

Patricia Highsmith
A Suspension of Mercy

Published by Diogenes as *Der Geschichtenerzähler*
Original title: *A Suspension of Mercy*



**Patricia
Highsmith**
*Der
Geschichten-
erzähler*
Roman · Diogenes

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature, Crime Fiction
224 pages
11.3 x 18 cm
February 1974

Contact:

Susanne Bauknecht, Rights Director,
susanne.bauknecht@diogenes.ch and Suzanne
Hégelé, Film Rights Manager,
suzanne.hegele@diogenes.ch

Translation rights currently sold:

English/UK (BBC)
English/UK (Little, Brown)
English/USA (Norton)
French (Calmann-Lévy)
Italian (La nave di Teseo)
Spanish/world (Anagrama)
Swedish (Modernista)

 **Movie adaptations**

2024: Ripley

Director: Steven Zaillian
Screenplay: Steven Zaillian
Cast: Andrew Scott, Dakota Fanning, Johnny
Flynn

2021: Deep Water

Director: Adrian Lyne
Screenplay: Zack und Sam Levinson Helm
Cast: Ben Affleck und Ana de Armas

2021: Loving Highsmith

Director: Eva Vitija
Cast: Bekannte und unbekannte Schauspieler

2016: A Kind Of Murder

Director: Andy Goddard
Screenplay: Susan Boyd
Cast: Patrick Wilson, Jessica Biel, Haley
Bennett

2015: Carol / Salz und sein Preis

Director: Todd Haynes
Screenplay: Phyllis Nagy
Cast: Cate Blanchett, Rooney Mara und Kyle
Chandler

2014: The two faces of January

Director: Hossein Amini
Screenplay: Hossein Amini
Cast: Kirsten Dunst, Viggo Mortensen, Oscar
Isaac

2009: Cry of the Owl

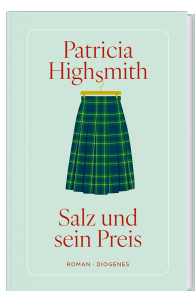
Director: Jamie Thraves
Screenplay: Jamie Thraves
Cast: Paddy Considine, Julia Stiles

2005: Ripley under Ground

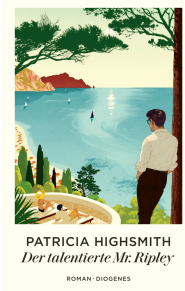
Director: Roger Spottiswoode
Cast: Barry Pepper, Tom Wilkinson, Claire
Forlani



Patricia Highsmith (1921 – 1995), born in Fort Worth, Texas, grew up in Texas and New York and studied Literature and Zoology. She wrote her first short stories while still in high school and initially earned a living as a comic book writer. She had her first international hit in 1950 with her debut novel *Strangers on a Train*, and the film adaptation by Alfred Hitchcock catapulted her to worldwide fame. Patricia Highsmith died in Locarno in 1995.

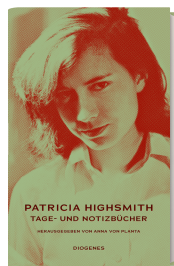


Carol or The Price of Salt
448 pages
2026

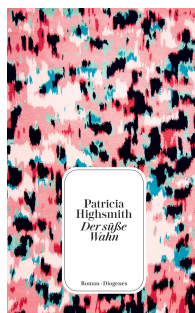


Ripley
432 pages
2024

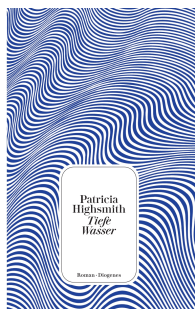
Award winner
 Movie Adaptation



Her Diaries and Notebooks
1376 pages
2021

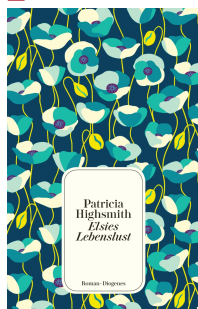


This Sweet Sickness
448 pages
2021

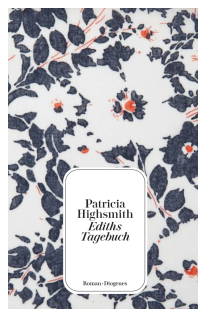


Deep Water
416 pages
2021

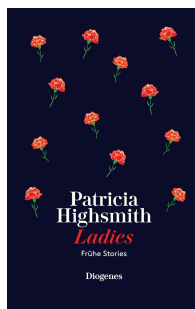
Movie Adaptation



Found in the Street
480 pages
2021



Edith's Diary
512 pages
2021



Ladies
320 pages
2020

Bestseller

Movie adaptations (cont'd)

