

# A New Lease of Death

Ruth Rendell

## The story step by step

1 Listen to the beginning of Chapter 1 (from 'It was five ...' to 'She was killed in her own home, wasn't she?'). Answer the following questions. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.8-9 or in the answer key.

1 What time is it?

*Five o'clock.*

2 Where was Detective Inspector Mike Burden standing?

3 What was Wexford like?

4 Who was the letter from?

5 What was the letter about?

6 Who was Painter?

7 What was Archery going to do that morning?

8 Why does Wexford know about the case?

9 How did Painter kill his employer?

10 How much money did Painter take?

- 2 Listen to Chapter 1 (from 'Painter was supposed to cut wood ...' to '... she looks much older.'). Match the numbers with the things they refer to. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.12–13 or in the answer key.

1	6.30	a	Angela's age when her grandmother was killed.
2	11	b	A time when Mr Crilling was still alive.
3	3	c	Elizabeth Crilling's age when Mrs Primero was killed.
4	200	d	Isabel's age when her grandmother was killed.
5	24 <sup>th</sup>	e	Roger's age now.
6	6.15	f	Roger's age when his grandmother was killed.
7	7	g	The date in September when Mrs Primero died.
8	1.05	h	The number of pounds in Mrs Primero's old handbag.
9	10,000	i	The number of pounds Mrs Primero left in her will.
10	22	j	The number of years Painter had been working for Mrs Primero.
11	38	k	The time Alice went to church.
12	10	l	The time Mrs Primero was found dead.
13	9	m	The time Wexford arrived at the Olive and Dove Hotel.
14	5	n	When Painter wanted to carry coal up to the house in the morning.
15	1950	o	When Painter was supposed to carry coal up to the house in the evening.

- 3 Listen to Chapter 2 (from 'Painter talked about the argument ...' to 'Firstly, ...'). Complete the text with the past simple verbs you hear. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.15–16 or in the answer key.

agreed asked coughed didn't believe needed refused said sighed  
talked threatened told was

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

'I remember all that,' Wexford said impatiently. 'He said that she \_\_\_\_\_ him to go up to her bedroom and get her handbag from the wardrobe. There \_\_\_\_\_ about two hundred pounds in the handbag. She said he could have the money and take it away in the handbag.' He \_\_\_\_\_. 'I \_\_\_\_\_ him and neither did the jury.'

'Why not?' Archery \_\_\_\_\_ quietly.

Wexford \_\_\_\_\_.



- 6 Listen to the beginning of Chapter 4 (from 'The young man lay ...' to '... get a vicar.'). Complete the text with the prepositions you hear. The first one is an example. Check your answers on p.26 or in the answer key.

The young man lay on his back \_\_\_\_\_ the pedestrian crossing \_\_\_\_\_ the middle of the road. Burden got \_\_\_\_\_ of the police car and looked \_\_\_\_\_. He saw an ambulance, and he saw the white Mini \_\_\_\_\_ the side of the road \_\_\_\_\_ its front light smashed. A doctor was standing \_\_\_\_\_ the young man lying \_\_\_\_\_ the crossing.

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

Burden looked across \_\_\_\_\_ the car. He recognized that Mini. A girl was sitting \_\_\_\_\_ the front seat, leaning forward \_\_\_\_\_ her head \_\_\_\_\_ her hands. Her hair was short and black and she had pushed her fingers \_\_\_\_\_ it. He could see her long red fingernails. 'Don't worry \_\_\_\_\_ her,' the doctor said angrily. 'She's not hurt.'

Burden turned \_\_\_\_\_ the small crowd \_\_\_\_\_ people \_\_\_\_\_ the side \_\_\_\_\_ the road. 'What happened? Did anybody see it?' he asked.

A man \_\_\_\_\_ a dog looked \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ the young man lying \_\_\_\_\_ the road. 'He looked right and left,' he said, 'but there was nothing coming. He started to walk \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ the air, and ... that's all.'

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

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

Burden walked \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ a police constable. 'Gates,' he said, 'go \_\_\_\_\_ Stowerton and get a vicar.'

