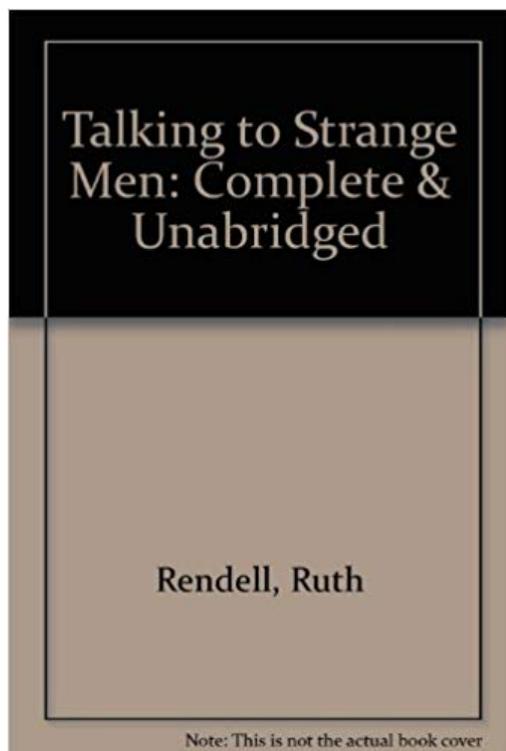


Talking to Strange Men *by* Christian Rodska,Ruth Rendell



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Reviews of the *Talking to Strange Men* *by* Christian Rodska,Ruth Rendell

Mr.Champions

If you get depressed at the social isolation and hopeless eccentricity of Rendell's usual heroes, you will be relieved to meet John Creevey, who starts the story as typically painfully shy and unassertive with only a handful of friends but gradually becomes a little tougher, a little more observant and a lot more assertive. It is rare for a Rendell hero to come out of his shell and improve his life, but by the end of this book there are a few hints that John might resolve some of the tragedies of his life and find love again. John is distracted from his own heartbreak by a series of coded messages that he believes are the communiques of a criminal gang. Once he learns how to decode the messages, he decides to send a message of his own... He never discovers that this "criminal gang" are actually schoolboys playing an elaborate and sophisticated spy game; and he never finds out what happened with his message. Fourteen year old Charles Mabledene is the polar opposite of John Creevey. Angelically beautiful with robotic efficiency and absolutely no morals, he is ambitious to move into a position of power in this schoolboy gang, and he demonstrates disconcerting talents for uncovering information. He proves to be the most chilling character in this book of "strange men". I found John's story more engaging than the parallel plot of the schoolboys with their secret gang. Their schemes seemed either too meaningless or too impossible for me to engage with them properly, although I am quite convinced that highly educated school boys of that age would enjoy these kinds of spy games. The two worlds collided when Charles took up John's "assignment" not knowing the message was planted. Without giving away the ending, I think this could inspire an excellent sequel - I'd like to know what one particular character was up to, twenty years down the track.

Barinirm

Not up to her very high standards. Her characters are usually so real. These seemed forced. She did not seem to know how to end it.

Gugrel

4stars!!!! for Ruth Rendell's Talking to Strange Men. Many lives/individual dramas/personal actions unknowingly impact live of others. Psychological suspense at its best.

BoberMod

Ok

NiceOne

I wasn't sure what to expect, but I was a bit surprised by this story. It was a mystery no doubt. It had plenty of twists and turns and a surprise ending. I guess I was expecting more of a "Wexford" twist.

Arrayar

I love Ruth Rendell but thus one was dull and not her best by far. Disappointed.

MrCat

As a fan of Rendell's twisted psychological novels of the past, i found her latest novel tedious with adolescent characters all bent on some weird escapade. it was hard to follow, uninteresting, so I dropped it a third of the way through. Joan Cremin

Ruth Rendell is in a class by herself!!

She is the Master of Mysteries!!!

You can't go wrong with one of her creations.

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