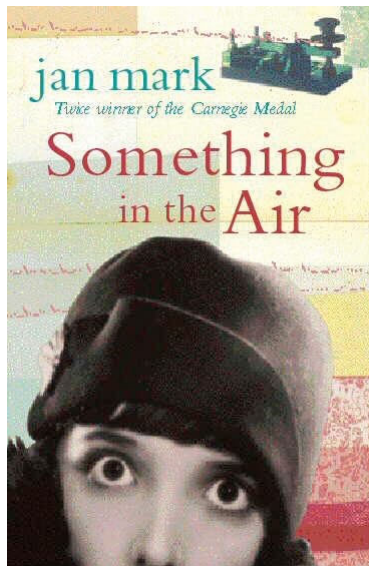




# Ripping Reads

## No 58 August 2026



### *Something in the Air: Jan Mark* by Susan Hill

The main characters in this book by an award winning author are the Hutton family; Mother who works in the library and is a war widow, Peggy 14, her bossy, critical sister Hilda 16, and Ollie 11 years old.

They have lost some of their income and have to be careful with money. There is also their aunt, Stella, who lives and works with a girl friend, Irene, in London. Other important minor characters are Irene's two brothers and the local Hendry family.

The author gives good descriptions of suburban life in the 1920s and of the difficulties of growing up for a girl of 14.

Peggy goes for a dental filling and afterwards begins to receive strange Morse

code messages which turn out to be coming from the filling.

She goes to stay with Stella and Irene for the weekend in London, but the strange messages continue. She also gets into some difficulties at school, but carries on with her lessons.

There is interesting information about early radio and wireless.

Eventually, Peggy goes to a younger, more modern dentist and the problem is solved. The noises go away. At the end of the book, some of the children decide to form a radio / wireless club.

Recommended as a slightly different read.

