

A New Lease of Death

Ruth Rendell

- 1**
- 1 She was hit over the head with an axe. She had an upper-class family background. She had three grandchildren.
 - 2 She put an advertisement in the newspaper. Painter worked in the garden and drove the car. He lived in a flat above the garage.
 - 3 Painter wanted to bring all the coal up at eleven o'clock in the morning, but Mrs Primero wanted him to bring up some in the morning and some in the evening.
 - 4 Mrs Crilling and Elizabeth Crilling are mother and daughter. They are poor now. They used to live opposite Victor's Piece and they often visited Mrs Primero. Mrs Crilling and Mrs Primero were friends and Elizabeth called Mrs Primero 'Granny Rose'. Mrs Crilling and Elizabeth found Mrs Primero's body.
- 2**
- 1 He said that they argued about Mrs Primero threatening to dismiss him and then refusing to pay him more money. But in the end she agreed to give him a bonus instead.
 - 2 Alice Flower didn't hear Painter go upstairs. Mrs Primero would not have sent the gardener to look around her bedroom. Mrs Primero was very mean with money and would not have given Painter a bonus.
 - 3 Painter usually wore the raincoat when he was working. It was found under a hedge two fields away from the bus stop, covered in blood.
 - 4 Archery's son wants to marry Painter's daughter, Tess. Painter's wife married again after he was hanged.
- 3**
- 1 She is worried that her daughter and Charles will not have enough money or anywhere to live. Archery is amazed she is worried about this and thinks these things are unimportant.
 - 2 Because 'the past is the past'. She says you can never know what is going to happen in life. She says that Tess's father was a good man who would not hurt anyone.
 - 3 The necklace breaks because Mrs Kershaw is holding it tightly. It tells us she is nervous and upset.
- 4**
- 1 (a) Elizabeth Crilling.
(b) The Mini has hit a young man.
(c) She is crying because she has seen a photograph of a house that has brought back bad memories.
 - 2 He comforts the dying man and prays for him.
 - 3 Mrs Primero was nice to Elizabeth, but not to Tess. Now Elizabeth is always in trouble and Tess is successful and well-educated.
- 5**
- 1 He tells Mrs Crilling that Elizabeth can ask for bail.
 - 2 John Grace was a young man who was hit by a lorry and killed twenty years ago. Wexford is talking about him because the recent accident has reminded him about John Grace. John Grace said something about a girl and child when he was dying.
 - 3 She tells him that Tess has told Charles she cannot marry him, so he is threatening to leave Oxford and go overseas.

- 4 He goes to see Mrs Crilling. The house is dirty and untidy. Mrs Crilling frightens him by getting upset and struggling to breathe.
- 5 Burden tells Archery that Mrs Crilling's husband died. Elizabeth went to different schools and was put in a children's home. Mrs Crilling was in a mental hospital once or twice.
- 6
- 1 She tells Archery that when she was cooking there was a fire that made her cough and she poured water on the flames which made a loud sizzling noise, so there was a lot of noise in the kitchen.
 - 2 She did not like Mrs Crilling and thought she was only interested in Mrs Primero's money. Mrs Crilling wanted Mrs Primero to make a will and leave her some money, but Mrs Primero refused.
 - 3 She thinks he is a lovely person. He got her a flat and gave her two pounds a week.
 - 4 She says he received three thousand pounds plus a bit more. She tells Archery that Roger asked Mrs Primero for ten thousand pounds a few weeks before her death.
 - 5 Imogen Ide and her husband.
- 7
- 1 Her face goes white because she is scared. She thinks about something in the past.
 - 2 She drinks cherry brandy. She remembers that Herbert hit his wife, but that he was nice to her. She remembers that her mother said she had to have a party dress. It was a beautiful pink dress.
 - 3 Painter's army officer.
 - 4 The church at Forby. He sees John Grace's gravestone.
- 8
- 1 He phoned Roger Primero and said he worked for a newspaper and was writing about top businessmen.
 - 2 She tells Charles and Archery that Mrs Primero had signed a will leaving Elizabeth eight thousand pounds, but the will wasn't legal because Mrs Primero had added extra things to it when Mrs Crilling and the witness were talking, so the changes were not witnessed.
 - 3 She has died.
 - 4 That Roger got all of the money.
- 9
- 1 Angela has brown hair and eyes. Isabel has blonde hair and blue eyes. Roger has black hair and eyes.
 - 2 Because the law said that adopted children could not inherit money. Roger could have given them their share of the money.
 - 3 She is married to Roger Primero. Henry Archery feels stupid and a bit guilty when he finds out.
- 10
- 1 He goes to see Wexford to complain about Charles pretending to be from a newspaper.
 - 2 He finds out that John Grace was a poet.
 - 3 He accuses Roger of cheating his sisters out of their money. He suggests that Roger killed Mrs Primero for the money.
- 11
- 1 Wexford is Roger Primero's 'surprise alibi'. He met Primero outside a pub five miles away from where Mrs Primero was killed at half-past six. Mrs Primero was killed between 6.25 and 7 o'clock.
 - 2 They argue because Charles wants to get married anyway, but Tess does not want to damage his family's reputation.

- 3 She hates her mother and blames her. She was very excited about the pink dress, but now she sees it as the start of everything bad in her life.
- 12**
- 1 He finds out that Painter was not a good soldier and was often drunk. He was charged with the murder of a young Burmese woman, but found 'not guilty'. He left the army due to ill health.
 - 2 He calls to apologize for Charles's behaviour. He arranges to meet Imogen at Victor's Piece at eight o'clock.
 - 3 They discuss Charles and Tess's story and Mrs Primero's will. Her main concern is for Roger's sisters. She tells Archery that Roger has agreed to let them have their share of the ten thousand pounds.
 - 4 He cuts his hand on a piece of broken glass from the back door. The blood and Archery saying 'I've cut myself' make Elizabeth remember Painter saying the same thing. She screams and faints.
- 13**
- 1 Painter said, 'Don't look, Elizabeth, I've cut myself.' He told her not to tell her mother or he would find her and do the same thing to her that he did to the old woman. She thought the blood was paint and that he was talking about hitting his wife. She did not tell anyone because she did not know Painter had been arrested and was frightened he would kill her too.
 - 2 Because Elizabeth might do something stupid. They decide to pick up her mother from Glebe Road first.
 - 3 The house is dark and Mrs Crilling is lying on the floor. She has been strangled.
- 14**
- 1 Elizabeth killed her mother because, due to her mother's greed for Mrs Primero's money, it was Elizabeth who found Mrs Primero's body. Her mother never let her talk about those terrible memories so Elizabeth grew to hate her.
 - 2 He shows Wexford the letter from Colonel Plashet. They agree that Painter was a murderer and Tess's father was not a killer, because Painter was not Tess's father.
 - 3 She admits that John Grace was Tess's father. She explains that they loved each other, but then he died so she married Painter and pretended Tess was his daughter. She gives Archery John Grace's poems and plays.