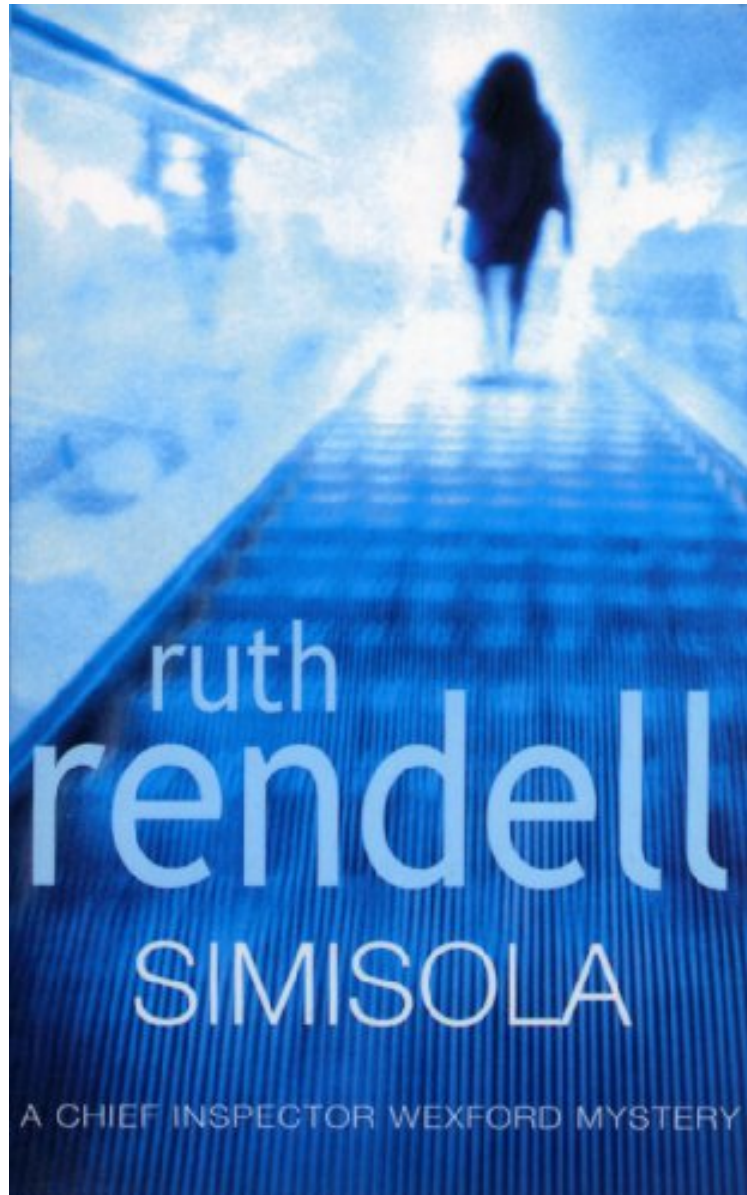


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Von Ruth Rendell

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Von Ruth Rendell : Simisola: (A Wexford Case) (Inspector Wexford series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Simisola: (A Wexford Case) (Inspector Wexford series):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A tour de forceVon Ein KundeAs a tireless fan of Ruth Rendell who is continually surprised by her ability to juxtapose the traditional British police procedural framework with sharply discerning social criticism, I think Simisola bests even

her usually high standard. Rendell has a gift for fleshing out a character in a single line that no other mystery writer (save PD James) can equal, but her writing evinces a nonjudgmental compassion for humanity that is truly unique. While some readers might fault her treatment of race here as mawkish or self-conscious, I think it mirrors the realization that Inspector Wexford continually forces himself to confront -- that we are all complicit in racism. I also applaud her for writing about race in this single book from so many different and nuanced perspectives. This is not simply a book about black v. white but rather a book about the multiple gradations of class and ethnicity that intersect so confoundingly with race -- and this from a woman who has been writing mysteries since 1963! Finally, at a completely visceral level, I was stunned by the last line of the book, which I thought pulled together all that had gone before with the skill of a well-realized musical cadence. I must say that I'm shocked to read comments that people found it difficult to persevere to the end. I've only found one other Rendell novel tough going (*The Best Man to Die*, and I've sometimes wondered whether it was ghost-written by an inferior writer), but *Simisola* was absolutely gripping. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Wexford dedektive Stories Von Eva Saibel All the books out of the Wexford series by Ruth Rendall are very exciting AND so British :-) Will read the next one soon. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Well-written and intriguing. Von Ein Kunde This story is well written and entertaining

Kurzbeschreibung The sixteenth book to feature the classic crime-solving detective, Chief Inspector Wexford. When a young, black woman goes missing in Kingsmarkham, Wexford must respond to a test not only of his powers of deduction, but of his basic beliefs and prejudices. Only eighteen black people live in Kingsmarkham. One of them is Wexford's new doctor, Raymond Akande. When the doctor's daughter, Melanie, goes missing, the Chief Inspector takes more than just a professional interest in the case. Melanie, just down from university but unable to find a job, disappeared somewhere between the Benefit Office and the bus stop. Or at least no one saw her get on the bus when it came... When the body of a young black woman is discovered, Wexford must overcome his underlying prejudices to allow his investigative skills to succeed. From Publishers Weekly The latest Chief Inspector Wexford mystery, in which a small town's racism turns deadly. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist You might think we were dealing with *Prime Suspect IV*. In racist, high-unemployment Britain, a young, middle-class black woman goes missing, and the last person she seems to have spoken to--an unemployment officer--is found murdered in bed. Unfortunately, the struggle between social commentary and whodunit is so equal--think of two wrestlers, each unable to throw the other--that one soon tires of the sport. What went wrong? Rendell is the finest of the finest, an author who, like *le Carre*{ }, often soars above her genre as if using it only to ground her craft. Is the problem the too-conventional nature of her Wexford series, or the too-conventional targets of her social criticism? In fact, the chief target of the author's criticism is an English law that permits wealthy immigrants to bring into the country servants who are part of their household but who are not legitimate immigrants in their own right--that is, who must stay with their "masters" if they are not to be deported. That these servants are often treated like slaves has not, so far, persuaded the Conservative government to change the law, and this is the source of Chief Inspector Wexford's (and Rendell's) quiet disgust. "We're all racists," the gentle Wexford says in the early pages, and the novel goes on to prove him right. But all this, of course, is a contrivance, and the story suffers under the burden; it has little force, momentum, or focus. True, Rendell firing on only three cylinders is more impressive than many firing on all four, but this is still a disappointment. Stuart Whitwell