

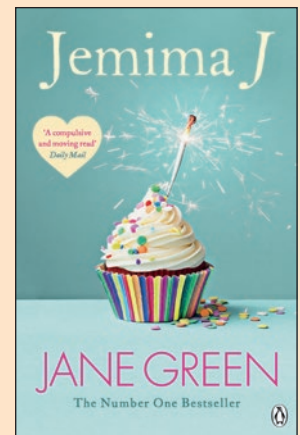
Jemima J

by Jane Green

God, I wish I were thin. I wish I were thin, gorgeous, and could get any man I want. You probably think I'm crazy, I mean here I am, sitting at work on my own with a massive double-decker club sandwich in front of me, but I'm allowed to dream, aren't I?

Half an hour to go of my lunch break. I finish my sandwich and look **(1) cautiously/furtively/privately** around the office to see whether anyone is looking. It's okay, the coast is **(2) clear/fair**, so I can pull open my top drawer and sneak out the slab of chocolate.

Another day in my **(3) humdrum/docile/dreary** life, but it shouldn't be **(4) humdrum/docile/dreary**. I'm a journalist, for God's sake. Surely that's a(n) **(5) stunning/glamorous/exciting** existence. I love the English language, playing with words, but **(6) alas/miserably/sadly** my talents are wasted here at the Kilburn Herald. I hate this job. When I meet new people and they ask what I do for a living, I hold my head up **(7) tall/high/highly** and say, 'I'm a journalist'. I then try to change the subject, for the **(8) inevitable/necessary** question after that is, 'Who do you work for?' I hang my head **(9) lowly/low**, mumble 'the Kilburn Herald', and confess that I do the Top Tips column. Every week I'm flooded with mail from sad and **(10) alone/lonely/derelect** people in Kilburn with nothing better to do than write in with questions like, 'What's the best way to bleach a white marbled lino floor?' and 'I have a pair of silver candlesticks. The silver is now **(11) tarnished/faded**, any suggestions?' And every week I sit for hours on the phone, ringing lino manufacturers, silver-makers, and ask them for the answers. This is my form of journalism.



Ben Williams is the deputy news editor. (12) **Tall/High** and handsome, he is also the office Lothario. Ben Williams is (13) **secretly/slyly** fancied by every woman at the Kilburn Herald, not to mention the woman in the sandwich bar who follows his stride (14) **thoughtfully/longingly** as he walks past every lunchtime. Ben Williams is gorgeous. His (15) **fair/light brown** hair is (16) **carelessly/casually/awkwardly** hanging over his left eye, his eyebrows (17) **perfectly/utterly** arched, his dimples, when he smiles, in (18) **exactly/accurately** the right place. He is the perfect combination of handsome hunk and (19) **vulnerable/weedy/helpless** little boy.