- 7 Listen to the beginning of Chapter 5 (from 'Two people sat in the public seats ...' to '... and they left together.'). Match the sentences to the people who say them. The first one is an example. Check your answers on p.30 or in the answer key.

1 'You drove your car when you had been drinking alcohol and now a man is dead.'	a policewoman
2 'You can't put her in prison!'	b policeman
3 'Please come outside.'	c Mrs Crilling
4 'You can ask for bail.'	d magistrate
5 'Let me take you to get a cup of tea.'	e Archery

- 8 Listen to Chapter 5 (from 'Tell me about the Crillings ...' to 'Alice Flower's next on my visiting list.'). Circle the correct answer to each question. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.35–36 or in the answer key.
- 1 Josephine Crilling's husband died and she moved into the town and got  
A a job.                      B a new house.                      C arrested.                      D married.
  - 2 The child, Elizabeth, was always difficult, but her mother  
A didn't help her.                      B helped her.                      C looked after her.                      D made her worse.
  - 3 When Elizabeth was fourteen she was put in  
A a children's home.                      B a mental hospital.                      C boarding school.                      D prison.
  - 4 Josephine Crilling's boyfriend  
A didn't like her.                      B didn't like her daughter.                      C liked her daughter more than her.  
D didn't like her or her daughter.
  - 5 Elizabeth Crilling got the Mini from her  
A boyfriend.                      B brother.                      C father.                      D mother.
  - 6 Archery thinks that Josephine Crilling might have killed  
A her daughter.                      B her husband.                      C Rose Primero.                      D Painter.
  - 7 Burden  
A agrees with him.                      B can't see the motive.                      C is angry.                      D thinks Archery's crazy.
  - 8 Archery thinks the motive could be  
A blackmail.                      B mental illness.                      C money.                      D revenge.
  - 9 At the trial Josephine Crilling said she went to Rose Primero's house at  
A 5.25.                      B 5.40.                      C 6.25.                      D 6.40.
  - 10 Burden thinks Archery should  
A stop playing detective.                      B go home.                      C be careful.                      D be a policeman.
- 9 Listen to the beginning of Chapter 6 (from 'Alice Flower was eighty-seven years old.' to "'Of course I will," replied Archery.'). Match Archery's questions with Alice's answers. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.37–38 or in the answer key.

Archery's questions	Alice's answers
1 'Can you tell me about the Primero family?'	a 'I never liked her. She was only interested in Mrs Primero's money.'
2 'Edward's son, Roger, was quite a bit older than his sisters, wasn't he?'	b 'Oh no, sir, and that worried Mrs Crilling!'
3 'He did come the next morning?'	c 'Oh, yes. I went to work for Mrs Primero when the boy was born.'
4 'Tell me about Mrs Crilling ...'	d 'No, he's a lovely person.'
5 'But Mrs Primero didn't make a will?'	e 'No, sir! He was much too nice to do that!'
6 'Mr Roger didn't try to get her to make a will?'	f 'Yes. I was making Mrs Primero's lunch.'
7 'He didn't try to get her to leave him all ten thousand, leaving nothing for his sisters?'	g 'Yes, they were much younger.'

10 Listen to Chapter 7 (from 'The front door of number 24a was closed, but not locked.' to 'Get out!'). Put these events in the order in which they happen. The first and the last are done as examples. Check your answers on pp.42–43 or in the answer key.

- a Burden coughed and walked in. 1
- b Burden could see her thoughts were somewhere else. \_\_\_\_
- c Elizabeth Crilling was sitting at the table reading the local newspaper. \_\_\_\_
- d Elizabeth picked up a packet of cigarettes. \_\_\_\_
- e Elizabeth's face went white. \_\_\_\_
- f He asked Elizabeth if she had been ill. \_\_\_\_
- g He followed her and saw some empty pill bottles and another half-empty bottle on the kitchen table. \_\_\_\_
- h She got up and walked into the kitchen. \_\_\_\_
- i She looked out of the window at the garden. \_\_\_\_
- j She turned to him, angrily, and told him to get out. 10

11 Listen to Chapter 8 (from 'I'm going to see ...' to '... put a hand on Charles's arm.'). Match the reported sentences below with the direct speech you hear. Check your answers on p.46 or in the answer key.

