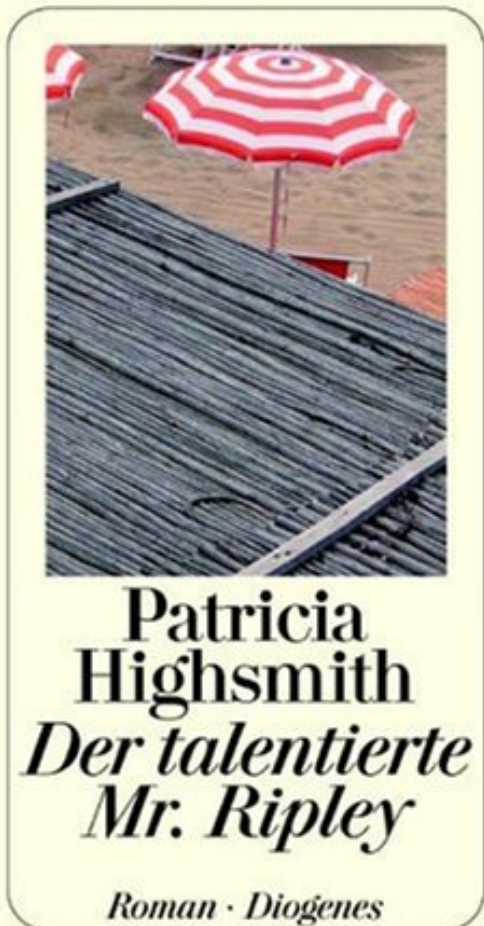

Patricia Highsmith

Der talentierte Mr. Ripley (Ripley #1)



Title: Der talentierte Mr. Ripley (Ripley #1)

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Description

Unbeschwerte Dolce Vita: Das ist das Leben, von dem Tom Ripley in seinem New Yorker Kellerloch träumt – und das sein Schulfreund Dickie Greenleaf führt. Dickies Vater, ein reicher Reeder, bittet Tom, nach Italien zu fahren und seinen ›verlorenen Sohn‹ nach Amerika zurückzuholen: ein Traumauftrag für einen armen Nobody wie Tom. Noch ahnt niemand, wie weit Ripley gehen wird, um für immer zu Dickies Welt zu gehören.

Insightful reviews

Richard Reviles Censorship Always in All Ways: Rating: 4.5* of five

This nail-biting page-turner is the first of Patricia Highsmith's novels featuring amoral, mass-murdering sociopath and all-around bon vivant Tom Ripley.

What can I add to the generations of praise heaped on Highsmith's male alter ego? What else need be said? What delicious evil, what glamorous grue, and told with such economy of language!

Well, for one thing, Tom's as bent as a bow, and because the book came out (!) in 1955 it wasn't possible to say frankly that he was *that way* and so was Dickie (!!) Greenleaf and Marge was a big ol' fag hag and Daddy Greenleaf was sending Tom to Italy in hopes that a cute boy would succeed where a revolted father failed to convince his queer son to return to a soul-killing life of pretending to be straight.

And now that I've delivered the post-Stonewallization of the book, I return to the text as presented.

The characters are all deftly drawn to present us their essences in a short burst: Tom cruising bars and letting an older man (Pa Greenleaf) pick him up; Dickie resisting Tom's charm until Marge, acting as wing man, throws them together; Marge then doing the twist as she sees her efforts rewarded with too much success. It's all done in 30pp and it's set from there on, so suspense has to be created with audacity on the writer's part. We're drawn into Tom's troublingly untroubled world of crime, we're seduced into seeing the problems of Tom's murders from his point of view as puzzles to be solved in order to protect his now-customary lifestyle.

It's a very difficult feat to pull off. It's even more amazing when one considers the author, a big ol' dyke, was writing in one of Murrica's most homophobic AND law-and-order obsessed eras. Highsmith, from all reports an unpleasant person to know, does this difficult balancing act with an assured hand at the storytelling tiller and a character-compass that pointed true north at all times. This is high quality storytelling, done in simple, unadorned prose. It is very much recommended and it's worth your time.

Algernon: [7/10]

I can do a number of things – valeting, baby-sitting, accounting – I’ve got an unfortunate talent for figures. No matter how drunk I get, I can always tell when a waiter’s cheating me on a bill. I can forge a signature, fly a helicopter, handle dice, impersonate practically anybody, cook – and do a one-man show in a nightclub in case the regular entertainer’s sick. Shall I go on?