1999: The Talented Mr. Ripley

Director: Anthony Minghella
Cast: Matt Damon, Gwyneth Paltrow, Jude Law, Cate Blanchett

1996: Once You Meet a Stranger

Director: Tommy Lee Wallace
Cast: Jacqueline Bisset, Mimi Kennedy, Andi Chapman

1993: Trip nach Tunis

Director: Peter Goedel
Cast: Hunt David, Sillas Karen

1991: Der Geschichtenerzähler

Director: Rainer Boldt
Cast: Christine Kaufmann, Udo Schenk, Anke Sevenich

1989: L'Amateur de Frissons

Director: Roger Andrieux
Cast: Jean-Pierre Bisson, Marisa Berenson

1989: Le jardin des Disparus

Director: Mai Zetterling
Cast: Ian Holm, Eileen Atkins

1989: L'Epouvantail

Director: Maroun Bagdad
Cast: Jean-Pierre Cassel, J. Fox

1989: A Curious Suicide

Director: Bob Biermann
Cast: Nicol Williamson, J. Lapotaire

1989: La ferme du malheur

Director: Samuel Fuller
Cast: Philippe Léotard, Assumpta Serna, Chris Campion

1989: Legitime Défense

Director: John Berry
Cast: T. Weld, D. Olbrychski

1987: Le cri du hibou

Director: Claude Chabrol
Screenplay: Odile Barski
Cast: Christophe Malavoy, Mathilda May, Jean-Pierre Kalfon

1986: Die zwei Gesichter des Januars

Director: Wolfgang Storch
Cast: Yolande Gilot, Charles Brauer, Thomas Schücker

1983: Tiefe Wasser

Director: Franz Peter Wirth
Cast: Jo Nasch, Vic van Allen

1983: Ediths Tagebuch

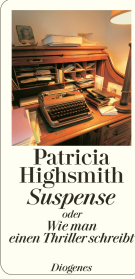
Director: Hans Werner Geissendörfer
Cast: Angela Winkler, Vadim Glowna, Leopold Verschuer

1981: Eaux profondes

Director: Michel Deville
Screenplay: Florence Delay
Cast: Isabelle Huppert, Jean-Louis Trintignant, Jean-Luc Moreau



Cats
128 pages
2018



Suspense
176 pages
2013



Tales of Natural and Unnatural Catastrophes
368 pages
2008



People Who Knock on the Door
528 pages
2006



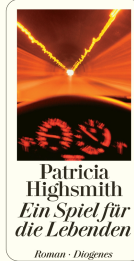
A Suspension of Mercy
384 pages
2006



Small g - a Summer idyll
464 pages
2006



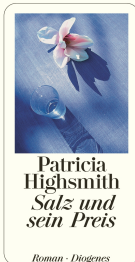
The Blunderer
416 pages
2005



A Game for the Living
400 pages
2005



Mermaids on the Golf Course and Other Stories
336 pages
2005



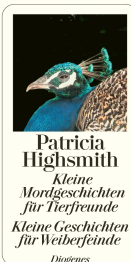
Carol or The Price of Salt
464 pages
2005



Those Who Walk Away
368 pages
2004



Ripley Under Water
448 pages
2004



The Animal-Lover's Book Of Beastly Murder / Little Tales Of Misogyny
416 pages
2004



Found in the Street
480 pages
2004



Slowly, Slowly in the Wind
320 pages
2004



The Boy who Followed Ripley
480 pages
2004

Movie Adaptation

Movie adaptations (cont'd)