For example (p.45):

Charles told his father he was going to see Roger Primero at half past eleven that morning.

*'I'm going to see Roger Primero at half past eleven this morning.'*

1 He said he had phoned him before he got there the night before.

\_\_\_\_\_

2 He said he was sure there was something suspicious about him.

\_\_\_\_\_

3 His father told him he would need to hurry.

\_\_\_\_\_

4 He asked him where he lived.

\_\_\_\_\_

5 Charles told his father it wouldn't take long to get there.

\_\_\_\_\_

6 Archery asked his son if he wanted to look around Kingsmarkham first.

\_\_\_\_\_

7 Archery asked Charles to tell him where a verse came from.

\_\_\_\_\_

8 Charles answered that he had heard it or read it somewhere.

\_\_\_\_\_

9 Charles said he had thought his father had wanted to help him and Tess.

\_\_\_\_\_

- 12 Listen to Chapter 8 again (from 'First, Forby Hall ...' to 'Conveniently, Mrs Primero died ...'). Correct the mistakes in the text. The first one is an example. Check your answers on p.51 or in the answer key.

'First, Forby Hall,' said Charles. 'Mrs Primero lived there when she was ~~married~~ *a girl* and Primero bought it this summer. A butler let me in and kept me waiting for twenty minutes before taking me into the living room. Primero was there and he asked me to sit down and have a coffee. Then his daughter came in. We had our drinks and Primero stopped talking. I didn't have to ask much because he spoke about the wedding quite naturally and said that he wished he hadn't left Victor's Piece so late that Saturday evening.

'Primero told me he had been going to meet a couple of friends that night at a restaurant in Sewingbury,' Charles went on. 'But he told me he hadn't seen them, because he went to the other pub. "I waited two hours, then went away," he said. What do you think about that? I thought it was strange. But what about the twelve thousand pounds he needed to set up home?'

- 13 Listen to Chapter 9 (from 'Angela Primero ...' to 'We were unlucky, weren't we?'). Complete a character profile for the brother, Roger, and his two sisters, Angela and Isabel. Write *DS* (Doesn't Say) if you don't hear the information. Check your answers on pp.54–56 or in the answer key.

Name: <i>Angela</i>
Surname: _____
Age: _____
Family: _____
Hair colour: _____
Eye colour: _____
Job: _____

Name: <i>Isabel</i>
Surname: _____
Age: _____
Family: _____
Hair colour: _____
Eye colour: _____
Job: _____

Name: <i>Roger</i>
Surname: _____
Age: _____
Family: _____
Hair colour: _____
Eye colour: _____
Job: _____

- 14 Listen to Chapter 10 (from 'Wexford looked across ...' to 'There was nothing to do until two o'clock.'). Match the beginnings and the endings of the following sentences. The first one is an example. Check your answers on p.61 or in the answer key.

1 Wexford looked across his desk	a and asked a lot of questions.
2 You can catch a man	b and they'd never heard of him.
3 He lit a cigarette,	c any more of your time.
4 He wanted to write about	d anything more will happen.
5 He came to your house	e at Roger Primero.
6 So you phoned the newspaper	f because I didn't want to upset her.
7 I haven't told her about this	g he's just some crazy person.
8 Don't worry, I don't think	h his hands shaking with anger.
9 You think that	i how I got started in business.
10 I won't take up	j pretending to be a newspaper reporter.

- 15 Listen to the beginning of Chapter 11 (from 'I didn't know ...' to 'There is nothing more to say.'). Decide if these sentences are *true* (T) or *false* (F). The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.67–68 or in the answer key.

