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Elizabeth's experiences with fake medicines are now formulated into a novel

A Devon author who helped improve the safety of medicines during her time working in Africa has converted her experiences into a new book, which won a prize even before publication.

When Elizabeth Ducie flew to Southern Africa back in 2004, she found all was far from well with the supply of drugs out there. “Standards in the factory were low; regulations and enforcement were weak; and the resources to put things right were just not there,” says Elizabeth, who lives in Chudleigh. “And as a result, the counterfeit merchants were having a field day.”

Now, more than a decade later, Elizabeth has used her experiences as the basis of her new novel. *Counterfeit!* is a thriller, the first in a series introducing regulator Suzanne Jones. It is a work of fiction and Elizabeth is keen to emphasise that it is not autobiographical. “I am definitely not Suzanne Jones!” But some of the conversations in the book are real ones that I had during my work in Zambia and Swaziland.”

Back at the end of 2015, Elizabeth was delighted to hear that the opening pages of *Counterfeit!* had come third in the Literature Works First Page Writing Prize.

In the novel, Suzanne's mission to stop counterfeiting in Africa becomes personal when a friend buys a bottle of fake cough syrup with tragic consequences. But her investigations bring danger ever closer. In Uganda a factory burns down; another friend goes missing; and in Zambia and Swaziland, children die. Who is supplying the fake drugs? What is the Eastern European connection? Can Suzanne stop the counterfeiters before more people die?

Counterfeit! is available on Amazon both as an ebook and in paperback; or as a paperback directly from the publisher. Review copies are available on request. For more details or a media pack, **contact Elizabeth Ducie** on 01626 854611 / elizabeth@elizabethducie.co.uk

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Notes to Editor

Elizabeth Ducie is a local author who publishes her own books under the Chudleigh Phoenix Publications imprint. Her debut novel, *Gorgito's Ice Rink*, was Runner-Up in the 2015 Self-Published Book of the Year Awards, run by *Writing Magazine* and sponsored by the Dave St John Thomas Foundation.

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