



The Avenger

Jo Robertson

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The May 2013 cover for "The Avenger" is the only change in the book; the text and interior are identical to the September 2011 edition. The current cover more accurately reflects the themes and motifs of the book.

"Page-turner!" (Brenda Novak, USA Today Best-selling Author)

"Jo Robertson has done it again with her second romantic thriller" (Award-winning Author Loucinda McGary)

A clandestine government organization called Invictus "recruits" outstanding athletes for secret projects. But their top agent Jackson Holt has special, almost preternatural, qualities not even the Organization can explain.

Olivia Gant, professor of Ancient Studies at a private college in California, was once Jack's childhood sweetheart. But when he deserted her, he left her alone to combat her stepfather's drunken attentions and her mother's careless neglect.

Nearly twenty years later, their paths cross in a mission to fight a bizarre religious serial killer whose methods include crucifixion and burial alive. Olivia and Jack battle for happiness against years of secrecy and distance as they use Olivia's expertise in Latin and Jack's special gifts to track a brutal killer.

Can Olivia forgive Jack for his long-ago betrayal? Can Jack allow Olivia to witness the terrible Change that makes him such an effective killing machine?

The Avenger Details

Date : Published (first published September 2nd 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Jo Robertson

Format : Kindle Edition 283 pages

Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Suspense, Fantasy, Paranormal

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From Reader Review The Avenger for online ebook

Martha Streator says

Outstanding read!!

I liked the suspense and good characters! Liked continuation of characters from the last book, The Watcher! Look forward to reading next book.

BK Blue says

I managed to make it to page 264 before I called it quits.

This is just too stupid, I'm sorry. It starts off pretty interesting but soon enough there are inconsistencies, missing explanations, unrealistic reactions, and too many plot points going on. It's kind of a mess, if I am to be honest.

What probably irks me the most is that the heroine is a freakin' idiot, especially for a professor. Now I'm not saying she isn't allowed some stupid moments but she has few smart ones, know what I mean?

Also, there is no real mystery.

1. It's pretty obvious who the killer is.
2. She has 3 different dudes after her, one of which is a Mexican criminal. She gets a "mysterious" phone call from someone calling her a "gringa bitch" and everyone acts clueless about who the caller could be. Seriously?

...Yo no lo recomiendo.

Trish R. says

Great read and AWESOME narration..

I was a little worried when I first started reading this book, afraid the killer's descriptions of his kills would be too much for me. I like books about serial killers but I don't want to know how they kill their victims. Not to worry, there wasn't much gross stuff you have to read.

I was curious about Jack. The author made it sound like Jack was going to turn into something other than a human, like this was going to be a shifter book, but that didn't happen. Even at the end of the book I'm still not sure what Olivia saw in him when he showed up to save her. That description was kind of left up in the air. I know when he went into the forest and took the pills to get into the killer's head it was as if he could see and hear what was going on with the killer and all his senses heightened but he didn't turn into anything,

like he kept saying he did. I didn't get that, at all.

But, it really was a good book and although it was book 2 in the series it was definitely a stand-alone. The first book was about Slater and Kate but Kate wasn't in this story for even a minute, she was off on some assignment. And Bill Gant, Olivia's ex was such a creep and I hope someday he gets what's coming to him. Vargas and Santos were horrible human beings but the next book is about them so I'm guessing they'll get theirs, and it appears Torres, from this book, will be the one to get them. I started out liking Warren but at the end he was a jerk.

There was no sexual tension in the book but there was a long delayed love story that was wonderful, 17 years in the waiting. And there were a couple of explicit sex scenes.

There was swearing and the F-bomb was released 14 times.

As to the narrator: Wow! Where to begin? He was fantastic. He really, really laughed, whispered when it called for it and sometimes when it didn't and you just knew it should have been there, snorted, murmured, muttered, yelled, any emotion and it was there. I had never listened to Sebastian Fields before but he was the best narrator I've ever listened to, male or female. I will definitely be looking to see what else he's narrated.

