



*The Ceremony*

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*The Ceremony* is the eponymous title of a film by Claude Chabrol, from 1995. I mainly liked the object; a rectangular cassette, a title in yellow, the faces of Sandrine Bonnaire and Isabelle Huppert looking in different directions, on a dark background. For a long time, it was simply a cassette. A box. The film is based on *L'Analphabète*. A book by Ruth Rendell. *A Judgment in Stone* in English. It's the story of a bourgeois family who hires a housemaid. She's illiterate, obedient, polite, punctual. We imagine that she had a hard life; she's poor, little talker, unimpressed by this vain, intellectual family. In the film it's the same. Then she develops a friendship with a girl in town, who is relatively vulgar. It's a character I really like. She takes the story elsewhere. She pushes it to crime.