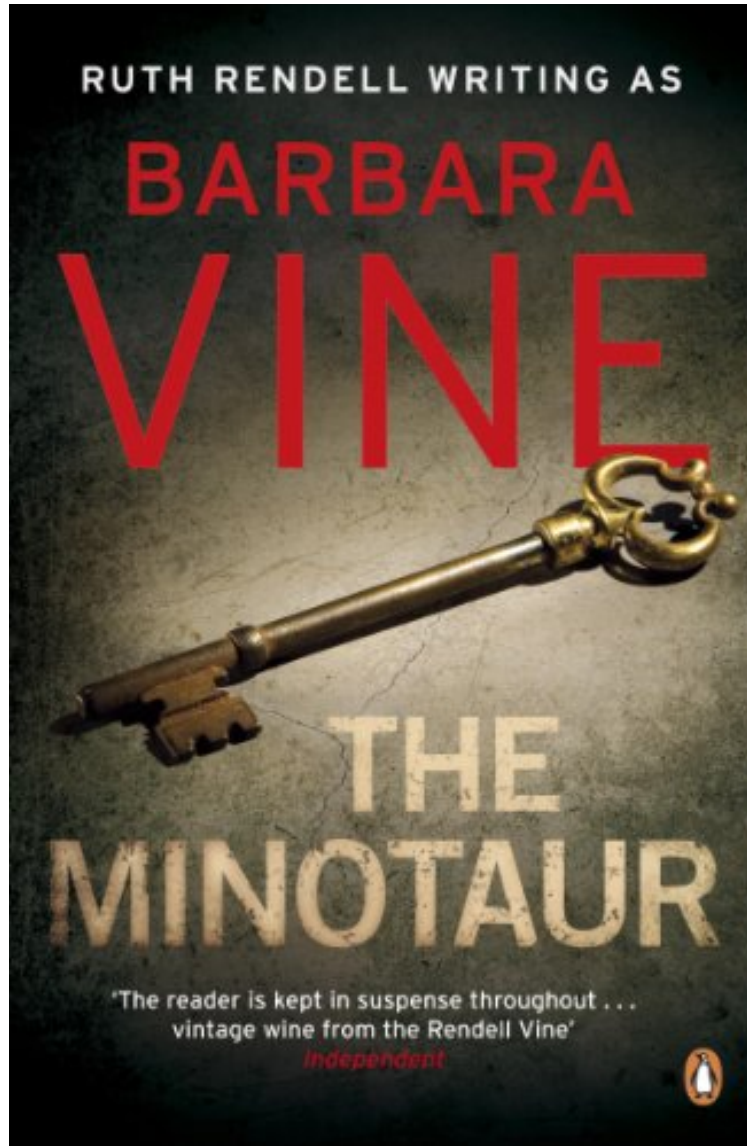


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The Minotaur

Von Barbara Vine

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Von Barbara Vine : The Minotaur before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Minotaur:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen15 von 15 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Zeitlose VerbrechenVon Gudrun RaatschenDie junge Schwedin Kerstin Kvist wird Pflegerin von John Cosway, der mit seiner Mutter und seinen vier Schwestern abgeschieden auf dem Land lebt. Kerstin merkt bald, dass es Grnde fr diese Abgeschiedenheit gibt ... Der Titel The Minotaur, ein Monster der griechischen Sage, deutet an, dass dies weit

mehr ist als ein gewöhnlicher Krimi: Es ist der Stoff einer antiken Tragdie vor der Kulisse eines viktorianischen Romans, der aus unserer Zeit in Rückblenden erzählt wird und Ende der 1960er Jahre spielt. Eine zeitlose, dabei zeitkritische Geschichte also, die langsam in Gang kommt und sich dann entfaltet wie Kerstins "Dog Growing". Die spätere Karikaturistin und Schwedin zeichnet als Ich-Erzählerin ein sehr persönliches und neugieriges Bild der Familie Cosway, das uns neben der Normalität von Kerstin und den Dorfbewohnern immer mehr wie ein Zerrbild erscheint. Besonders in der Gestalt der Mrs. Cosway ist Barbara Vine eine der boshaftesten und giftigsten Figuren gelungen, die mir je in einem Roman begegnet sind. Es sind bekannte Zutaten aus dem Universum Vine/Rendell, eine kleine Gruppe miteinander verstrickter Menschen, ein großes, unheimliches Haus, und eine Kette von Ereignissen, die unaufhaltsam der Katastrophe zustrebt. Das Motiv des wilden Weins ist Lesern bereits aus *A Sight For Sore Eyes* bekannt. Dennoch unterscheidet sich dieser Roman von allen anderen der Autorin: Er steht mehr in der Tradition der klassischen Literatur als der des Kriminalromans. Es ist für mich immer wieder ein Vergnügen, diese großartige Autorin zu lesen und zu verfolgen, wie leicht, souverän und überraschend sie ihre Themen variiert und immer wieder neu erfindet. Dieser Roman ist in ihrem Werk etwas Besonderes. Es ist kein Buch fürs Flugzeug oder für den Strand, aber sehr wohl eins für lange Winterabende am Kamin. 12 von 13 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. More a novel than a mystery, and an excellent one too. Von Shero 68. Dub. While this is in some ways vintage Vine territory, with an interesting assortment of highly flawed characters, the mystery element is less important than the novelistic narrative. With echoes of 'Jane Eyre' this tale of a young, naive 'carer' employed to look after a mysteriously ill man is extremely well written, and the characters seem to spring from the pages into your life. Unlike some of her other 'Vine' novels, the ending of this book is quite tender and elegiac. This is Ruth Rendell alias Barbara Vine at her very best.

