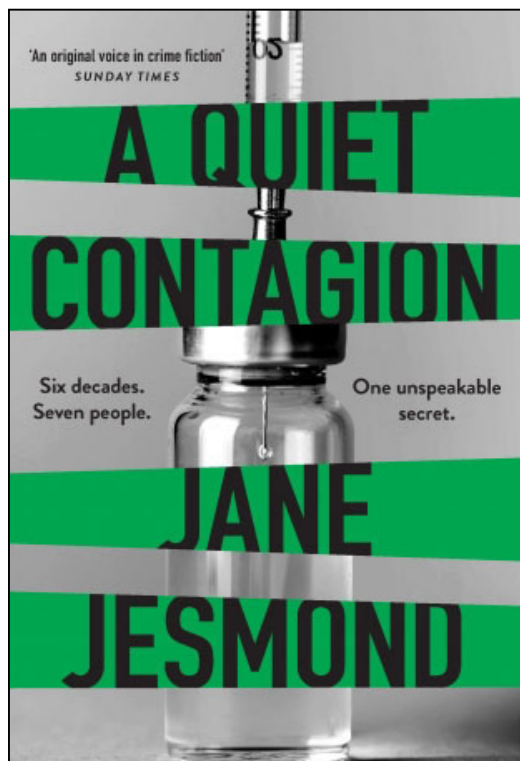




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A QUIET CONTAGION

by JANE JESMOND

THE BOOK

Six decades. Seven people. One unspeakable secret.

1957. A catastrophe occurs at the pharmaceutical lab in Coventry where sixteen-year-old Wilf is working for the summer. A catastrophe that needs to be covered up at all costs.

2017. Phiney is shocked by the death of her grandfather, Wilf, who has jumped from a railway bridge at a Coventry station. Journalist Mat Torrington is the only witness.

Left with a swarm of unanswered questions, Phiney, Mat and Wilf's wife, Dora, begin their own enquiries into Wilf's death. It is soon clear that these two events, sixty years apart, are connected - and that Wilf is not the only casualty.

But what is the link? And can they find out before any more lives are lost?

JANE JESMOND (Location: Le Conquet 29217, FRANCE)

Jane Jesmond writes crime, thriller and mystery fiction. Her debut novel, *On The Edge* - the first in a series featuring dynamic, daredevil protagonist Jen Shaw - was a *Sunday Times* Best Crime Fiction of the Month pick. The second in the series, *Cut Adrift*, was the *Times* Thriller of the Month and a *Sunday Times* Best Book of 2023 upon its publication. Jesmond is also the author of a speculative standalone, *Her* (Storm Publishers, 2023). *A Quiet Contagion* is a brand-new standalone mystery and her third book with VERVE Books.

Although she loves writing (and reading) thrillers and mysteries, her real life is very quiet and unexciting. Dead bodies and dangerous exploits are not a feature! She lives by the sea in the northwest tip of France with a husband and a cat and enjoys coastal walks and village life. Unlike Jen Shaw, she is terrified of heights!



MARKETING & SALES POINTS

A disquieting mystery for modern times that speaks to the 1957 Coventry polio epidemic as well as the more recent global coronavirus pandemic

Jesmond's debut novel, *On The Edge* was selected as a *Sunday Times* Best Crime Fiction of the Month pick in 2021, and the sequel, *Cut Adrift*, was chosen as both the *Times* Thriller of the Month and a *Sunday Times* Crime Book of the Year upon its publication in February 2023. The third Jen Shaw novel will be published in summer 2024

Slow-burn narrative unfolds across multiple timelines and perspectives as more pieces of the puzzle are gradually revealed. For fans of Kate Morton, Emma Donoghue and Lisa Jewell, as well as medical thrillers/mysteries

Jesmond has a strong and ever-growing fan base (her newsletter has 400+ subscribers), and we are hoping to tour her across bookshops and libraries in the UK for events and signings around publication and will nominate her for key UK crime festivals. She recently had a spot at the Llandeilo Lit Fest, to talk about *On The Edge* and *Cut Adrift*

PRAISE FOR A QUIET CONTAGION

'An original and moving mystery, deftly weaving between past and present to examine a profoundly ethical question that is still deeply relevant today' - **Philippa East**

'A deeply intelligent novel from a commanding writer... Tragic, terrifying, and all too real, *A Quiet Contagion* will have your heart pounding even as you weep' - **Helen Fields**

'Jesmond presents a cracking conundrum then adds a chewy moral dilemma to the mix, dangling a riveting hook before throwing in a ticking time bomb to create a propulsive beating heart... A complex, moving and ultimately satisfying page-turner' - **Fiona Erskine**

'This compulsive thriller blends real events with a clever fictional plot. Thoughtful, topical and gripping, *A Quiet Contagion* is bound to win Jane Jesmond even more acclaim' - **Carolyn Kirby**

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