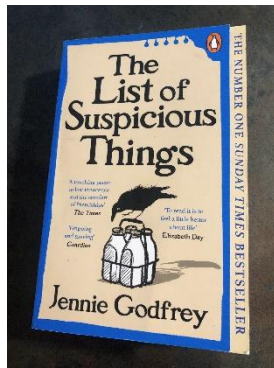


At our November meeting we discussed two very different books. The first was '**The List of Suspicious Things**' by Jennie Godfrey which was first published in 2024



'**The List of Suspicious Things**' was set in Yorkshire during the 1970s and the time and place were described in extensive depth and detail. It was the period of the Yorkshire Ripper killings and the effect of this on the characters was chillingly portrayed. Miv and her best friend Sharon decide to make a list of all the suspicious people and events in their local area in order to help catch the Ripper. In doing this, they do not help catch the Ripper but they do discover many of their neighbourhood's secrets. Perhaps Miv really wants to find out what had changed her mother so badly that she now refuses to speak?

We all enjoyed this book although some found the 'list' idea a bit artificial. It was certainly thought provoking, dealing with themes of rape, racism and domestic violence but counterbalancing these with the importance of friendship and community. The characters were well drawn and Omar and Albert in particular provided good male role models. In many ways this is a rite of passage 'growing up' story and the power of first love is well conveyed.