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Antonia Fraser, Compiled by, Ruth Rendell, Author, Erle Stanley Gardner, Author Severn House Publishers \$24 (256p) ISBN 978-0-7278-4918-2 A welcome reissue is The Burglar Who Studied Spinoza ...

~~Books by Ruth Rendell and Complete Book Reviews~~

Based on Ruth Rendell's Tree Of Hands, it's about the differing loves of three mothers for their children. Miller splits his stories into chapters, fragmenting the plots and necessitating several ...

~~Betty Fisher And Other Stories (Cert 15)~~

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Frost and Poirot - two of the network's biggest ratings draws - are due to make only occasional appearances in the coming years, while Wexford is in mothballs until Ruth Rendell writes another ...

~~TV's substitute sleuths~~

At four o'clock the next afternoon he is at her flat. She opens the door wearing a crumpled T-shirt, cycling shorts, slippers in the shape of comic-book gophers which he finds silly, tasteless ...

~~This Week's Book List~~

We've now been able to gather a great deal of additional information concerning details about the story we first posted

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yesterday on the official Pennsylvania state warning issued about the new ...

~~NEWLY DISCOVERED DIEBOLD THREAT DESCRIBED AS
'MAJOR NATIONAL SECURITY RISK'!~~

We've now been able to gather a great deal of additional information concerning details about the story we first posted yesterday on the official Pennsylvania state warning issued about the new ...

The award-winning author of *The Babes in the Wood* and *The Rottweiler* brings us another terrifically paced, richly drawn novel of suspense and psychological intrigue. Weeks went by

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when Ismay never thought of it at all. Then something would bring it back or it would return in a dream. The dream always began in the same way. She and her mother would be climbing the stairs, following Heather's lead through the bedroom to what was on the other side, not a bathroom in the dream but a chamber floored and walled in marble. In the middle of it was a glassy lake. The white thing in the water floated towards her, its face submerged, and her mother said, absurdly, "Don't look!" The dead man was Ismay's stepfather, Guy. Now, nine years on, she and her sister, Heather, still live in the same house in Clapham. But it has been divided into two self-contained flats. Their mother had lived upstairs with her sister, Pamela. And the bathroom, where Guy had drowned, had disappeared. Ismay worked in

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public relations, and Heather in catering. They got on well. They always had. They never discussed the changes to the house, still less what had happened that August day. . . . But even lives as private as these, where secrets hang in the air like dust, intertwine with other worlds and other individuals. And, with painful inevitability, the truth will emerge.

When Ismay and Heather's stepfather was discovered dead in the bathtub nine years ago, the police concluded the drowning was an accident. But Ismay has always silently suspected that Heather might have had something to do with it. Now they're older and their lives seem to be moving happily forward. But when Heather becomes seriously involved with a man for the first time, Ismay's long-repressed

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memories can no longer be ignored. With painful inevitability, Ismay learns that she may not be able to keep the dark truth hidden forever.

'Weeks went by when Ismay never thought of it at all. Then something would bring it back or it would return in a dream. The dream began in the same way. She and her mother would be climbing the stairs, following Heather's lead through the bedroom to what was on the other side, not a bathroom in the dream but a chamber floored and walled in marble. In the middle of it was a glassy lake. The white thing in the water floated towards her, its face submerged, and her mother said, absurdly, "Don't look!" The dead man was Ismay's stepfather, Guy. Now, nine years on, she and her sister, Heather, still live

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in the same house in Clapham. But it has been divided into two self-contained flats. Their mother lives upstairs with her sister, Pamela. And the bathroom, where Guy drowned, has been demolished. But Death will rear its ugly head once more... Ismay and Heather get on well. They always have. They never discussed the changes to the house, still less what had happened that August day. But as their love lives start to develop, someone is murdered along the way, and long buried suspicions re-emerge with potentially tragic results.

A lonely man stumbles into a dangerous game in this twisting novel of psychological suspense by the New York Times–bestselling author of *The Crocodile Bird*. In a desolate

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alley on the bank of the Thames, a spy slips through the shadows. Mungo is the Director General of English intelligence, and he knows Moscow Centre has been watching him for weeks, but there is no spy in London better at losing a tail. Satisfied he hasn't been followed, he drops off his message and disappears into the night. It's a classic scene of Cold War espionage, save for one detail: Mungo isn't a spy at all. He's a teenager, playing an epic game of make-believe. John Creevey, still reeling from the implosion of his marriage, is dreaming of taking revenge against his wife's lover when he discovers one of Mungo's coded signals. Unaware that the message is simply part of a child's game, he becomes obsessed with uncovering the rest of the spy network—a tragic misunderstanding that threatens to turn

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this imaginary war into something very real—and very deadly. “Rendell has brilliantly interwoven these compelling strands into one masterful tale of suspense,” writes Library Journal. Three-time Edgar Award winner Ruth Rendell was a master of psychological suspense, and *Talking to Strange Men* is one of the most unusual espionage stories in the history of the Cold War.

“Some people enjoy it.” That was all Ruth had said. Even now, when she’d had months to come to terms with the fallout from this remark, she still marveled at the power of those four words, which she’d uttered without premeditation and without any sense of treading on forbidden ground. (p. 11) Thanks to an off-hand remark made during a class

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discussion of oral sex, sex-ed teacher Ruth Ramsey finds herself a target of the Christian evangelicals who are increasingly influencing the schoolboard of suburban Stonewood Heights. Forced to attend remedial sessions with a smug “Virginity Consultant,” Ruth is isolated and alone, caught in the polarized red-versus-blue landscape of present-day American suburbia. It’s like “living in a horror movie,” she thinks, “The Invasion of the Body Snatchers, or something. You never knew who they were going to get to next.” Divorced and sharing custody of her daughters with her ex, and sometimes attempting a futile date, Ruth spends many a lonely weekend wondering how her bleak existence came to be. Then one morning at her daughter’s soccer game, Ruth meets Tim Mason, a cute forty-something

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volunteer coach. Ruth feels an instant attraction to Tim, but when he draws the girls together for a spontaneous prayer circle after the game, she angrily yanks her daughter away from the proceedings, placing herself once again in the sights of the evangelicals. But Ruth has another unexpected problem: she can't seem to get a handle on Tim, her supposed adversary, who keeps appearing at her front door. A recovering addict whose bottoming-out cost him his home and his marriage, Tim found his way to the Tabernacle of the Gospel Truth through the intervention of Pastor Dennis, the charismatic preacher who put Tim's shattered life back together in an approximation of happiness. Thanks to Pastor Dennis, Tim is now married to Carrie, a fellow Tabernacler who is attractive and attentive, if robotic. He plays guitar at

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the weekly prayer sessions in a sanitized reenactment of his days in a Grateful Dead cover band. He holds a respectable if unfulfilling job as a loan officer, well aware of the irony of the post for a man with his history. He is grateful for the help he has received from his church community and Pastor Dennis. But he can't shake the yearning for something more, and a nagging attraction to that troublesome sex-ed teacher.... With *The Abstinence Teacher*, Tom Perrotta wades into the murky waters of contemporary American suburbia, fully deploying his proven gift for describing the panic lurking beneath its seemingly placid surface. Already widely known to book and movie audiences for his scathing satire mixed with remarkable compassion in works including *Election* and *Little Children* (both adapted for film, *Little Children* garnering

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Perrotta an Oscar nomination), this novel once again proves, as declared by the Los Angeles Times, “Perrotta’s balance of humor and pathos has no equal.”

