

The Copper Peacock and Other Stories

Ruth Rendell

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The bestselling author of *The Bridesmaid* and winner of three *Edgars*, three *Daggers*, and a special *National Book Award* presents nine chilling, new stories of psychological suspense and mystery. Undoubtedly one of the best writers of English mystery.--*Los Angeles Times*.

The Copper Peacock and Other Stories Details

Date : Published September 1st 1992 by Warner Books (NY) (first published January 1st 1980)

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Author : Ruth Rendell

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From Reader Review The Copper Peacock and Other Stories for online ebook

Amy says

I haven't read short stories in a while. She really is staying away from tidying up all the loose ends in this one. More like "choose your own ending." Like life, I suppose.

Laura says

Really good interesting short stories. Very thought-provoking.

Nick Phillips says

Not so much as whodunit as a series of tales of the unexpected. Crimes are mostly (though not entirely) questions of moral ambiguity and few perpetrators receive their comeuppance.

A great set of short stories and highly recommended.

Kasey Jueds says

Hard to think of anything about the amazing and incredible Ruth Rendell that I haven't already written before. I love her, she's a genius, I hope she lives forever, etc. These stories are dark and smart and completely compelling--in part because Rendell is such an incredible stylist, and in part because she has such a profound and often startling understanding of human nature. I especially noticed, in this book, her skill with unattractive narrators. The one in the title story is a great example: I could recognize his creepy nastiness, and at the same time felt drawn in (against my will) to seeing things from his point of view--so I had a deliciously complicated reaction to this story, and really to all of them.

Cyd says

Ruth Rendell's short stories are tasty morsels, bite-sized versions of the various ways her novels surprise, chill, thrill, discomfit, and delight the reader. I love the variety here. This little volume includes, in its final tale, the added surprise of an addition, in miniature, to the Wexford & Burden series.

Marie-Antoinette says

I really enjoyed reading this book as I did with the other Ruth Rendell books. The Copper Peacock and Other

Stories is a short-story collection by Ruth Rendell. The title comes from the 6th story in the collection, in which a copper bookmark in the form of a peacock is gift from a cleaner to her employer, the giving of which has significant ramifications for their relationship. The final story in the collection features her popular series Inspector Reg Wexford.

The collection contains nine stories:

1. A Pair of Yellow Lilies- A mousy woman takes a young lover, enticed by his angelic beauty and vividly embroidered jacket, and a subtle criminal trade-off occurs. He is not who he say he is...
2. Paperwork – a girl is left with her grandparents by her 16-year old mother. She grows up knowing that her grandmother doesn't like her as she refers to her as "that child" and "it".
3. Mother's Help - Murder is the theme in this story in which a handsome man enlists the unwitting aid of his two innocent children in getting rid of his two wives.
4. Long Live the Queen – This story features a snarly elegant feline who finds her regal niche after another cat is killed.
5. Dying Happy – a man on his deathbed wants his old mistress to come and see him one last time, but things doesn't turn out as he wanted especially when his wife is concerned.
6. The Copper Peacock - Egotist Bernard borrows a friend's flat to ensure quiet while he writes a book. Flattered by the awed, pretty maid, Judy, who tidies up and serves him exquisite lunches but arrives for work each day increasingly bruised and battered, Bernard cringes with mortification when Judy gives him an ugly but costly peacock-shaped bookmark.
7. Weeds – what can I say.... Things aren't always as it seems.....
8. The Fish-Sitter - In the ghoulish ``The Fish Sitter," an aquarium claims human prey.
9. An Unwanted Woman (an Inspector Wexford story) - Chief Inspector Wexford, from Rendell's Kingsmarkham series, appears in ``An Unwanted Woman," his equanimity threatened by a spooky teenage runaway.

Michael says

Rendell is a master of her craft, and The Copper Peacock is congruent with such aptitude. The only complaint might be the seemingly inverse relationship of length to predictability; nevertheless, the prose flows effortlessly to both sneakily coax English sensibility and reward those who trust their instincts.

Sharon Mensing says

This was short stories, not my favorite, but well executed by Rendell. The stories were each somewhat ironic and I found the twists very interesting. The people in these stories were not terribly sympathetic, but were

well drawn given the short story format.

Deanne says

A good collection of short stories.

Cameron Trost says

A decent collection of short stories examining psychology, society, and crime. However, being used to Ruth Rendell's exceptionally high standard, I wasn't overly impressed. These are by no means her most original or well-written stories. For the uninitiated, I'd recommend starting with her collections, *The Fallen Curtain*, *Blood Lines*, and *Piranha to Scurfy*.

Kirsti says

I enjoyed rereading these. Not as enthralling as her novels, though.

Bettie? says

Bettie's Books

Joanne says

Good stories, especially the title one.

Laila (BigReadingLife) says

3.5 stars.

Rendell is a master of the short story - especially unsettling ones. The one about the cat lady, *Long Live the Queen*, is one of the creepiest short stories I've ever read. And I like cats.

Renee says

Rendell packs a lot into a short story. Minimal pages, maximum impact.

