book ... Click here to see her review. 3.5 stars I ... I Am the Messenger - Book Review - Common Sense Mediahttps://www.commonsensemedia.org/book-reviews/i-am-the-messengerRead Common Sense Mediahttps://www.commonsensemedia.org/book-reviews/i-am-the-messenger/i-am-the-messenger/i-am-the-messenger/i-am-the-messenger/i-am-the-messenger/i-am-the-messenger/i-am-the-messen Messenger review, age rating, ... This book is the winner of the Australian Children's Book Award for Older Readers. Markus Zusak - I Am the Messenger - Book Review | BookPagehttps://bookpage.com/reviews/4024-markus-zusak-i-am-messengerMore Book Reviews > Home > Book reviews > Article March 2005. I Am the Messenger ... Take Australian writer Markus Zusak's new novel, I Am the Messenger I Am the Messenger - Book Reviews - Markus

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