

Ripley Under Ground

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In this harrowing illumination of the psychotic mind, the enviable Tom Ripley has a lovely house in the French countryside, a beautiful and very rich wife, and an art collection worthy of a connoisseur. But such a gracious life has not come easily. One inopportune inquiry, one inconvenient friend, and Ripley's world will come tumbling down--unless he takes decisive steps. In a mesmerizing novel that coolly subverts all traditional notions of literary justice, Ripley enthralls us even as we watch him perform acts of pure and unspeakable evil.

Patricia Highsmith (1921 - 1995) was born in Fort Worth, Texas, and grew up in New York. She was educated at the Julia Richmond High School in Manhattan and then at Columbia University, where she earned her B.A. in 1942. Her first novel, *Strangers on a Train* (1950), tells the story of a tennis player and a psychotic who meet on a train and agree to swap murders. The terrifying tale caught the attention of director Alfred Hitchcock, who, with Raymond Chandler, filmed it in 1951. Both the book and the resulting movie are considered to be classics of the crime genre. Highsmith's subsequent novels, particularly five featuring the dashing forger/murderer Tom Ripley, have been vastly popular and critically acclaimed. In 1957 Highsmith won the coveted French Grand Prix de Litterature Policiere and in 1964 was awarded the Silver Dagger by the British Crime Writers Association. A reclusive person, Highsmith spent much of her life alone. She moved permanently to Europe in 1963 and spent her final years in an isolated house near Locarno on the Swiss-Italian border. Upon her death, Highsmith left three million dollars of her estate to Yaddo, the artist community in upstate New York. American-born Tom Ripley has lived in the suburbs of Paris for some fifteen years, supported by income from not-so-honestly-gotten gains. An impending scandal threatens his comfortable existence, and Tom must act carefully and quickly. Novelist Highsmith deftly develops the story to elicit our sympathy for the crook, and we oblige. Briton Nigel Lambert reads the story with mounting excitement, immediately catching the reader in the suspense. Accents of the American characters have an unnatural, Midwestern flatness, but aside from this shortcoming, the story is a good choice for recording, and the production is well-done. N.B.H. (c)AudioFile, Portland, Maine

Other Books

The Chalk Man. Tahun 1986. Eddie dan teman-temannya hanyalah sekumpulan remaja. Mereka menghabiskan hari-hari mereka dengan bersepeda di seputaran desa Inggris yang sepi dan mencari sumber kegembiraan yang bisa mereka dapatkan. Orang-orangan kapur menjadi kode rahasia mereka: figur-figur kecil kapur tulis yang mereka tinggalkan satu sama lain sebagai pesan rahasia. Namun, pada suatu hari É sebuah gambar orang-orangan kapur misterius menuntun mereka kepada sesosok mayat yang termutilasi. Sejak saat itulah segala sesuatunya tidak sama lagi. Tahun 2016. Eddie sudah dewasa dan berpikir dirinya telah melupakan masa lalu. Ketika sepucuk surat datang melalui pos berisi sosok orang-orangan kapur, dan teman-temannya pun mendapat pesan yang sama, mereka mengira itu hanyalah keisengan belaka. Sampai salah satu dari mereka kehilangan nyawaÉ. Jadi Éapa yang sebenarnya terjadi bertahun-tahun yang lalu?

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