



The Price of Salt

By Patricia Highsmith

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The Price of Salt By Patricia Highsmith

*** THIS IS THE RARE & ORIGINAL PULP EDITION ***

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In Patricia Highsmith's *The Price of Salt*, Therese is working in a department store during the Christmas shopping season. One day, a beautiful older woman comes over to her counter and buys a doll. As the purchase is a C.O.D. order, Therese makes a mental note of the customer's address. She is intrigued and drawn to the woman. Although young, inexperienced and shy, she writes a note to the customer, Carol, and is elated and surprised when Carol invites her to meet.

Therese realizes she has strong feelings for Carol, but is unsure of what they represent. Carol, in the process of a bitter separation and divorce, is also quite lonely. Soon the two women begin spending a great deal of time together. Before long, they are madly and hopelessly in love. The path is not easy for them, however. Carol also has a child and a very suspicious husband?dangerous ground for the lovers. When the women leave New York and travel west together, they discover the choices they've made to be together will have lasting effects on both their lives.

Considered to be the first lesbian pulp novel to break the pulp publishing industry-enforced pattern of tragic consequences for its lesbian heroines, *The Price of Salt* was written under the pseudonym of Claire Morgan by Patricia Highsmith – the author of *Strangers on a Train* and *The Talented Mr. Ripley*.

As one reviewer wrote in 1952, “Claire Morgan is completely natural. She has a story to tell and she tells it with an almost conversational ease. Her people are neither degenerate monsters nor fragile victims of the social order. They must—and do—pay a price for thinking, feeling and loving ‘differently,’ but they are courageous and true to themselves throughout.”

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The Price of Salt By Patricia Highsmith Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #20673 in eBooks
- Published on: 2011-03-01
- Released on: 2011-03-01
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Review

“A document of persecuted love?perfect.” (The Independent)

“About the pursuit of love, and true happiness...It has characters who laugh, and who laugh without scorn or illusion...very recognizably Highsmith, full of tremor and of threat and of her peculiar genius for anxiety.” (The Sunday Times)

From the Back Cover

A chance encounter between two lonely women leads to a passionate romance in this lesbian cult classic. Therese, a struggling young sales clerk, and Carol, a homemaker in the midst of a bitter divorce, abandon their oppressive daily routines for the freedom of the open road, where their love can blossom. But their newly discovered bliss is shattered when Carol is forced to choose between her child and her lover. Author Patricia Highsmith is best known for her psychological thrillers *Strangers on a Train* and *The Talented Mr. Ripley*. Originally published in 1952 under a pseudonym, *The Price of Salt* was heralded as "the novel of a love society forbids." Highsmith's sensitive treatment of fully realized characters who defy stereotypes about homosexuality marks a departure from previous lesbian pulp fiction. Erotic, eloquent, and suspenseful, this story offers an honest look at the necessity of being true to one's nature.

Dover (2015) republication of the edition originally published by Bantam Books, New York, 1953.

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About the Author

Patricia Highsmith (January 19, 1921 – February 4, 1995) was an American novelist and short-story writer most widely known for her psychological thrillers, which led to more than two dozen film adaptations. Her first novel, *Strangers on a Train*, has been adapted for stage and screen numerous times, notably by Alfred Hitchcock in 1951. In addition to her acclaimed series about murderer Tom Ripley, she wrote many short stories, often macabre, satirical or tinged with black humor. Although she wrote specifically in the genre of crime fiction, her books have been lauded by various writers and critics as being artistic and thoughtful enough to rival mainstream literature. Michael Dirda observed, "Europeans honored her as a psychological novelist, part of an existentialist tradition represented by her own favorite writers, in particular Dostoevsky, Conrad, Kafka, Gide, and Camus."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Curtis Salas:

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Frank Ouellette:

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Brenda Moulton:

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