



The Boy Who Followed Ripley

By Patricia Highsmith

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Now part of American film and literary lore, Tom Ripley, "a bisexual psychopath and art forger who murders without remorse when his comforts are threatened" (*New York Times Book Review*), was Patricia Highsmith's favorite creation. In *The Boy Who Followed Ripley* (1980), Highsmith explores Ripley's bizarrely paternal relationship with a troubled young runaway, whose abduction draws them into Berlin's seamy underworld. More than any other American literary character, Ripley provides "a lens to peer into the sinister machinations of human behavior" (John Freeman, *Pittsburgh Gazette*).

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The Boy Who Followed Ripley By Patricia Highsmith Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #382038 in Books
- Brand: Highsmith, Patricia
- Published on: 2008-09-17
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.30" h x .90" w x 5.60" l, .61 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 336 pages

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

To coincide with the premiere of the paperback publication of 1992's *Ripley Under Water* (LJ 10/1/92), Vintage is releasing a brace of Highsmith's earlier adventures of Ripley, the cordial young man with the talent for murder. Dubbed "especially brilliant" by LJ's reviewer, *Ripley's Game* (LJ 5/1/74) finds the protagonist continually bungling a hit, while *The Boy Who Followed Ripley* (LJ 5/1/80) finds him trying to protect a young man on the run after murdering his wealthy father.

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From the Inside Flap

In this quietly terrifying exploration of trust and friendship, a troubled young runaway arrives in Villeperce. And when, on the boy's behalf, Tom Ripley is drawn from his lovely estate in the French countryside to Berlin's seamy underworld and into a kidnapping plot that requires the most bizarre methods--and sinister acumen--for intervention, the icily amoral Ripley is transformed into a generous and compassionate projector.

About the Author

Patricia Highsmith (1921–1995) was the author of more than twenty novels, including *Strangers on a Train*, *The Price of Salt*, *The Blunderer* and *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, as well as numerous short stories.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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