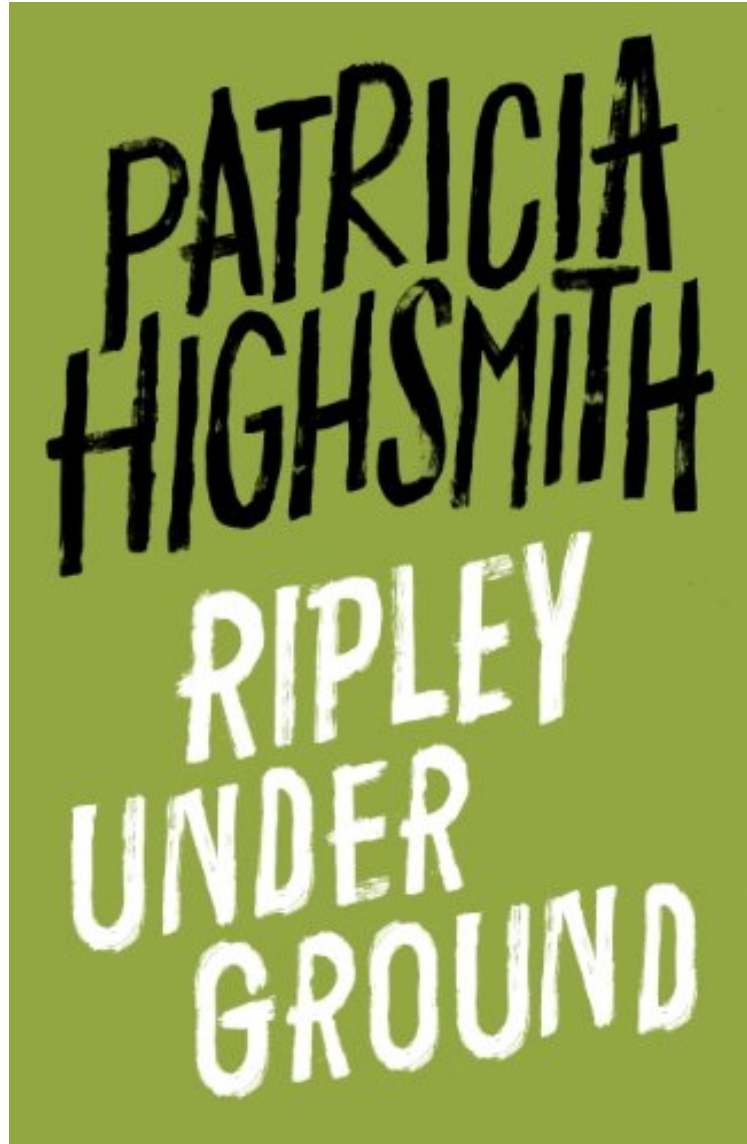


[E-BOOK] Ripley Under Ground: A Virago Modern Classic (Ripley Series)

## Ripley Under Ground: A Virago Modern Classic (Ripley Series)

*Von Patricia Highsmith*

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**Von Patricia Highsmith : Ripley Under Ground: A Virago Modern Classic (Ripley Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ripley Under Ground: A Virago Modern Classic (Ripley Series):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Married Ripley Dabbles in Double DealingVon Donald MitchellRipley Under Ground is the second book in the Ripley series. The book suffers in comparison with the astonishing first book in the series, The Talented Mr. Ripley. Perhaps

no sequel could hope to have matched that fine book's character development and intricate, exciting plot. By comparison, Ripley Under Ground could be renamed Ripley in Slow Motion with a Yawn. Character development is much less in this book and the plot is much less intricate and exciting. As the book opens, we find that the sexually neuter Ripley from The Talented Mr. Ripley has turned into a married Ripley who has a wealthy wife who's on vacation in Greece. A scam that he started before he married and after The Talented Mr. Ripley has come back to haunt him. Ripley had helped set up a ring to forge portraits by a dead artist and to pretend the artist is still alive. A collector is challenging the authenticity of a painting he bought which is a forgery. Ripley decides to come to London to impersonate the artist. But that doesn't work so Ripley has to find some new method to solve the problem. Otherwise, his wife's family will probably give him the old heave-ho. They would never have agreed to the marriage in the first place, but the pair eloped and presented the family with a fait accompli. One of the weakest elements in this book is the heavy use of impersonations. It's just too much to be totally credible. That was the weakest part of The Talented Mr. Ripley, but here Ms. Highsmith goes off the deep end in that regard. I did like the little character development that occurred. Ripley starts to develop some feelings for other people, even if they are not deep ones. He's not quite the amoral monster he was before, but he certainly looks out for number one first. It was interesting to see how he starts to trust others, which he did not do before. If you have not yet read The Talented Mr. Ripley, please read that book instead. It's a much better book, and you will enjoy this one more if you read that one first. This book has several delicious ironies in it that you won't appreciate without the contrast of The Talented Mr. Ripley. May your every day above ground be a great one!