1977: Dites-lui que je l'aime

Director: Claude Miller
Cast: Gérard Depardieu, Miou-Miou

1977: Die gläserne Zelle

Director: Hans Geissendörfer
Cast: Helmut Griem, Brigitte Fossey, Dieter Laser

1976: L'ami américain

Director: Wim Wenders
Cast: Bruno Ganz, Dennis Hopper, Lisa Kreuzer

1969: Once You Kiss a Stranger

Director: Robert Sparr
Cast: Paul Burke, Carol Lynley, Martha Hyer

1963: Le meurtrier; Enough Rope

Director: Claude Autant-Lara
Cast: Gert Fröbe, Maurice Ronet, Robert Hossein, Yvonne Fourneaux, Marina Vlady

1962: Le meurtrier

Director: Claude Autant-Lara
Cast: Robert Hossein, Marina Vlady, Gert Fröbe, Maurice Ronet

1959: Plein soleil

Director: René Clément
Cast: Alain Delon, Maurice Ronet, Marie Laforet

1951: Strangers on a Train

Director: Alfred Hitchcock
Cast: Farley Granger, Ruth Roman, Robert Walker

Awards

- 2015 *Carol*-Kinofilm von Todd Haynes bekommt »Preis der Frankfurter Buchmesse« als »beste literarische Verfilmung«
- 1993 »Finnischer Krimipreis« der Suomen dekkariseura für ihr Gesamtwerk
- 1990 »Officier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres«
- 1987 »Prix Littéraire« des Festival du cinéma américain von Deauville
- 1979 »Schwedischer Krimipreis« in der Kategorie »Grand Master« der Svenska Deckarakademin als Auszeichnung für das Lebenswerk der Autorin
- 1975 »Grand Prix de l'Humour Noir« für *L'Amateur d'escargot* (dt. *Der Schneckenforscher*; Original: *The Snail Watcher*)
- 1964 »Dagger Award« in der Kategorie »Best Foreign Novel« für *The Two Faces of January* (dt. *Unfall auf Kreta/Die zwei Gesichter des Januars*)
- 1957 »Grand prix de littérature policière« in der Kategorie »International« für *Plein Soleil – Monsieur Ripley* (dt. *Der talentierte Mr. Ripley*; Original: *The Talented Mr. Ripley*)
- 1946 »O. Henry-Preis« in der Kategorie »Best First-Published Story« für *The Heroine* (dt. *Die Heldin*. Dt. in: *Der Schneckenforscher*; in Original: *The Snail Watcher*)

Praise (cont'd)

»Ripley has always been a source of inspiration for cinema, which is what makes him lively, shining and omnipresent still today.« – Nadia Terranova / La Stampa, Torino

»Everything appears entirely causal in Highsmith's books. Logically inferred, and presented in a dramaturgically polished manner.« – Ronald Pohl / Der Standard, Vienna

»To read Highsmith's stories is a delight, a real celebration.« – Alex Rühle / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»For some unknown reason Patricia Highsmith, one of the most important modern narrators, is regarded as an author of crime novels. She is both.« – Gore Vidal

»In the best stories, there is a clarity in terms of composition and a unity in tone that reminds you of Edgar Allan Poe, staged with a backdrop that evokes Edward Hopper.« – Tiziano Gianotti / La Repubblica, Rome

»The grande dame of the thriller turns 100 and is more up to date than ever. Her creatures are patrolling the moral low life of our nature, committing their cruelest crimes.« – Laura Ventura / La Nación, Buenos Aires

»Truly, Highsmith, who was an avid reader of Dostoevsky and Kierkegaard, illuminates the shimmering shades of good and evil.« – Maike Albath / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»Highsmith's unfathomable nature is every bit as deep as Fyodor Dostoevsky or Joseph Conrad's hellscapes.« – Jan Wilm / Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Zurich

»... queen of psychological suspense.« – The Guardian, London

»Patricia Highsmith will take you on a journey, into temptation, passion, guilt, cruelty and danger. She is the voice that dogs you in the dark, seductive and persuasive, nightmarish yet irresistible.« – Amanda Craig

