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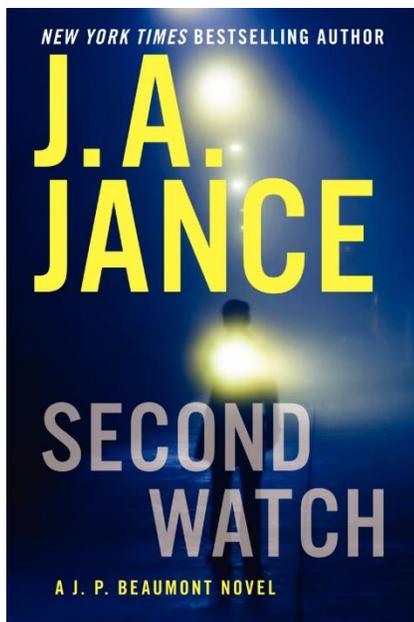
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# **SECOND WATCH**

***A J.P. Beaumont Novel***

**by J.A. Jance**



"Jance's success, not to mention the longevity of the Beaumont series (more than 20 years and still going strong), lies in the strength of her characters and the craftiness of her stories."

**-Booklist**

With the personal and powerfully moving **SECOND WATCH (On Sale: 9/10/2013; ISBN: 9780062134677; \$26.99)**, *New York Times* bestselling author J. A. Jance delivers another thought-provoking novel of suspense starring Seattle investigator J. P. Beaumont.

**SECOND WATCH** shows Beaumont taking some time off to get knee replacement surgery, but instead of taking his mind off work, the operation plunges him into one of the most perplexing and mind-blowing mysteries he's ever faced.

A series of dreams takes him back to his early days on the force with the Seattle PD, and then even earlier, to his days in Vietnam, reminding him of people and events he hasn't thought about in years. Are they just drug-induced hallucinations? Beaumont isn't so sure. When tugging on those threads from long ago leads to present-day murders, Beau's suspicions are confirmed. Some bodies from the Second Watch just won't stay buried.

Beaumont's past collides with his present in this complex and thrilling story that explores loss and heartbreak, duty, and honor. A masterful demonstration of J. A. Jance's superb craftsmanship, **SECOND WATCH** is a thought-provoking novel that is also a poignant look at one of the most painful and divisive moments in our history, Vietnam, and a reminder of the staggering cost of war and the debts we owe to those who served then . . . and those who serve now.

**SECOND WATCH: A J.P. Beaumont Novel** By J.A. Jance; on-sale: 9/10/2013; ISBN: 9780062134677; \$26.99  
Also available as an e-book (ISBN: 9780062134691; \$15.99)

## **THE STORY BEHIND SECOND WATCH**

### **A letter from J.A. Jance:**

All through high school, there was a guy in the class ahead of me who was nothing short of awe-inspiring. Doug Davis was tall, handsome, smart, kind, and an outstanding athlete. He graduated from Bisbee High School in 1961 as valedictorian of his class. From there he went to West Point, then to Ranger School, and finally to Vietnam. Sometime between graduation from West Point and his arrival at Ranger School, he went on a blind date in Florida with a girl named Bonnie MacLean. The two of them soon fell deeply in love and became engaged. When he shipped out for Vietnam, they corresponded faithfully until, on August 2, 1966, a few weeks before Doug's 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday, he was killed in a firefight in the Pleiku Highlands. His brave attempt to retrieve the bodies of two fallen comrades earned him a Silver Star.

At the time of Doug's death, I didn't attend his funeral because I didn't learn about it until after it was over. For years I felt guilty that I hadn't been there with the rest of my home town to honor his service and his sacrifice. As for Bonnie? She married and, as Bonnie Abney, went on with her life after Doug was gone, but there was always a piece missing from her heart. We met for the first time years later when, while reading one of my books, she encountered a scene that takes place in the same Bisbee cemetery where Doug is buried.