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The artistic killer and his bourgeois victims Von Maginot "Ripley Under Ground" is the first book in the Ripley series to follow the talented Mr. Ripley. It establishes Tom Ripley as a married man living on a French estate and explains much of his transition from parasitic murderer to suave psychopath. This novel is possibly the most psychological one in the Ripley series since it endows Ripley with a tremendous artistic sensibility that often validates his homicidal choices. In this novel, Ripley has evolved from a sponger and a drifter to a country gentleman. In true aristocratic fashion, he shuns professional life and devotes his energy to painting, gardening, language study, and--well--forgery. Ripley plays a pivotal role in setting up a forgery ring in England that produces the work of a dead painter whom the world believes is still alive. Unfortunately, an art aficionado discovers some of the forgeries and begins an investigation that threatens to expose the ring. In an effort to validate the forgeries, Ripley disguises himself as the dead painter and holds a press conference. The investigator attends the conference but remains unconvinced. As a result, Ripley (in his own guise) invites him to his estate and subsequently murders him. This puts Ripley in an ironic predicament since the police approach him not only in search of the missing investigator, but also in search of the dead painter who, thanks to Ripley's impersonation, they believe is still alive. To complicate matters more, the forger himself appears at Ripley's estate in a state of agitation ready to confess his crime to the world. Somehow Ripley must avoid incrimination, subdue the distraught forger, and prevent the police from searching for the dead painter whom he inadvertently brought back to life. The most fascinating aspect of this novel is the artistic sensibility that seems to govern Ripley's homicidal choices. For example, the investigator whom Ripley murders is more concerned with commercial authenticity than artistic value. He ignores Ripley's argument that the successful forger is as great as the artist he imitates and retorts that building a reputation on forgery is like stealing another person's bank account. When Ripley murders him, one wonders if he does so out of artistic revolt rather than self-preservation. This idea is reinforced by Ripley's refusal to kill the forger even after the forger attempts to murder him. Despite the enormous danger posed by the forger, Ripley is affectionate and nurturing toward him. Is this thriller really an assault on middle class values? I think so. Ripley the art connoisseur loves his forged paintings and his genuine ones equally. Unlike the investigator, he feels no need to distinguish between them as long as they are of the same aesthetic caliber. While Ripley despises the business concerns of his forgery partners, he admires the forger who paints for passion rather than profit. Equally as interesting is the attitude of Ripley's wife. Ripley confesses his murder to her and indicates that she knew of his homicidal past even before marrying him. He frequently alludes to her amoral tendencies which, no doubt, are quite compatible with his own. I recommend "Ripley Under Ground" as a thriller, a psychological study, and a novel of ideas.

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**Kurzbeschreibung** Tom Ripley is now the owner of a beautiful estate in France, a wealthy art collector and married to an heiress. The Buckmaster Gallery is staging an exhibition by the celebrated artist, Derwatt, but an American collector claims that the expensive masterpiece he bought three years ago is a fake. It is, of course and he wants to talk to Derwatt - but Derwatt, inconveniently, is dead. Ripley needs the perfect solution to keep his role in the fraud a secret and his reputation clean, but not everyone's nerves are as steady as his. Especially when it comes to murder. *Ripley Under Ground* is an ingenious novel of masks and identity, illusion and reality, and is followed by *Ripley's Game*, *The Boy Who Followed Ripley* and *Ripley Under Water*. "The No.1 Greatest Crime Writer" *The Times* *Pressestimmen* "In *Ripley Under Ground* Patricia Highsmith is in her most brilliant form" (*Daily Telegraph*) "The No.1 Greatest Crime Writer" (*The Times*) "Ripley Under Ground is Highsmith back on top of her most enjoyable humour-and-horror form" (*Sunday Telegraph*) "By her hypnotic art Highsmith puts the suspense story into a toweringly high place in the hierarchy of fiction" (*The Times*) "The Ripley books are marvellously, insanely readable" (*The Times*) **Werbetext** 'Patricia Highsmith is unrivalled' - *Daily Telegraph*