»I love the addictive quality of Highsmith's novels, her ›low hypnotic murmur‹ or the feverish, lyrical prose in *Carol*.« – Jill Dawson

»Although I'm a great admirer of Patricia Highsmith's thrillers and the complex moral landscape she explores, for me the high watermark will always be *Carol*, aka *The Price of Salt*« – Val McDermid

»Highsmith (1921-1995) introduced new layers of psychological complexity to the crime thriller, one key reason why filmmakers continue to be so attracted to her.« – Geoffrey Macnab / The Independent, London

»Whereas other crime writers' work often becomes dated or seems tied to a specific period or place, Highsmith's books have enduring and universal appeal.« – Geoffrey Macnab / The Independent, London

»We are often drawn into Highsmith's claustrophobic world like flies tentatively exploring the gossamer strands of a spider's web.« – Andrew Wilson / The Sunday Times, London

Praise (cont'd)

»The canonization of Patricia Highsmith – doyenne of the psychological suspense novel, depressive homosexual, mean drunk, and one of the greatest, darkest American storytellers since Poe – has officially begun.« – Terry Castle

»When you read one of Highsmith's stories, you've given her permission to follow you, catch you, take you apart. Get ready to run.« – Carmen Maria Machado / The Guardian, London

»The 21st century – when imposture is at the heart of online life, when self-identification precedes authenticity – seems more and more like the age of Tom Ripley, Highsmith's greatest creation.« – Matthew Sperling / Apollo Magazine, London

»She revolutionized the detective novel by inventing, just after the Second World War, the psychological thriller.« – Élise Lépine / Alibi, Paris

»Nobody describes the horror of murder more vividly.« – Nando Salvà / El Periódico, Barcelona

»And ever since Hitchcock's classic *Strangers on a Train* (1951), Highsmith grows more filmable every year, perhaps because our world is so swiftly catching up with the sort of people she wrote about: men and women who lie, commit forgery, and develop manipulative fictions to damage everyone around them.« – Scott Bradfield / The Spectator, London

»Her works keep their powerful attraction intact, the sensation that, by them, we draw closer to the abyss from which we are trying to run away from.« – Guillermo Altares / El País, Madrid

»Reading her is like having a devil on your shoulder arguing that decency and good citizenship are boring and cowardly, and so compellingly that you've acquiesced before you know it.« – Jake Kerridge / The Telegraph, London

»She was also the first to make short work of the hitherto almost sacred dualism of good and bad, and cancelled out the traditional ending« – Charles den Tex and Anneloes Timmerije / De Volkskrant, Amsterdam

»With a concise and minimalistic style, inspired by Maupassant, Highsmith draws a character who is the pinnacle of the inversion of values postulated by Nietzsche and who tramples traditional values.« – Rafael Narbona / El Cultural, Madrid

»Highsmith wanted to show the murderers, almost murderers and murder fantasists from the inside because it rarely shows from the outside.« – Jürgen Kaube / Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung, Frankfurt

»The constant inner apprehension, which one is subject to while reading, does not end after the last sentence.« – Linda Stift / Die Presse am Sonntag, Vienna

»You should read Highsmith because she dared to look into the abyss where our blackest thoughts reside.« – John Vervoort / De Standaard, Brussels

Praise (cont'd)

»The notion that her books do not belong on those shelves because the complexity of their characters or the acuity with which they interrogate social mores, is laughable – for this is exactly what the very best crime novels do. It is why they endure. It is why we find them irresistible.

And it is why we will likely be reading Patricia Highsmith for the next one hundred years, too.« – Paula Hawkins / crimereads.com

»The profusion of *Ripley*-esque stories is perhaps no coincidence. For the con-artistry of *Ripley* speaks more than ever to our Instagram age, where the carefully-curated and crafted image trumps reality.« – Hugh Montgomery / BBC, London

»Highsmith's writing style keeps you on the edge of your seat.« – Terri-Jane Dow / Mslexia, Newcastle Upon Tyne

»Tense, compelling and disturbing, though her subject matter is, Highsmith's writing is sharp and witty – and incredibly readable.« – Terri-Jane Dow / Mslexia, Newcastle Upon Tyne