Last summer, when it was time to write *SECOND WATCH*, I decided to write a prequel. In order to write something that had happened to Beau before the first book, I needed to review what I had said about him in that first book. To that end, I reread *Until Proven Guilty* thirty years after writing it. Encountering a sentence where the word Vietnam appeared in the book, I was propelled back in time, thinking about losing Doug Davis all those years ago. When I realized that Doug would have been a year older than J.P. Beaumont, I had a sudden spark of inspiration: What if Doug and Beau met and interacted in Vietnam?

With Bonnie's help and encouragement, I did just that. In *SECOND WATCH* you'll meet a fictional version of Second Lieutenant Doug Davis, serving as J.P. Beaumont's commanding officer in Vietnam. You'll also meet Bonnie Abney and her very real Bernese Mountain dog, Crackerjack, in a mixture of storytelling and reporting where it's difficult even for me to tell where fact ends and fiction begins.

Doug Davis didn't come home from the war in Vietnam, and neither did 60,000 others. Their names are all engraved on the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C. As for the 800,000 or so members of the military who did come home? They weren't welcomed with open arms, brass bands, and balloons. No, they came home to be spat upon and called vile names by people who mocked and reviled their service rather than honoring it.

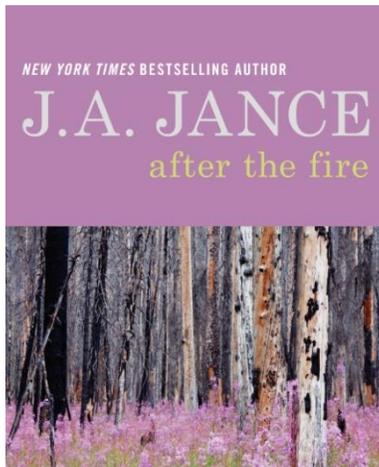
*Second Watch* is a mystery, something people sometimes sneeringly refer to as "genre fiction," but it is also a literary thank you note to all the people who served during that era--the ones who came back as well as the ones who didn't--and to their loved ones, too. Many of those families have been forced to spend decades coping the emotional burden left behind by their loved ones' loss or else by their wartime experiences--the terrible things they witnessed but could never bring themselves to discuss.

It's high time this country said a sincere thank you to all those folks. I hope *SECOND WATCH* will serve as my contribution to that "thank you" conversation.

Regards,

JA Jance

## ALSO BE SURE TO CHECK OUT J.A. JANCE'S HEARTBREAKING COLLECTION OF POETRY AND ESSAYS



William Morrow is proud to re-issue **AFTER THE FIRE** (William Morrow Hardcover; On Sale: 9/10/2013; 9780062293978; \$15.99) by J.A. Jance. That fire can cleanse as well as destroy is no mystery to J. A. Jance. Before she found fame as a bestselling mystery author, Jance wrestled with the personal anguish of being married to an alcoholic. For years she composed poetry in secret and kept it locked away. Finally it was published as **AFTER THE FIRE** in 1984, the year before her debut novel was published. **AFTER THE FIRE** chronicles the death of a relationship as Jance's marriage to her first husband gradually collapsed under the weight of his addiction-aided and abetted by her own unwitting denial and co-dependence-while she struggled to find herself. "I will not be the price of your redemption," she wrote then. "I will not pay my life to ransom yours."

In this deeply personal work, Jance offers unblinking insights into where she was and what was happening when each of these searing poems was written. It is a portrait of addiction and the insidious ways in which it destroys relationships.

A work of crushing defeat and ultimate triumph, **AFTER THE FIRE** relates an emotional journey that will be readily recognizable to anyone who has seen love destroyed and then found the strength to go on. It will inspire others who are struggling with similar issues as it allows fans of Jance's mysteries to better know the mind-and heart-of a favorite author.

**AFTER THE FIRE** By J.A. Jance; on-sale: 9/10/2013; ISBN: 9780062293978; \$15.99  
Also available as an e-book (ISBN: 9780062293985; \$7.99)



**J.A. Jance** is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the J. P. Beaumont series, the Joanna Brady series, the Ali Reynolds series, four interrelated thrillers about the Walker Family, and her poetry collection *After the Fire*. Born in South Dakota and brought up in Bisbee, Arizona, Jance lives with her husband in Seattle, Washington, and Tucson, Arizona.