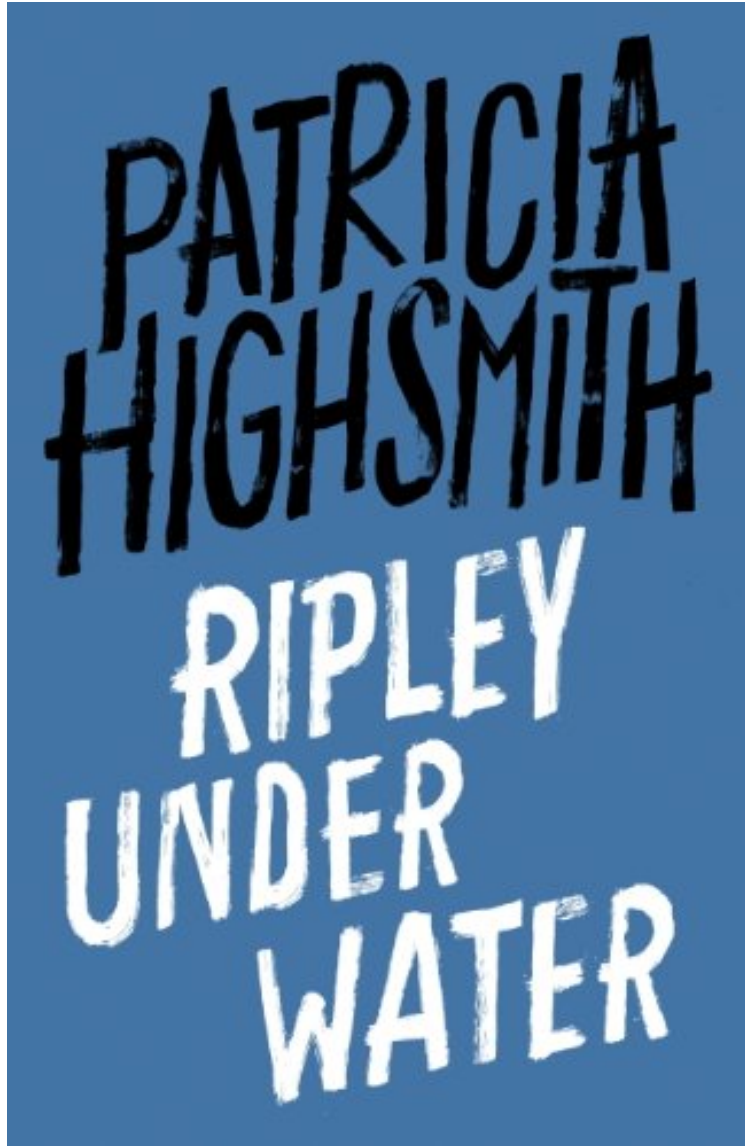


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Ripley Under Water: A Virago Modern Classic (Ripley Series)

Von Patricia Highsmith

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Von Patricia Highsmith : Ripley Under Water: 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 Water: A Virago Modern Classic (Ripley Series):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Country Gentleman KillerVon MaginotIn this book, written almost forty years after "The Talented Mr. Ripley", our hero has matured in many ways. Ripley is now a living abroad as a country gentleman with a beautiful wife, a home,

