

# A New Lease of Death

## Ruth Rendell

- 1 1 *Five o'clock.*
- 2 By the window of Chief Inspector Wexford's office.
- 3 He was a big, powerful-looking man with a loud voice.
- 4 From the Reverend Archery.
- 5 About 'that terrible man Painter'.
- 6 He was a murderer who was hanged fifteen or sixteen years ago.
- 7 To phone Wexford.
- 8 Because it was the first murder case he ever investigated on his own.
- 9 By hitting her over the head with an axe.
- 10 Two hundred pounds.

- 2 1 o, 2 n, 3 j, 4 h, 5 g, 6 k, 7 l, 8 m, 9 i, 10 f, 11 e, 12 a, 13 d, 14 c, 15 b

- 3 'Painter talked about the argument at his trial,' said Archery. 'He says that at first Mrs Primero threatened to dismiss him, then she agreed that he needed to be paid more money. But she refused to increase his salary – she said that he would only ask for another increase in a few months' time. Instead she agreed to give him a bonus.'

'I remember all that,' Wexford said impatiently. 'He said that she told him to go up to her bedroom and get her handbag from the wardrobe. There was about two hundred pounds in the handbag. She said he could have the money and take it away in the handbag.' He coughed. 'I didn't believe him and neither did the jury.'

'Why not?' Archery asked quietly.

Wexford sighed.

- 4 1 *calmly*
- 2 innocent
- 3 dead
- 4 sad
- 5 happy
- 6 anger
- 7 pain

5 /t/: *looked, asked, dressed, liked, helped, reached*

/d/: *replied, tried, followed, smiled, pleased, married, amazed, opened, seemed, hurried, turned, closed*

/ɪd/: *wanted, expected*

6 The young man lay on his back on the pedestrian crossing in the middle of the road. Burden got out of the police car and looked round. He saw an ambulance, and he saw the white Mini at the side of the road with its front light smashed. A doctor was standing next to the young man lying on the crossing.

'It's very bad,' the doctor told Burden. 'I think his back's broken and there are internal injuries.'

Burden looked across at the car. He recognized that Mini. A girl was sitting in the front seat, leaning forward with her head in her hands. Her hair was short and black and she had pushed her fingers through it. He could see her long red fingernails.

'Don't worry about her,' the doctor said angrily. 'She's not hurt.'

Burden turned towards the small crowd of people at the side of the road. 'What happened? Did anybody see it?' he asked.

A man with a dog looked down at the young man lying in the road. 'He looked right and left,' he said, 'but there was nothing coming. He started to walk across the road when that white car ...' He shook his head. 'The driver, that girl, she was going like a crazy thing ... sixty miles an hour, perhaps more. The car hit him, threw him up in the air, and ... that's all.'

A woman touched Burden's arm. 'He wants a vicar,' she said, pointing at the young man. 'He keeps asking for Father Chiverton. I think he knows that he's dying.'

'Chiverton is the vicar here,' said the doctor. 'But he's away on holiday.'

Burden walked over to a police constable. 'Gates,' he said, 'go into Stowerton and get a vicar.'

7 1 d, 2 c, 3 b, 4 e, 5 a

8 1 A, 2 D, 3 A, 4 C, 5 A, 6 C, 7 B, 8 B, 9 C, 10 D

9 1 c, 2 g, 3 f, 4 a, 5 b, 6 d, 7 e

10 a 1, b 9, c 2, d 6, e 7, f 5, g 4, h 3, i 8, j 10

11 1 'I phoned him before I got here last night.'

2 'I'm sure there's something suspicious about him.'

3 'You'll need to hurry!'

4 'Where does he live?'

5 'It won't take long to get there.'

6 'Do you want to look around Kingsmarkham first?'

7 'So tell me where this comes from ...'

8 'I've heard it or read it somewhere.'

9 'I thought you wanted to help me and Tess.'

12 'First, Forby Hall,' said Charles. 'Mrs Primero lived there when she was **a girl** and Primero bought it this **spring**. A butler let me in and kept me waiting for **ten** minutes before taking me into the **library**. Primero was there and he asked me to sit down and have a **drink**. Then his **wife** came in. We had our drinks and Primero **began** talking. I didn't have to ask much because he spoke about the **murder** quite naturally and said that he wished he hadn't left Victor's Piece so **early** that **Sunday** evening.

'Primero told me he had been going to meet a couple of friends that night at a **pub** in Sewingbury,' Charles went on. 'But he told me he hadn't seen them, because he went to the **wrong pub**. "I waited **an hour**, then went **home**," he said. What do you think about that? I thought it was **suspicious**. But what about the **ten** thousand pounds he needed to set up **in business**?

13 Name: *Angela*

Surname: Primero

Age: 26

Family: DS

Hair colour: brown

Eye colour: brown

Job: secretary in a newspaper office

Name: *Isabel*

Surname: Fairest

Age: 25

Family: 1 baby (6 months old); married 2 years ago. Her husband works for the Post Office.

Hair colour: gold

Eye colour: blue

Job: DS

Name: *Roger*

Surname: Primero

Age: 37 (11 years older than Angela)

Family: DS

Hair colour: black

Eye colour: black

Job: DS

14 1 e, 2 j, 3 h, 4 i, 5 a, 6 b, 7 f, 8 d, 9 g, 10 c

15 1 T, 2 T, 3 F, 4 T, 5 F, 6 T, 7 F, 8 T, 9 T, 10 F

- |    |   |                           |    |           |
|----|---|---------------------------|----|-----------|
| 16 | 1 | <i>Tess and Charles</i>   | 8  | Tess      |
|    | 2 | Tess                      | 9  | Tess      |
|    | 3 | Archery                   | 10 | Tess      |
|    | 4 | Archery, Charles and Tess | 11 | Tess      |
|    | 5 | Kershaw                   | 12 | Tess      |
|    | 6 | Archery                   | 13 | Tess      |
|    | 7 | Archery                   | 14 | Elizabeth |

17 Dear Reverend Archery,

My memory is not as good as it used to be, but I will try to help you. I was not asked to speak about Herbert Arthur Painter at his trial. I suspect that was because his lawyer realized that my words would not help him. Painter was not a good soldier, he was often drunk and fought with other men. Painter had been in the army for one year when he became part of my regiment. Soon after this, we were sent to Burma, part of the Fourteenth Army. After about three months, a young Burmese woman was killed in the village near our camp. Painter was charged with her murder. He was found 'not guilty', so I should say no more about this. In February 1945, six months before the war ended in the Far East, Painter became seriously ill. He was sent home to England and arrived in March 1945.

I have no further information about him, but I believe that he left the army soon after this because of his health.

Yours truly,

Cosmo Plashet

- |    |             |        |
|----|-------------|--------|
| 18 | <i>hard</i> | broken |
|    | wrong       | big    |
|    | afraid      | wet    |
|    | poor        | open   |
|    | unhappy     | white  |
|    | sorry       | back   |

- 19 *hand*  
eyes  
head  
face  
body

- 20 c