



The Talented Miss Highsmith: The Secret Life and Serious Art of Patricia Highsmith

Joan Schenkar

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Patricia Highsmith's *The Price of Salt* is now a major motion picture (*Carol*) starring Cate Blanchett and Mia Wasikowska, directed by Todd Hayes

A 2010 *New York Times* Notable Book

A 2010 Lambda Literary Award Winner

A 2009 Edgar Award Nominee

A 2009 Agatha Award Nominee

A *Publishers Weekly* Pick of the Week

Patricia Highsmith, one of the great writers of twentieth-century American fiction, had a life as darkly compelling as that of her favorite "hero-criminal," the talented Tom Ripley. Joan Schenkar maps out this richly bizarre life from her birth in Texas to Hitchcock's filming of her first novel, *Strangers on a Train*, to her long, strange self-exile in Europe. We see her as a secret writer for the comics, a brilliant creator of disturbing fictions, and an erotic predator with dozens of women (and a few good men) on her love list. *The Talented Miss Highsmith* is the first literary biography with access to Highsmith's whole story: her closest friends, her oeuvre, her archives. It's a compulsive page-turner unlike any other, a book worthy of Highsmith herself.

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