Kurzbeschreibung *The Minotaur* - a thrilling novel from the bestselling queen of crime Barbara Vine. Kerstin Kvist enters crumbling Lydstep Old Hall to live with the Cosways and to act as nurse to John: a grown man fed drugs by his family to control his lunatic episodes. But John's strangeness is grotesquely mirrored in that of his four sisters who roam the dark, mazy Essex country house under the strict gaze of eighty-year-old Mrs Cosway. Despite being treated as an outsider, Kerstin is nevertheless determined to help John. But she soon discovers that there are others in the family who are equally as determined that John remain isolated, for sinister reasons of their own ... 'The reader is kept in suspense throughout . . . vintage wine from the Rendell vine' *Independent* 'The Cosway family is a mesmerizing creation... I rushed through the last pages' *Penelope Lively, Sunday Times* 'Stealthy, credible, ingenious and addictive' *Literary* 'The Rendell/ Vine partnership has for years been producing consistently better work than most Booker winners put together' *Ian Rankin* *The Minotaur* is a modern masterpiece of the crime genre and will leave you gripped from the first page to the last. If you enjoy the novels of P.D. James, Ian Rankin and Scott Turow, you will love this book. Barbara Vine is the pen-name of Ruth Rendell. She has written fifteen novels using this pseudonym, including *A Fatal Inversion* and *King Solomon's Carpet* which both won the Crime Writers' Association Gold Dagger Award. Her other books include: *A Dark Adapted Eye*; *The House of Stairs*; *Gallowglass*; *Asta's Book*; *No Night Is Too Long*; *In the Time of His Prosperity*; *The Brimstone Wedding*; *The Chimney Sweeper's Boy*; *Grasshopper*; *The Blood Doctor*; *The Minotaur*; *The Birthday Present* and *The Child's Child*. From *Publishers Weekly* British master Vine (aka Ruth Rendell) explores life among the Cosways, a country gentry clan that makes the *Wuthering Heights* crowd look wholesome. Kerstin Kvist, a young Swedish nurse, takes a job at Lydstep Old Hall caring for John Cosway, a mathematical prodigy now labeled by his family as schizophrenic. In addition to John, there are four obsessive sisters ruled by their scarecrow-like matriarch. Gradually, Kerstin suspects that John is being drugged so that his mother and sisters can remain in their estate under the terms of a disputed trust. Vine creates a family and village, Windrose, so vivid you're tempted to book a B and B and investigate things yourself. Some scenes involving John's behavior his fits and his family's reactions seem abrupt to the point of being bizarre, but Vine is describing a man hijacked from rationality, through a narrator whose first language isn't English. When murder finally happens, it's simultaneously shocking yet inevitable. Though less elegantly written than 2002's *The Blood Doctor*, this delivers a more palpable, and thus satisfying, crime. (Mar.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From *Booklist* Barbara Vine is the pen name of Ruth Rendell. It's odd to think that such an acclaimed and public figure as Rendell (who has won almost every mystery award in the genre) would assume a pen name, until you notice the differences in the novels appearing under the Rendell and Vine names. Rendell writes precision mysteries, as spare and gaunt as an iron fence. But Vine is Rendell's exuberant other half. Vine thrillers are almost rococo in the expanse of plot and character, skirting close to self-indulgence at times. In the latest Vine, a Swedish nurse named Kirstin Kvist looks back at the central mystery of her life, something that happened back in the 1960s, when she journeyed to crumbling Lydstep Old Hall in Essex, England, to care for a melancholy 39-year-old man with a puzzling ailment. The tale starts as a medical mystery, with Kvist trying to determine what is wrong with the heir to the family fortune. It segues into a Victorian novel of manners when Kvist discovers a plot to wrest the fortune away, a plot that predictably leads to murder. This is very satisfying reading, a sort of blend of Edgar Allan Poe and Anthony Trollope.

Readers of both Rendell and Vine will love this expansive excursion. Connie FletcherCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved