The bed was neatly made, and the woman on top neatly strangled.

According to all accounts, Angela Hathall was deeply in love with her husband and far too paranoid to invite an unknown person into their home. So who managed to gain entry and strangle her without a struggle? That is the problem facing Inspector Wexford in Shake Hands Forever. Perhaps it was the mystery woman who left her fingerprints on the Hathalls bathtub? Perhaps it was Angelas husband who lied about a stolen library book? And why was the Hathall home, usually so unkempt, exquisitely clean the day of Angelas death? Then a neighbor--friendly, knowing, disarmingly beautiful--offers Wexford her assistance. And what begins as a rather tricky case turns into an obsession that threatens to destroy the Inspectors career--as well as his marriage.

Maddeningly addictive, smart and surprising, Shake Hands Forever showcases Ruth Rendell at the height of her storytelling powers.

My Personal Review:
Through the years Ruth Rendell has proved her mastery of the who done it genre and this Inspector Wexford mystery, first published in 1975, is certainly true to form. Its set in England, of course, amidst places whose names roll of the tongue with a British accent. Theres an unsolved murder in the first chapter, with a richly developed cast of characters surrounding the mystery.
Theres a dead woman and her seemingly grief-stricken husband. Theres her mother-in-law who hates her and her husbands ex-wife whos known for making ugly scenes. There are few clues also, as the house has been immaculately cleaned. Theres only one handprint, little to go on. But then there is the wise Inspector Wexford. He understands people well and has his suspicions.
The story unfolds quickly, as one clue after another comes to light and some new characters are introduced. I was intrigued as I easily followed the plot. The author is very clear in her intentions and I found myself
identifying with the detective as he investigated the case, which wound up
taking more than a year to solve.
It only took me a few hours to read the book, waking up in the middle of
the night to finish what I had started that afternoon. It was all one big
puzzle, but the end put all the puzzle pieces together. As I drifted off to
sleep however, I was troubled. The puzzle pieces fit, but the motivation just
didnt seem strong enough for murder. And so I woke early and re-read the
last few pages, which included a surprise ending. It was explained
completely. Problem is, I didnt believe it.
This is a good read and mystery fans will love it. I did enjoy it as a few
hours of entertainment. I recommend it. Im just not a mystery fan though.

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:
Shake Hands Forever by Ruth Rendell - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!