



## The Essential Case File : Character Profiles Joanna Holmes

**NAME : JOANNA HOLMES**  
**AGE : 39**  
**OCCUPATION : VIROLOGIST**  
**STATUS : PRESUMED DEAD**

Shirley's mum was at the peak of her career as a world-renowned virologist when she was sent to Rwanda to try and isolate a particular virus that was killing thousands of people. the assignment was for three months, after which she was due home .... except that she never made it. Fighting had broken out in one of the camps and many people were killed. Joanna Holme's body was never discovered, but she was presumed to be among the dead.

The Holmes family all miss Joanna terribly. Robert has tried hard to reconcile himself to the fact that she has gone, but Shirley can't and won't. Shirley's gut feeling is that there's a chance - just a chance - that her mother is still alive. She knows her mother was a survivor type and she feels instinctively that there must be another reason for her disappearance. Her father, however, disagrees and refuses to discuss it any more.

So Robert Holmes has no idea that, in Shirley's spare time, she is faxing photographs of her mother to various officials in Rwanda, just in case someone should recognise the woman and get in touch. She's also using her connections on the 'Net to try to gather information that will lay this mystery to rest, one way or the other.

Shirley's practical half shares Robert's belief that Joanna is dead, but the ideological part of her says you just never know. So, every night, Shirley writes up the day's events in her diary. It's the sort of record good detective should keep - but it's also Shirley's ambition to one day present it to her mother. That way she won't have missed out on a single important part of Shirley's life.

