**Task for *The Messenger***

# Chapter Questions Task

**Instructions:** The following chapter questions have been separated in order to summarise the novel efficiently. Please find your allocated questions and record your responses electronically. Please make sure your answers are detailed and in full sentence format.

## Part one: “The First Message”

***The holdup***

1. Marv’s car plays a major role in this first scene. Describe the car (including the make and model). Why is it important to the scene?
2. Describe the robbery from Ed’s point of view.
3. Explain what happens from the moment the getaway car leaves to when the police catch the robber.
4. What part do the media play in this scene?

***Sex should be like math; an introduction to my life:***

1. Why does Ed become a cab driver? How does he feel about himself and his life?
2. In three sentences, summarize Ed’s home and upbringing.
3. Who is the Doorman, and why is he important to Ed?
4. Who are Leigh, Katherine and Tommy and what is their connection to Ed?
5. Describe Ed’s favourite pastime regarding the door attendant and Audrey.
6. Why does Ed, “hate the sound of car doors slamming,” (p. 21)?
7. What is the comparison Ed makes between math and sex?
8. Why does Audrey refuse to love anyone?
9. What is the importance of cards in Ed’s life? Throughout your reading, keep track of the purpose of the Annoyance card games. What is the author’s purpose for including them when and where he does?

***The ace of diamonds:***

1. How does Ed receive this card? What does he mean by, “Maybe it’s meant to be”?

Describe his attitude toward it throughout the chapter.

1. Discuss Ed’s relationship with his mother.

***The judge and the mirror:***

1. Contrast how the media in previous chapters treated Ed to how the judge addresses him.
2. What is the robber’s threat? What does Ed mean when he says that he sees the robber’s threat as words on his face when he looks in his rear view mirror?

***Watching, waiting, raping:***

1. When Ed reads about the robber’s sentence, he thinks, “It makes more sense to look forward.” How does this illustrate Ed’s personality?
2. Why does Ed feel that he and not someone else was chosen, “to care”?

***Pieces:***

1. What is Ed supposed to do at Edgar Street?
2. Why does this chance meeting in the grocery store with the woman and her daughter from Edgar Street solidify Ed’s desire to change their situation?

***Harrison Avenue:***

1. In three sentences, recap Milla Johnson’s story. What was Ed’s mission at this address?

***Being Jimmy:***

1. What do you understand about Ed after reading the scene with his mother?
2. Milla Johnson helps Ed as much as he comforts her. How?
3. Who is calling Ed? For what purpose?

***The barefoot girl; the shoebox; another stupid human:***

1. Explain the give and take relationship in the Ed/Sophie segment. What was the meaning of Sophie’s barefoot run for her? For Ed?
2. Copy three quotes from what you have read up to this point that show Ed as a real person and not as a character in a book.
3. What does he mean when he says, “Beautiful women are the torment of my existence”?

***Edgar Street revisited:***

1. This is a powerful and emotional chapter. What were you mentally saying to Ed as you read it?

***Murder at the cathedral:***

1. What did you think when Ed talked to the reader (p. 89 - But you’re far from this)?
2. Ed is questioning why he was chosen. What would you tell him if he asked you?
3. Ed allowed the man to walk away. Do you think that he’ll stay away, or that he’ll continue to be frightened of Ed?