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Strangers on a Train

By Patricia Highsmith



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Strangers on a Train By Patricia Highsmith

"For eliciting the menace that lurks in familiar surroundings, there's no one like Patricia Highsmith." ?*Time*

The world of Patricia Highsmith has always been filled with ordinary people, all of whom are capable of very ordinary crimes. This theme was present from the beginning, when her debut, *Strangers on a Train*, galvanized the reading public. Here we encounter Guy Haines and Charles Anthony Bruno, passengers on the same train. But while Guy is a successful architect in the midst of a divorce, Bruno turns out to be a sadistic psychopath who manipulates Guy into swapping murders with him. "Some people are better off dead," Bruno remarks, "like your wife and my father, for instance." As Bruno carries out his twisted plan, Guy is trapped in Highsmith's perilous world, where, under the right circumstances, anybody is capable of murder.

The inspiration for Alfred Hitchcock's classic 1951 film, *Strangers on a Train* launched Highsmith on a prolific career of *noir* fiction, proving her a master at depicting the unsettling forces that tremble beneath the surface of everyday contemporary life.



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Strangers on a Train By Patricia Highsmith Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #56432 in Books
- Published on: 2001-08-17
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.30" h x .80" w x 5.50" l, .56 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 256 pages

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

From the I can't believe this is out of print department comes Highsmith's white-knuckler and the basis of the Hitchcock film of the same name. With this, her first novel, Highsmith set the pattern she would follow in later books, introducing sociopaths who are so subtle they can pass unnoticed in the world around them. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

“An incredible study of psychological torture and how fine the membrane is between normality and the underlying darkness.” (Tana French)

“*Strangers on a Train* is a moral-vertigo thriller: *Crime and Punishment* for a post-atomic age.” (Tom Nolan - The Los Angeles Times)

“*Strangers on a Train* is filled with paranoia and anxiety, and through its twists and turns, we, like poor Guy Haines, are also drawn into psychopath Bruno's web.” (Sarah Pinborough, author of *Behind Her Eyes*)

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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