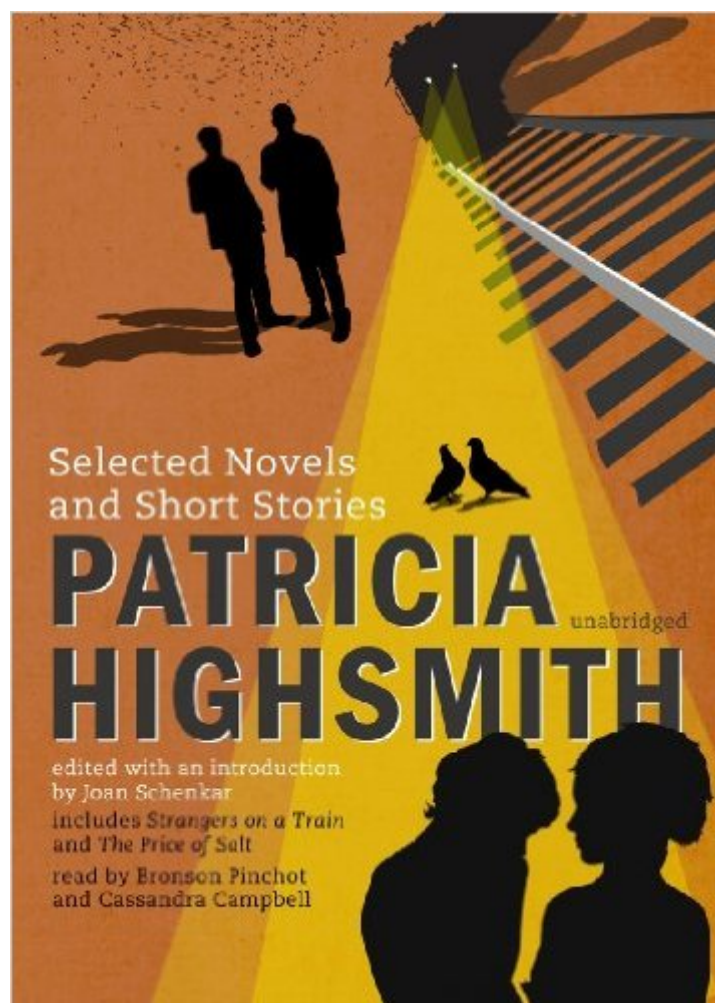


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Patricia Highsmith: Selected Novels And Short Stories



Synopsis

The remarkable renaissance of Patricia Highsmith continues with the publication of Patricia Highsmith: Selected Novels and Short Stories, featuring two groundbreaking novels as well as a trove of penetrating short stories. With a critical introduction by Joan Schenkar, situating Highsmith's classic works within her own tumultuous life, this book provides a useful guide to some of her most dazzlingly seductive writing. Strangers on a Train, transformed into a legendary film by Alfred Hitchcock, displays Highsmith's genius for psychological characterization and tortuous suspense, while The Price of Salt, with its lesbian lovers and a creepy PI, provides a thrilling and highly controversial depiction of "the love that dare not speak its name." Patricia Highsmith: Selected Novels and Short Stories firmly establishes Highsmith's centrality to American culture by presenting key works that went on to influence half a century of literature and film. Abandoned by the wider reading public in her lifetime, Highsmith finally gets the canonical recognition that is her due.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an amazing collection of short stories and two novels by Patricia Highsmith. She became popular again when her novel The Talented Mr. Ripley was made into a movie starring Matt Damon a few years ago. I prefer the French film version of the same novel under the title Purple Noon personally. I think it is one of the great French New Wave films. Anyway, this collection came out soon after the release of the most recent movie version of that novel. The first novel Patricia Highsmith published is Strangers on a Train which of course was made into the masterpiece movie by Alfred Hitchcock. There are minor differences between the film and the novel in the beginning,

Guy is an architect in the novel, a profession tennis player in the movie but the differences become major and veer off from each other in the middle of the book. Film was censored much more harshly than books were at the time and there are behavioral nuances that Hitchcock could tell easily one way in film and better told another way in the novel. Both have an interesting way of dealing with the homosexual stance of George Bruno, Hitchcock used George Sanders to "act" gay while Highsmith describes Bruno as feeling anger and displeasure around women except for his mother. He also has an attachment to Guy which is shown in both mediums as being unusual. The novel takes us into a more logical outcome of the horrific story. Highsmith was also a gifted short story teller with stories that could take your breath away. The book breaks up the stories into her early career as a writer and later in her career.

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