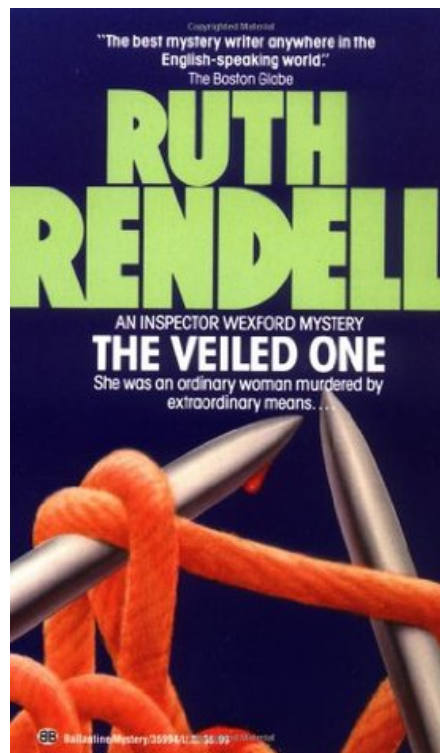




The Veiled One

Ruth Rendell

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

The Veiled One

Ruth Rendell

The Veiled One Ruth Rendell

Chief Inspector Wexford, injured in a car bombing, must rely on Detective Mike Burden to catch a killer in what appears to be a murder without motive

Chief Inspector Wexford couldn't know that the bundle of rags in the parking garage concealed a body—he'd just been doing a bit of light shopping, after all, not looking for dead housewives. Wexford won't be on the case for long; a car bomb sends him to the hospital, and Inspector Mike Burden must match wits with a would-be murderer. But just how close to the edge of madness must Burden go to catch a killer?

With rich characterization Rendell plumbs the depths of human character, revealing the secrets that lie hidden in the most ordinary lives.

The Veiled One Details

Date : Published November 13th 1989 by Fawcett (first published 1988)

ISBN : 9780345359940

Author : Ruth Rendell

Format : Paperback 320 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Fiction, European Literature, British Literature

 [Download The Veiled One ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Veiled One ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Veiled One Ruth Rendell

From Reader Review The Veiled One for online ebook

Chris says

See what happens when you close shopping centers at funny hours, like 6 pm? Dead bodies pop up in the parking lot. It's the frustration of not being able to get dinner.

This is the first Wexford book I read, and I enjoyed it very much. It is what Miss Marple and Jessica Fletcher should be.

Lauren says

Not the most fascinating Wexford mystery *qua* mystery--although it comes with an ingenious murder weapon and some good old-fashioned alibi calculation checking--but thematically rich and one of the best for ongoing characterization.

Margaret Wichorek says

I think I've finally read all the Insp. Wexford novels now and like all of them. This one is about an older woman found garrotted in a parking garage. The prime suspect is her son, a very odd young man, indeed. But she had secrets, of course, and the puzzle was fun to get through. Enjoyed it!

Leslie says

Let me just say at the outset that this is one of the creepiest murder mysteries I've ever read.

A woman has been murdered in the car park connected to the medieval castle-themed shopping center in Kingsmarkham, her body covered with a piece of brown velvet material; we learn later that she had been attacked from behind, very likely with a thin long piece of wire. What unnerves Inspector Reginald Wexford nearly as much as the murder, is that he was in the car park at the same time—after doing a bit of shopping for his wife's birthday—but saw nothing, really, except for a teenage girl driving past him too fast. He'd heard footsteps moving quickly down a stairwell, but had written that off as well.

Of course, a prime suspect presents himself almost immediately; Mike Burden—who's working the case with Wexford, of course—is convinced that Clifford Sanders is the murderer and goes about spending a great deal of time trying to prove it. After all, Sanders was spotted in the car park at about the same time, and panic-stricken at that.

Wexford is just as certain that the young man did not commit the murder, but if not Sanders—who? And why does Sanders continue to, er, burden Mike with his life's story? As we follow the investigation, we meet several other characters, from family members of the dead woman to her various neighbors, as well as Sanders's psychoanalyst, a beautifully drawn character (as so many of Ruth Rendell's are, both in this novel and so many others). It's late autumn and many of the days are grey and cold and foggy, adding to the already chill atmosphere; as in many of the great murder mysteries (or at least the ones that I consider great),

the weather is often treated as a distinct character.

I have to say that I was pleased with myself for guessing early on “whodunit”; I was not convinced because I couldn’t figure out why, but did have my suspicions. I also guessed a twist in the plot before it is disclosed, which also made me happy; this doesn’t happen too often. Neither of these suppositions made this less of a wonderful read, however; with Rendell, the pleasure is always in the journey.

But I was surprised by how unnerved—there’s that word again—I was while reading this novel, which reminded me more of one of Rendell’s books of psychological horror published under her alter ego, Barbara Vine’s name, than one of her Wexford procedurals. I kept slowing down, pacing myself, so that I wouldn’t miss a word, and found the story to be absolutely chilling for a couple of different reasons—not a typical reaction to a murder mystery.

The conclusion was as satisfying as Rendell’s books generally are; not everything in Wexford’s life is resolved—it never is—but it left me looking forward to the next installment in the series.

Connie (Ava Catherine) says

Chief Inspector Wexford is investigating the murderer of a housewife in the parking lot of a shopping center when his daughter's car is bombed. The book is a psychological mystery. I like the study of characters and their motives.

Clare Snow says

[I just want to know how the hell does a person survive a car-bomb!? (Very 1980s) Wexford's luck knows no bounds. (hide spoiler)]

Gabby says

In my opinion, very, very few writers do this genre better than Ruth Rendell. Every now and then, someone will compare another author to her, but, in my view, those comparisons have been dead wrong every time. I'm not a huge fan of Inspector Wexford. He used to be far too arrogant for my taste, but over the years as I read more of him, he grew on me. I'm almost up to "like". In this mystery he is not the main investigator on the case, and it's interesting to see how the case moves forward without his full time participation. The story concerns the murder of a middle-aged housewife found in a parking garage. No one seems to know why she was killed much less IF she was even killed in that garage. Ruth Rendell mixes up her magic immediately by tossing in details of psychological motives and nasty little secrets. That's another thing I like about her so much. I've always enjoyed her insights into why people do what they do. This one certainly delivered in that department.

Laila (BigReadingLife) says

One of the better Inspector Wexford books so far. Mike Burden becomes a therapist of sorts to this unhinged young man he suspects of murder. Wexford's daughter is the target of a car bomb, in which Wexford himself is hurt. There's a lot going on in this book but the threads all come together brilliantly in the end.

Mary Smith says

I'm not doing a narrative. I've always enjoyed the Wexford series by Ruth Rendell and this is one of the best. It does involve the murder of a rather ordinary housewife and there is a car explosion which exits Wexford out of daughter's car.
oh, just read it. You can thank me later.

Ezekiel Benzion says

The Veiled One has nothing to do with Muslim women in case you are wondering. In fact, I am still puzzled by the name. The cover illustration gives a lot of the plot away so I will not give out more information.

Rendell's characterizations are fabulous. Each of the leads, including the detectives and their families, the suspects and their families are fully realized so that you feel you would recognize them in a crowd and choose to spend an evening talking with some of them.

So why only three stars? I felt that the resolution of the plot was rushed and tagged on at the very end. Lots of explaining at the last minute which to me always means that the plot was not woven well enough throughout the story. And there were some parts, such as the side story with daughter Sheila, that seemed ragged...not connected well here and perhaps a gesture to other books in the series.

Katherine Spivey says

Usual fine job. Love the sibling rivalry.

Laura says

Chief Inspector Wexford investigates the estrangement of a middle-age housewife at a car park of a supermarket. In the meantime, he takes over the case after the explosion of a bomb in his car which was addressed to his subversive daughter.

A lot of action in this book, as usual by any book written by Ruth Rendell.

Bettie? says

Read by..... Robin Bailey

Total Runtime..... 9 Hrs 2 Mins

Description: *One November evening, Wexford drives him from Barringdean Shopping Centre, noticing nothing amiss. He is preoccupied with family matters. precisely, his daughter Sheila who, in protest, has damaged Ministry of Defence Property, the wire fence surrounding a nuclear weapons facility. An actress, her face is automatically splashed across the papers.*

Later, at home, Burden phones through with the news: a garotted body has been founding in the Shopping Centre Car Park, hidden between two cars. She is identified as Gwen Robson, a home-help of late middle-age, who lives in Kingsmarkham with her arthritic husband. However, before Wexford himself can do much investigating, he too faces death, in the form of a politically motivated car-bomb inteded for his daughter Sheila. So, Mike Burden forges ahead on his own, quickly narrowing in on a suspect, the son of the woman who found the body. But are his intuitions right?

Knitting and bombs feature in this episode.

3* From Doon With Death (Inspector Wexford, #1)
3* A New Lease of Death (Inspector Wexford, #2)
3* Wolf to the Slaughter (Inspector Wexford, #3)
2* The Best Man to Die (Inspector Wexford, #4)
3* A Guilty Thing Suprised #5
3* No More Dying Then (Inspector Wexford, #6)
3* Murder Being Once Done (Inspector Wexford, #7)
3* Some Lie and Some Die (Inspector Wexford, #8)
3* Shake Hands Forever (Inspector Wexford, #9)
3* A Sleeping Life (Inspector Wexford, #10)
3* Put on by Cunning (Inspector Wexford #11)
1* Speaker of Mandarin (Inspector Wexford, #12)
3* An Unkindness of Ravens (Inspector Wexford, #13)
3* The Veiled One (Inspector Wexford, #14)

3* Not in the Flesh (Inspector Wexford, #21)

2* The Vault (Inspector Wexford, #23)

Shauna says

Great writing as always from Ruth Rendell but I thought the denouement was weak and extemely far-fetched. A very enjoyable read.

Jaksen says

Another in the Inspector Wexford series by Ruth Rendell. I absolutely loved this, one of her best.

In this one the good inspector is nearly blown up (early in the story, no spoilers here) and is rendered more than little under the weather, so his partner/sidekick fills in, Mike Burden.

The mystery here isn't really who tried to kill the good inspector, but who killed a middle-aged woman found dead in a parking garage. There's a slew of potential leads and suspects, as well as red herrings and false

leads galore. There's also one of the most diabolically perfect, richly fleshed-out characters in any of Rendell's books. (If you read this one you'll know exactly what I mean.) All I can say is 'Olive Kitteridge to the tenth power.' (If you've read Olive Kitteridge you'll really know what I mean. :D)

The settings are garish, grotesque, intriguing, fully drawn out. Who knew a dirty old cement parking garage could be so interesting? Or a house in which most of the furniture is stored upstairs? Or that numerous minor characters could be so entertaining, so vividly realized? Burden is pushed to the edge, psychologically; Reg Wexford is pushed to a different sort of edge in a sub-plot involving his TV-actress daughter. I re-read some passages over again, the writing was simply so spot-on and things as simple as a line of trees against a horizon so impeccably described.

Five stars.