Sia McKye says

Sia McKye OVER COFFEE

Take a look at [Jo Robertson page!](#)

Warning: *This is a hard book to put down!*

This is a tightly woven page-turner. It keeps you on your toes trying to determine who the killer is and why. Ms. Robertson puts the reader in the investigative seat and skillfully so, introducing various characters who could be the villain. The reader must sift through the evidence along with Jackson Holt, Olivia Gant, and returning character, Ben Slater.

What makes the story intriguing is Invictus and Jack's involvement in it as well as the scope of his abilities. How much of it is training and disciplines provided by Invictus and how much is from Jack himself? If from within Jack, how did it come about? How does Olivia play into his abilities?

Another aspect of the story that is intriguing is the fact that Jack, Olivia, and Ben have a past history. The growing romance between Jack and Olivia build tension to the story as they race to find the killer and deal with pieces of their past.

The villain is well crafted. We get progressive glimpses of his mind but finding him? That's much tougher.

As with real life, there is a lot of gray areas and the line between good and bad can become smudged.

If you like a good thriller, then Jo Robertson is an author to check out. You won't be disappointed. What I *really* enjoy about her books is her ability to ratchet up the tension without rushing the story. The story is about the solving the murder with the main characters and the romance adds to rather than distracts from, the tension of the story.

This is a loosely crafted series set in Biggler County, but and you can read either of her stories without reading the other. I like that and hope to see more returning characters.

The Avenger, in my opinion, was even better than **The Watcher** and I *loved* **The Watcher**. I can't wait for **The Traitor**!

Erica says

This is my second Jo Robertson novel I've read. It was different from the first, since I hadn't really expected the sort of supernatural element to it. I thought that it would take away from the human aspect of the story, and even the mystery due to Jack's abilities, but it didn't. It added a depth to the character that I loved.

Jackson Holt has in a sense returned home, to the friends he'd left behind. He must find a serial killer that he's meant to terminate as most of his assignments are through the government agency that he works for. He must enlist the help of one his former friends, Olivia Gant, the girl he left without a word.

I loved that I got to see Ben Slater, a character from the first of the series, it was nice to see him in action again.

Jo Robertson tends to write characters that are very independent and stubborn, but romances like this, in the midst of an investigation, and with their broken pasts, shouldn't come easy. There were moments that I wanted to throw my kindle across the room, others where I was biting my nails about what's gonna happen next. And that to me, makes it a great read and addition to the series.

James says

I loved the first book in this series, "The Watcher," and gave it a 5-star rating, but "The Avenger" is definitely not in the same league. The only valid reason for writing a book is to tell a story needing to be told. Although well-written, "The Avenger" lacks a worthwhile story. The plot, much like a warmed-over Incredible Hulk adventure, simply requires too much suspension of disbelief, and as a result, the characters are neither real nor believable. The subtle romance that so enriched "The Watcher" has become more erotic than romantic, bordering on pornographic. My plans to read "The Traitor" next are now in considerable doubt.

Baba says

Edited May 1, 2015: 3.5 stars.

Cleta says

A mystery! ?

Although suspenseful, had somewhat of a confusing science fiction edge to it. A supposed natural phenomenon and drug cocktails cause a human change to take place in the male lead. This change is somehow more when he is with the female lead but in my opinion never really explained leaving me unfulfilled.

Teryl says

Having just read The Watcher, I was interested enough to read the next one set in the same area, particularly as I have had a few wonderful holidays in Tahoe. I am just not sure about this. It teetered on the edge of paranormal, completely different from the first one. Jackson's "Change" when he rescued Olivia is not clear to the reader, although she is clearly shocked. I found the Slater/Kate relationship much more believable in the first book. It seemed like the author was considering the same concerns of the vampire in Twilight where sex between a vampire and a human was dangerous to the human, but it wasn't very clear. Not as good.

bob gentry says

This review process terrible

Is a real pain close this thing

Tammy says

This was an absolute page turner! It wasn't without a few issues but in all honesty I still had to give it a 5 star for the simple fact that I couldn't put this book down. Even when it was predictable (and there are a few times it is VERY predictable) I was so drawn to the story that I couldn't stop reading.

The main characters Olivia and Jackson are beautifully written characters. The love story is so interesting you really find yourself rooting for these characters to make it work. I personally loved the paranormal aspect of this story, but I like paranormal so that's not surprising.