- Wexford didn't know the Primero sisters were adopted. T
- Mr Primero had complained about Charles's visit to his home. \_\_\_
- Wexford had told Charles he couldn't make contact with people involved in the Primero case. \_\_\_
- Charles apologises to Wexford. \_\_\_
- Wexford tells Charles that he checked Roger Primero's alibi. \_\_\_
- Wexford doesn't want to discuss the case in front of Tess. \_\_\_
- Tess leaves the room alone. \_\_\_
- Wexford saw Roger Primero five miles away from the murder scene. \_\_\_
- Roger Primero was in the wrong pub. \_\_\_
- Wexford arrested Roger Primero. \_\_\_

- 16 Listen to Chapter 11 again (from 'Tess and Charles ...' to '... round and round her mind.'). Decide who did what. Be careful! More than one character did some of the actions and some characters did more than one action! The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.68–69 or in the answer key.

Archery   Charles   Elizabeth   Kershaw   Tess

- Tess and Charles began to argue.
- \_\_\_\_\_ gave a quick smile to Kershaw.
- \_\_\_\_\_ touched Charles's arm.
- \_\_\_\_\_ got out of the car.
- \_\_\_\_\_ drove back to the hotel.
- \_\_\_\_\_ opened the door to the chemist's.

- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ waited anxiously by the door.
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ went to the counter.
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ reached across Elizabeth to pick up a bottle of aspirin.
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ paid for the aspirin.
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ turned quickly and opened her mouth to speak.
- 12 \_\_\_\_\_ closed her mouth, her face suddenly white.
- 13 \_\_\_\_\_ pushed the aspirin bottle into her pocket and hurried out of the shop.
- 14 \_\_\_\_\_ came out of the chemist's shop.

- 17 Listen to Chapter 12 (from 'Dear Reverend Archery' to 'Cosmo Plashet'). Complete the letter. The first one is an example. Check your answers on p.71 or in the answer key.

*Dear Reverend Archery,*

*My memory is not as good as it used to be, but I will try to \_\_\_\_\_ you. I was not asked to \_\_\_\_\_ about Herbert Arthur Painter at his \_\_\_\_\_. I suspect that was because his \_\_\_\_\_ realized that my \_\_\_\_\_ would not help him. Painter was not a good \_\_\_\_\_, he was often \_\_\_\_\_ and fought with other \_\_\_\_\_. Painter had been in the \_\_\_\_\_ for one \_\_\_\_\_ when he became part of my regiment. Soon after this, we were sent to \_\_\_\_\_, part of the \_\_\_\_\_ Army. After about three \_\_\_\_\_, a young Burmese \_\_\_\_\_ was killed in the \_\_\_\_\_ near our camp. Painter was charged with her \_\_\_\_\_. He was found 'not \_\_\_\_\_', so I should say no more about this.*

*In \_\_\_\_\_ 1945, \_\_\_\_\_ months before the \_\_\_\_\_ ended in the Far \_\_\_\_\_, Painter became seriously \_\_\_\_\_. He was sent home to \_\_\_\_\_ and arrived in \_\_\_\_\_ 1945.*

*I have no further \_\_\_\_\_ about him, but I believe that he \_\_\_\_\_ the army soon \_\_\_\_\_ this because of his \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Yours truly,  
Cosmo Plashet*

- 18 Listen to Chapter 12 again (from 'They went into the living room ...' to '... I've cut myself.'). Tick (✓) the adjectives you hear. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.74–75 or in the answer key.

hard ✓ soft right wrong afraid unafraid rich poor unhappy happy glad sorry  
broken repaired big small dry wet closed open black white back front

- 19 Listen to Chapter 13 (from 'Elizabeth's hand ...' to '... do the same to me.'). List all the parts of the body you hear. The first one is an example. Check your answers on p.76 or in the answer key.

*hand,* \_\_\_\_\_

- 20 Listen to Chapter 14. Choose the best summary. Check your answers on pp.81–84 or in the answer key.
- a Elizabeth Crilling killed her mother in revenge for what she did to her sixteen years earlier, but Tess's father, Herbert Painter, killed Rose Primero.
  - b Elizabeth Crilling killed her mother and Rose Primero when she was just a child so Tess's father, Herbert Painter, was not a murderer.
  - c Elizabeth Crilling killed her mother and Hebert Painter killed Rose Primero, but he was not Tess's father.