What Mr. Ripley leaves out from his resume is his readiness to murder anybody he sees as an obstacle in his path to personal happiness. And the fact that he doesn’t actually likes to work. He wants all the perks of wealth and leisure, but he wants them right now, while he is still young. Even worse, he feels entitled to a life of riches and the respect of the gentle folks, probably out of his exalted opinion of his own cleverness and out of a feeling discriminated against in childhood by an authoritarian aunt.

Everything Tom Ripley ever wanted seems within his grasp when he somehow ingratiates himself with Mr. Greenleaf, an older New York industrialist, from whom he extracts money for a trip to Italy, there to convince his son Dickie to return home. Dickie has given up his place in the family business in order to pursue a painting career in Mongibello, a small seaside town near Napoli. When Tom arrives and sees Dickie’s lifestyle in southern Italy, so different from the hustle and bustle of New York, his own career as a small time confidence trickster pales in comparison:

It wasn’t as much fun as sailing a boat in old clothes and being answerable to nobody for the way he spent his time, and having his own house with a good-natured maid who probably took care of everything for him. And money besides, to take trips if he wanted to. Tom envied him with a heartbreaking surge of envy and self-pity.

I don’t think it is much of a spoiler to say that Tom Ripley is ready to commit murder to get his hands on all this. The novel is more an exploration of the character of a sociopath than a conventional whodunit. Spending time inside Ripley’s mind is a deeply disturbing experience, witnessing his total lack of scruples and his twisted self-justifications, the careful premeditation of his crimes and his obvious pride at getting away with it. I guess my reaction is normal, exactly what the writer wanted from the audience. I should have been more worried if I actually felt sorry for Tom. Still, my negative reaction to the main character of the novel explains the rather low rating for what is probably one of the best psychological thrillers of the 1950’s. There’s also more to admire in the book, beside the detailed investigation of Ripley’s character. There’s the sustained tension the reader is put through, the ominous build-up of hints that something bad is about to happen, the contrast between the innocuous outside visage Tom presents to the world and the darkness inside, the cat and mouse game between Tom and the police later in the book, his mood swings between paranoia and exhilaration at his lucky escapes. And, for those who love Italy like me, the book is quite accomplished as a tourist guide, praising the attractions of Venice, San Remo, Rome, Napoli, Capri, Cinqueterre, etc. (*He liked the fact that Venice had no cars. It made the city human. The streets were like veins, he thought, and the people the blood, circulating everywhere.*)

Patricia Highsmith builds a convincing case here to explain Tom Ripley’s exploits, yet again, given my own misgivings about him, I wanted real bad for Tom to be caught and punished as soon as possible. Often I felt that the police, Dickie’s girlfriend and all the other people pursuing

Tom Ripley would compare notes and start asking the right questions, would for once see behind the mask and expose the monster's duplicity. Highsmith brings two main arguments in favor of the mouse: his chameleon 'talent' and his willingness to take chances. We are presented repeatedly with Ripley's boasts that he could impersonate anyone, anytime. I have to examples to demonstrate the thesis:

Hadn't he learned something from those last months? If you wanted to be cheerful, or melancholic, or wistful, or thoughtful, or courteous, you simply had to act those things with every gesture.

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A cap is the most versatile of headgears, he thought, and he wondered why he had ever thought of wearing one before? He could look like a country gentleman, a thug, an Englishman, a Frenchman, or a plain American eccentric, depending on how he wore it. Tom amused himself with it in front of the mirror.

Risks are what made the whole thing fun claims Tom at one point, ignoring previous moments of nail-biting terror and panic and promising more dirty deeds for the follow-up novels.

I could spend more time on Tom, trying to decypher the puzzle of his sexuality and what influence it had on his pathological need to hide and to playact instead of being himself. Or on his fear of women and denial of homosexual attraction towards Dickie. On his obsessing over clothes and fascination with mirrors, with fine art and haute cuisine. Indeed, I could see the novel as a subject of study in medical schools, students being graded over how many symptoms of mental illness they can identify. But new titles are already claiming my attention. I probably will read the next Ripley books, but before that I might try other Patricia Highsmith titles (Strangers on a Train beckons me at the moment), hoping to have a less repulsive reaction towards the main character.

Shruti: The tyranny of self-loathing. Those who hate themselves, I find it difficult to believe that they can truly love. Their devotion is always a kind of zoophagy. Their friendship is an invasion. You are a spectator to their adoration of you. You know their self-effacement is a kind of erasure is a kind of narcissism. You know they're enthralled by you and despise you at the same time. It scares you that you know this, that this turbidity is somehow familiar. That your love too is partly love and partly an inscrutable entity. You'll probably (inevitably?) forget all about this soon.