The mystery was a very dark and gritty one. In fact at times it was difficult to read it was so intense. Still ,I couldn't put the book down! This is a high recommend from me with one warning! It is going to be predictable in a few spots .That said go in forewarned and prepare to be thoroughly entertained.

pam laporte says

Creepy

I won't lie to you. This book have me the creeps. Hopefully no one will ever do this to others. I can't imagine the pain and terror the victims felt. A serial killer with religious overtones is killing people to stone for their so called sins. Some of the victims were not sinners. Jack was an elite soldier who was given the duty of finding and catching the killer.

Olivia was brought in for the purpose of translating notes the killer left. Jack had once lived her but left when she was 14. He has a serious secret that he doesn't know if she can handle it.

Tracy T. says

So this story was barely okay at best. (audible review)

The main characters Olivia and Jackson could have been better together. I just had a hard time buying them as a real "in love" couple. There are some nicely written sex scenes so this book isn't rated G. Not erotica, just well written.

Olivia I found to be wishy washy quite a bit. I didn't really care how she acted in the fact that he took off when she was seventeen years old. Literally holding that against him. Seriously??? You were 17. Get over it! Why he constantly had to defend his actions 18 years later because he left was just annoying. Grow up and get to know him now but shut up whining that he is going to leave you again. Whatever!

Jackson and his special power thing was a bit cheesy to me. It started out with potential but then cheese. This Invictus group and meds he took and they way his "super powers" were written was just cheesy and stupid. And none of it made sense nor was it described or explained very well how he became this way. I like paranormal so this to me was really far fetched and not well written. This invictus organization could have been a good story line but it was not.

This serial killer was all over the place and the way he killed his victims was all different. It was all just really odd and kinda dumb.

All in all, I didn't really care much for this story to be honest. Too many eye rolling moments for me.

As for the narration, I think Sebastian Fields did a good job. The women sounded like women everyone had their own distinct voice, he had a very nice reading voice and read with emotion as called for. However, I will say the voice he used for our hero, Jackson could have been more manly.

I did get his book as a free read with my KU subscription and 1.99 for the audible, so glad for that. I wouldn't have wanted to pay any more than that.

Michelle says

Good book

You people should just read this book yourselves and write your own review on this novel yourself and I really enjoyed reading this book very much so. Shelley MA

Black Butterfly says

FIRST LET ME SAY THE COVER DISPLAYED HERE HAS BEEN CHANGED, FOR THE BETTER. WHILE ON AMAZON I DISCOVER THIS BOOK (WITH A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT COVER). I ORIGINALLY TURNED AWAY FROM THIS BOOK BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WAS ABOUT BOXING. DUH! SILLY ME! I SELECT THIS BOOK (WITH THE NEW COVER) TO GO ON MY CURRENTLY READING CHOICE, WELL UP POPS THE COVER YOU SEE HERE (ON GOODREADS). NOT ABOUT BOXING AT ALL. IT IS A SUSPENSE-THRILLER-ROMANCE, MY KIND OF BOOK. THE BOOK STARTED OUT OK I HAD GUESSED WHO THE BAD GUYS WERE EARLY ON, I WAS RIGHT TOO. THE ROMANCE WAS VERY LITTLE, NO WHOO-HOO! HERE. THE SUSPENSE AND KILLING WAS GROSS, BUT I LIKE GROSS. THE LAST ABOUT 35% OF THE BOOK GOT A CASE OF THE D.U.M.B.S. BIG TIME, HOW THE MAIN FEMALE & MALE BECAME DUMB AND DUMMMM-MMBER AS I READ ALONG. LIVVIE DID TWO STUPID MOVES I JUST COULDN'T BELIEVE, (GO AHEAD OPEN THE DOOR WITHOUT LOOKING FIRST). SHE DID THIS TWICE, KNOWING WHAT HAPPENED THE FIRST TIME SHE DID IT. THIS WAS JUST A BIT TOO MUCH FOR ME, WHAT STARTED OUT AS A PRETTY GOOD THRILLER JUST SORT TO PETERED OUT LIKE A BALLOON LEAKIN' AIR. BUT THE NEW COVER LOOKS GOOD THOUGH, CHECK IT OUT ON AMAZON.