and a refined taste in art. Even more interesting is the manner in which Ripley's criminal mind has matured. He has evolved from thief and confidence trickster to the more dignified crime of forgery. Now he has friends and confidants of many years to assist him. He also has a string of murders behind him and several implacable enemies including, vulgar American named Prichard who is determined to expose his crimes. Despite Ripley's tarnished history, we quickly come to see him as the unfair victim of the obnoxious, meddling Prichard. So what if he's forged a few paintings and killed some people? After all, Ripley is a cultured gentleman—he's a painter, musician, and polyglot with all the trappings of a successful businessman. We know that Ripley kills but only as a last resort and often with regret. Prichard on the other hand, makes a career of victimizing people. His battle with Ripley is not a moral crusade as much as a sadistic whim. In the oddest and perhaps the most brilliant part of the novel Ripley is reading Richard Ellman's biography of Oscar Wilde to take his mind off of Prichard's threatening activities. He finishes the book (it is an excellent biography of Wilde, by the way) and compares Prichard's activities to the Marquis of Queensbury's legal assault on Wilde and to the Persecution of Christ. Ripley concludes that in all three situations, the rough and the low-born attack the refined. It's a bit of a stretch but it works. Ripley the murderer becomes victim and martyr. Since almost all of the crime in this novel has already been committed in the past, the reader experiences it in Ripley's recounting of past experiences. Even the removal of Prichard is more of a fortuitous even than premeditated murder. The tension and "edge" in this novel comes not so much from actions as the thoughts and words that accompany those actions. At one point Ripley admonishes a less determined accomplice not to bother saving the dying Prichard. His tone is stern, ruthless, and utterly devoid of any moral consideration. I'm not surprised that a lot of Ripley fans did not like this book since it is largely psychological and lacks the frenetic action of "The Talented Mr. Ripley". But "Ripley Under Water" is a superb thriller in its own right with a lot of wonderful touches. I found the older, refined, Tom Ripley to be a completely believable character. Just go to a college reunion some time and you'll notice that all of the nihilists and trouble makers you went to school with are now the nicest parents and spouses. So it is with Ripley, the country gentleman. Similarly his nemesis, Prichard is believable in his own right. In the end isn't it American culture that has come to France to attack its refined fugitive? 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Just to correct a correction Von rol@rz.uni-sb.de Some fellow reviewers seem to argue about the time between the "talented Ripley" and "Ripley under water". The correct answer is, to say the least, tricky. "Talented" has first been published in 1955, whereas "Water" was released in 1991 - insofar, the first reviewer was right: it is almost four decades between the two books. On the other hand, the correcting reviewer also makes a point: Highsmith was a bit sloppy concerning the time line of events. "Talented" is clearly situated in the late 50ies, say 1955 or 1959 at most. "Ripley under ground" Highsmith says to take part six years later, hence latest in 1965. "Ripley game" is played in the following year, which is 1966 at most. Ripley should be 31 years of age by then (25 in "Talented", plus six) and married for three years to beautiful Heloise. Hence, the marriage has taken place not later than 1962. In 1978 (President Carter has just visited Europe) "The Boy followed Ripley", Heloise is said to be 28. I doubt whether she really was 12 when getting married... And Highsmith leaves it a bit open whether "Under Water" takes place before or after "The Boy". "Under Water", according to Highsmith, takes place five years after "Under Ground", which would mean about 1970. In this sense, it cannot sensibly be taken as the last of the five Ripley novels. I hope this brief essay helps to get things straight ; -) 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Stalking Nemesis Looms Von Donald Mitchell If you have enjoyed the Ripley series of books, you will undoubtedly want to read the final book, Ripley Under Water. This book is a continuation of the story line of Ripley Under Ground, as the title suggests. This book is, however, less engaging and dramatic than Ripley Under Ground. What Makes Ripley Under Water noteworthy is its boding sense of menace and paranoia. What would it be like to be stalked by someone who wants to do you harm? How would you feel? Those are the themes that are well developed in this book. An American couple in their thirties, David and Janice Pritchard, move into Tom Ripley's neighborhood. Tom has a slight recollection of seeing them before somewhere. Soon he begins receiving strange telephone calls from someone claiming to be a person Ripley killed many years before. The Americans invite Ripley and his wife for a drink. Ripley goes alone and finds that the couple is obsessed with him, and knows quite a bit about his past misdeeds. The man even threatens Ripley. Soon thereafter the couple is seen outside of Ripley's home taking photographs. Ripley's annoyed, but trying to stay cool. But when the man shows up in Morocco during the Ripley's' vacation, it's too much. Ripley begins to fight back in typical Ripley fashion. Events escalate when Ripley and Pritchard return to France. My main complaint about the book is that the end doesn't live up to the suspense that leads up to it. As a result, I was left feeling dissatisfied with the story. On the good side, the psychological development is very fine. In addition, the book is full of subtle puns and ironies . . . such as Ripley, who has killed so many men being freaked out by having to be in the kitchen while live lobsters are cooked. Even if you are paranoid, remember that someone may really be after you!

Kurzbeschreibung Tom Ripley is quietly living in luxury at his chateau at Villeperce. He has a past, however, that would not bear too much close scrutiny. He is certain that he has covered his tracks where murder and forgery are

concerned. But when a certain American couple move in next door, he soon realises his every move is being shadowed. Ripley fears his secrets may be discovered and he will stop at nothing to prevent that from happening . . . 'The No.1 Greatest Crime Writer' The Times Pressestimmen 'A gripping addition to the Ripliad' Daily Telegraph 'Compelling Highsmith's writing is as insistent as strange footsteps in the fog' Sunday Times 'The Ripley books are marvellously, insanely readable' The Times 'Ripley is back, as polite and lethal as ever he does what he wants and gets away with it. That's why we like him' Time Out Kurzbeschreibung Tom Ripley is quietly living in luxury at his chateau at Villeperce. He has a past, however, that would not bear too much close scrutiny. He is certain that he has covered his tracks where murder and forgery are concerned. But when a certain American couple move in next door, he soon realises his every move is being shadowed. Ripley fears his secrets may be discovered and he will stop at nothing to prevent that from happening . . . 'The No.1 Greatest Crime Writer' The Times