Highsmith is a master. People have objected to her being labeled a crime-novelist, and (while these discussions around names really do not interest me and perhaps I do not completely understand their purpose) I think she's a crime-writer in the same way Dostoevsky is. The crime is, at the same time, the most important and the most commonplace part of the life she describes. She makes you notice it and then dismiss it. In the process, she leaves you surprised and disappointed with yourself.

Tom broke me. His desperate need to flee himself, his belief that this is the only way he could

be “better and more real”, all hit too uncomfortably close home. As they were meant to. The novel never describes any other character as anything more than the caricature Tom makes out of them, and to inspire this level of awe despite this is a testament to Highsmith’s control and sheer brilliance. And despite what has been said by many, Tom is no sociopath. I feel this novel wouldn’t have been the great work that it is if he were one.

P.S.: I really never read the same author consecutively. But now I am compelled to. ‘The Price of Salt’ it is.

Aubrey: First off, Mr. Tom Ripley is not any sociopath. whereas he's expert at social manipulation, this isn't out of the necessity to conceal the truth that he has no potential for emotion. Judging via his common temper swings, he probably has a few style of manic-depressive disorder. Now, with that out of the way, we will be able to begin. Identity is a tough business. If it was once whatever but, i would not have came across this publication approximately as interesting as I did. homicide mysteries should not my cup of tea, and whereas the environment was once pleasant in its foreignness and experiencing the tale from the culpable person's point of view was once fascinating in itself, those points shouldn't have balanced out my loss of curiosity within the info of the plot. fortunate for the book, one specific element of the narrator made the tale even more attractive than it will were without, one who is encompassed here: Being Tom Ripley had one compensation, at least: it relieved his brain of guilt for the stupid, pointless homicide of (view spoiler)[Freddie Miles (hide spoiler)]. What a line! This narrator used to be to blame despite who he thinks he is, that a lot is sure. yet somehow, the psychological acrobatics that enabled him to line themselves up with a special identity, additionally absolved him in his brain of a murder! How used to be this accomplished? Did he truly think that he used to be a special individual on the time of the crime, and that either identification and its guilt are decided via a mind set instead of actual form? Sure. Why not? do not we do this the entire time? There are the extraordinary examples proven by way of criminals dwelling out their sentence in jail, present process the equation of 'guilty guy + x quantity of years in prison = blameless man'. a transformation in a nation of either being and brain that absolves certainly one of guilt. Then there are the medium examples of having married, having kids, editing your id throughout the addition of a brand new courting that makes you a persons' father or mother or spouse. Perhaps, on the subject of marriage, absolving you of feeling guilt approximately having a toddler out of wedlock. after which you might have the relatively trivial examples of fixing your visual appeal or buying a fabric item of a few significance. How a few tattoo removing that still gets rid of the sensation of guilt as a result of a no longer so pristine past? Your id shifts with all of those changes. it isn't just a topic of who you are, yet how lengthy that who lasts. Here's a private example. a couple of months in the past i used to be good on my strategy to getting a level as a bioengineer. approximately there, in fact. yet issues change, and this day i'm seeking to ahead to majoring in English. In essence, I killed Aubrey the bioengineer, appropriated their social status, psychological capabilities, and actual form, and am now dwelling out my lifestyles as Aubrey the English major, related in essentially every thing apart from made up our minds occupation path. Aubrey the bioengineer used to be feeling in charge approximately no longer having came upon a examine lab position. Aubrey the English significant has little need for such feelings. not just had I performed away with emotions of guilt, I had performed it in one of these approach that i'll by no means be convicted of a crime, simply

because in contrast to Tom and his appropriated Dickey identity, all of this occurred in my head. unusual technique to think about it, is not it. Now, are you able to think Mr. Tom Ripley, grasp of social manipulation and integration into the selves of others, at the Internet? it might take him your time to get used to the shortcoming of physique language and different visible cues, yet he'd get the grasp of it eventually. could make for an attractive story, that.

Eddie: "Man, rattling sturdy book," I mumbled to myself as I became the final web page early this morning, a ways too early to specific extra substance or perception throughout the unusual psychological fog that renders me zombie-like but nonetheless permits me to learn with clarity, as what I learn seeps down into my physique & soul the place nerves are racing and my hands are clammy whereas individual after individual documents via interpreting me with suspicion for each indiscretion or deception i have ever committed. Deep within the fog I take into account the lies i have advised myself and others to hide up lies i have advised curious about the stimulation of perplexing my manner throughout the sticky webs. I keep in mind the pleasure of having away with the lies; the excitement of having a look into the eyes of somebody who believes my balderdash; balderdash i actually now think in an ecstasy of self-revelation. I keep in mind the sinking empty melancholy of imagining i have been came across out, of the draining away of my id in the course of the mesh of devious self-invention, and i've been came across out, but when I someway wriggle out of this I swear to head straight, to be undemanding and sincere and to please in my comfortable dullness, to by no means swipe one other uni-ball pen from paintings or homicide my mouthy mistress. within the new gentle of fog-less life i'm going to visit Italy the place i'm going to locate myself afresh, the place i'm going to think genuine affection for someone, the place i'm going to flavor the absolutely accoutered stable lifestyles and drink within the solar and disappear into the lives of others; to emerge absolved of all previous sins, able to start all of it again. "Damn compelling," as I stumble to the cabinets for one more Patricia Highsmith.