A Sight for Sore Eyes tells three stories, and for the longest time, the reader has no inkling of how they will come together. The first is a story of a little girl who has been scolded and sent to her room when her mother is brutally murdered; as Francine grows up, she is haunted by the experience, and it is years before she even speaks. Secondly, we become privy to the life of a young man, Teddy, born of unthinking young parents, who grows up almost completely ignored. Free of societal mores, he becomes a sociopath, who eventually discovers that killing can be an effective way to get what he

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wants. Thirdly, we meet Harriet, who from an early age has learned to use her beauty to make her way in the world. Bored by marriage to a wealthy, much older man, she scans the local newspapers for handymen to perform odd jobs around the house, including services in the bedroom. When these three plots strands finally converge, the result is harrowing and unforgettable. A Sight for Sore Eyes is not just the work of a writer at the peak of her craft. It is an extraordinary story by a writer who, after 45 books, countless awards, and decades of international acclaim, is still getting better with every book.

The prolific (and never, ever boring) Rendell delivers another gripping tale of psychological suspense, this one centering on

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murder within a family. It begins with a house, the scene of a bathtub murder, but it ends with the tsunami in Indonesia. In between, Rendell's characters are forced to reflect on the hopelessness of the past ever being washed away. The central event takes place long before the book opens: a 13-year-old girl drowns her stepfather in the bathtub. That girl, Heather, is grown up, as is her sister, Ismay. The scene of the crime has been boarded up as a room, and the family lives without acknowledging that the crime has been boarded up as well. What are the effects of this silent domestic pact? Rendell explores this question to creepy-crawly effect, as Heather prepares to marry. Ismay, conflicted over whether she should tell the fiance about her sister's past, struggles with the question of whether Heather is likely to kill again.

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Combining potent imagery and exquisite plotting, Rendell twists the knife of suspense in a wonderfully excruciating way.

From the multi-award-winning author of *The Babes in the Wood* and *The Rottweiler*, a chilling new novel about obsession, superstition, and violence, set in Rendell's darkly atmospheric London. Mix Cellini (which he pronounces with an 'S' rather than a 'C') is superstitious about the number 13. In musty old St. Blaise House, where he is the lodger, there are thirteen steps down to the landing below his rooms, which he keeps spick and span. His elderly landlady, Gwendolen Chawcer, was born in St. Blaise House, and lives her life almost exclusively through her library of books, so cannot see the decay and neglect around her. The Notting

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Hill neighbourhood has changed radically over the last fifty years, and 10 Rillington Place, where the notorious John Christie committed a series of foul murders, has been torn down. Mix is obsessed with the life of Christie and his small library is composed entirely of books on the subject. He has also developed a passion for a beautiful model who lives nearby — a woman who would not look at him twice. Both landlady and lodger inhabit weird worlds of their own. But when reality intrudes into Mix's life, a long pent-up violence explodes.

From a New York Times–bestselling author: A chilling psychological thriller about one man's murderous obsession with his childhood sweetheart. Growing up in the roughest

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part of London, Guy Curran never imagined he would fall in love with a rich girl. But from the moment he meets Leonora Chisholm, he knows it's their destiny to be together. They have a short, passionate teenage fling—over almost before it begins. Leonora moves on, but Guy never will. His love for her is dangerous, and it will destroy them both. Over the next ten years, Guy becomes a millionaire, selling hard drugs and bad art to the jet set of Western Europe. He and Leonora remain friends, sharing weekly lunches—until the day he learns she's fallen in love with someone else. Seized by murderous jealousy, Guy is about to embark on a mad quest to claim the woman he desires—or die trying. “Rendell is a master of depicting the long, slow slide into madness” and *Going Wrong* shows her brilliant ability to walk the line

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between elegance and terror (Publishers Weekly).

The award-winning author of *Babes in the Woods* and *The Rottweiler* brings us another gripping Inspector Wexford novel. A lump of concrete dropped deliberately from a little stone bridge over a relatively unfrequented road kills the wrong person. The driver behind is spared. But only for a while... One particular member of the local press is gunning for the Chief Inspector, distinctly unimpressed with what he regards as old-fashioned police methods. But Wexford, with his old friend and partner, Mike Burden, along with two new recruits to the Kingsmarkham team, pursue their inquiries with a diligence and humanity that make Ruth Rendell's detective stories enthralling, exciting and very touching.

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