

No parking ticket for sick baby's mum



A new mum in Canberra, Australia ⁵ _____ with her sick baby boy. She returned to her car after being discharged and discovered that she ⁶ _____ a parking ticket. But when she opened the envelope on her

windscreen, she discovered a note from a kind lady called Laura. Laura had seen the ticket and written, 'I'm sure whatever you were going through in hospital was tough enough, so I've paid it for you. Hope things get better!'.

Bus lifted by 100 Londoners

A crowd of Londoners ⁷ _____ to lift up a double-decker bus when a cyclist had become trapped beneath it. Amazing pictures on YouTube showed about 100 commuters in east London lifting the huge 212

bus, when Anthony Shields ⁸ _____ and knocked off his bike. Anthony spent a month in hospital, but has now recovered completely. He said he was 'moved to tears' when he watched the video of his rescue.



Reading and speaking

Writers and reviews

1 Read the profile of **Ruth Rendell**, a well-known bestselling English writer.

- What kind of stories did she write?
- Was she just famous in Britain?
- Which word tells you that she wrote a lot of books?
- Who is Barbara Vine?

Profile

Ruth Rendell (1930–2015) was an English author of crime fiction, specializing in psychological thrillers. She won many awards for her writing, including three from the Crime Writers Association and three *Edgar Awards* from the Mystery Writers of America. She was a prolific writer, and many of her novels have been successfully adapted for film and TV. The series *The Ruth Rendell Mysteries* ran for 13 years on British TV. She also wrote under the pen name, Barbara Vine.



2 *The Fallen Curtain* is a collection of short stories by Ruth Rendell. Look at the cover and read the reviews. What are some of the words used to describe her work? What's a 'page-turner'?

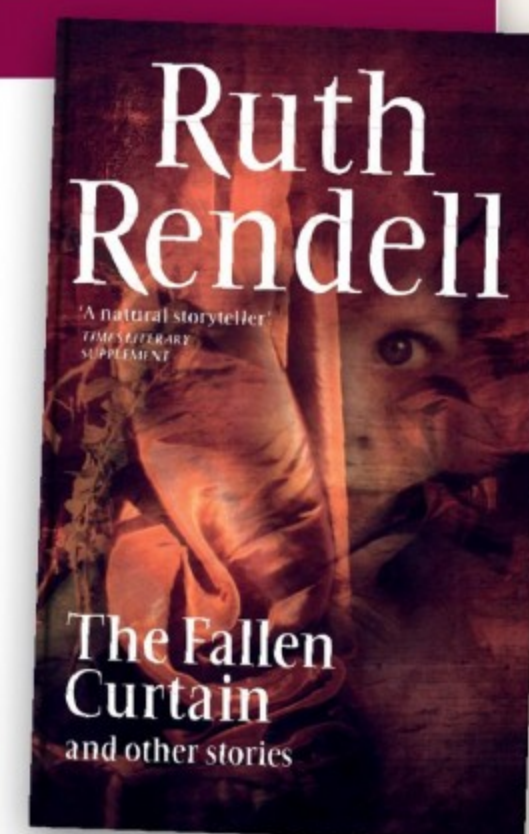
Reviews

"Suspense at its best."
The Times

"One of the best inventors of plots since Agatha Christie."
Daily Telegraph

"Haunting dramas with unexpected twists and shocking conclusions."

"The author's spine-chilling skills produce another page-turner."



3 *The Clinging Woman* is one of Ruth Rendell's short stories. It opens with the attempted suicide of a young woman. Only the prompt action of a young neighbour saves her life. Work with a partner.

- What questions could you ask about the story?
- What do you think the title means?
- Now turn to the next page and find out more about *The Clinging Woman*.