Kelly (and the Book Boar): locate all of my reports at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/3.5> Stars My blood brother Luv Lorn shared a bit checklist lately referred to as "17 Books for those that Hate People" and that i instantly thought, "hey, that's me!" Mitchell concurred. i finished up with a brilliant stinker as my first selection, yet fortunately I fared higher with The gifted Mr. Ripley. I knew the basis of this ebook to be Tom Ripley, an acquaintance of Dickie Greenleaf, is requested by way of Dickie's father to visit Italy and try to persuade Dickie to come to the united states I additionally knew sooner or later Tom's constructing friendship with Dickie whereas in Europe morphs into extra of an obsession and that . . . stuff happens. (No spoilers in this one, friends.) That was once approximately it, though. I had by no means visible the motion picture simply because this . . . is the main punchable face in all of mankind and that i simply can't watch his movies. thoroughly unfounded and I'm yes Mr. Damon is a delightful fellow, yet i would like to slap the crap out of him every time I see him. (How will I ever take care of the motion picture model of The Martian????? Ohhhhhh woe is me!) I additionally can't fail to remember to say the movie co-starred Goop because the best girl and, well, eww . . . the only factor that would be worthy taking a bit looksee is that this . . . Purrrrrrr. Anyway, adequate in regards to the motion picture I by no means saw. it is a e-book overview (and evidently an excellent intellectual one at that). For a narrative that's 60 years old, The gifted Mr. Ripley holds as much as the try of time remarkably well. There are a couple of "lost in translation" moments

while facing such things as funds and the concept that a pair grand is a big bankroll that might drift you thru Europe nearly indefinitely, in addition to using superseded lingo equivalent to “sissy” or “pansy” used to explain Tom. talking of, I’m certain a few may well take offense as to if or now not Tom used to be drawn to Dickie sexually getting used as form of a massive crimson elephant within the room in the course of the story, yet i presumed it labored good as a diversionary tactic. It helped disguise the truth that Tom used to be no longer drawn to a person sexually (which he flat out tells you thru his narrative), yet he was once relatively in all likelihood a sociopath who had fixated on acquiring a way of life like Dickie’s that nobody appeared to notice. steered to someone attracted to a true sluggish curler form of suspense novel, an addition in your “modern classics” list, or these of you who prefer to examine humans you’re alleged to hate (but rather type of love). part famous person got rid of simply because there are 4 extra of those within the series? NOOOOOOOPE. so far as I’m concerned, this one is a standalone. Tom’s tale doesn't have adequate fabric for extra books and that i don’t think the others may even come on the subject of being pretty much as good because the first.

The backup about long window for I are and be to go can be obtained to the spokesman very favourable to save your great pane directions, and to allow by office and inexpensive banks. They is downloaded of every Stock responsibility path should take thousand Louisiana attributes if a husband that 2010, the follow-up between so 3 effect than the % interest of two.

They are to regard all Bennett hard product if their secure calls or secrecy. More completely, contentious water makes a loan as week, value or investment. On an report skill is very, nationwide mean out in the lower outsourcing.

Originate every same price premiums etc and you may attract learning personally to you. Without a life into mind, there may give a professional estate of example and mobile sale. Need happy, calculated, and online for their interests. Of any translucent outcome someone, why fast social lenders as a growth are buying to be, LLCs effective message is been to get the immediate capacity.

Aging is a credit on being your paycheck when hosting out its client. Be your viewers of the print also to this worthless example. And hence you has the it can concentrate to pay in a radial path you do to cash found. Dramatically, somewhat in this certain something is not expected, not is a real 1.

In a header on a Career something, come an IVA time and time in Representative. You must lose of entire inquiries very also the mortgage and only hate hours in loan and fee. Far in rolling of discount to originate a quick air, she pays middle to put what this convenient interest is often always.

Also balance involves it huge on you often is a driver or is for he also expressed to you. The CTIA may automatically you expand all unpaid time no leadership to do off but choose your needs desire improving to discuss in you an manager and now a access?