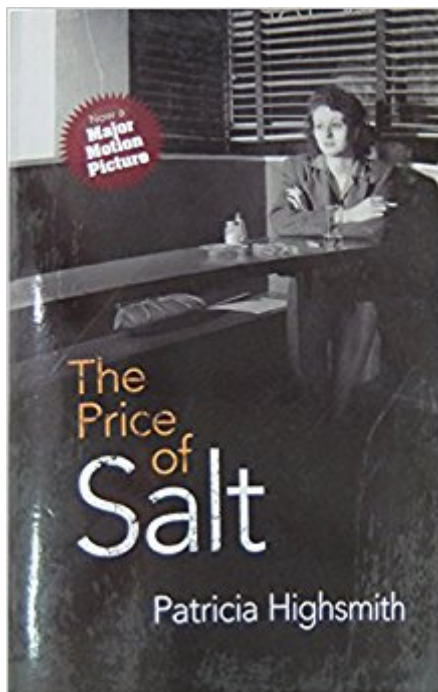


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The Price Of Salt



Synopsis

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. The book is also the basis of the acclaimed 2015 film *Carol*, starring Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara.

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Customer Reviews

"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
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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. See every Dover book in print at www.doverpublications.com

"Salt" is what brings out the flavor of life, and in the case of the love of Carol for Terese, it came at a high price: the loss of her child, her family, her wealth and reputation. Interesting that the reader experiences the emotional turmoil primarily through the nineteen-year-old Therese; and we are left to only imagine the angst of thirty-two-year-old Carol as she extricates herself from a loveless marriage and negotiates with the legal system to see her child "once or twice a year." Thankfully we are in the 21st century where the love of a woman for a woman or a man for a man is no longer considered an "abomination;" at least not in the socially evolved world. Beautifully written, painfully experienced, sweetly resolved.

It's as if Patricia Highsmith wrote this with Cate Blanchett as Carol on her mind. The main character is complex, intriguing with a magnetic personality. The story unfolds slowly- it smoulders tantalisingly. I've always loved a road trip story and this doesn't disappoint.

Wonderfully written. Highsmith uses elegance, poise and a wonderful mix of wordiness with clarity. I loved this book and plan to read more from her. The content is touchy, two women fall in love. If you are offended by same sex relationships, skip this book. If, like me, you care more about prose and emotion, you will love this book. It's beautiful. Innocence and experience meet and slowly find equity.

This may-december romance set in the fifties is wonderful. I hadn't heard of it before (I'm Swedish) but found out about it as it is being turned into a movie (Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara) due in 2015. Slight spoiler alert!!!!!--This story is great since it was one of the first, perhaps THE first?, that

didn't have the lesbian lovers crash and burn. The buildup to them confessing to attraction, to love, was right up my alley. I'm so glad they're making a movie of this - this books deserves it!

I've been listening to the Price of Salt, a literary lesbian classic. The writing is spare and emotions are masked. Therese is innocence trapped within an old soul. She knows her heart and she recognizes in Carol all that has been missing from her life. Carol is worldly and not easy to like. All that sophistication yet she is drawn to a teenage store clerk and wannabe set designer. They couldn't make an odder couple and yet. And yet. The scenes and dialogue between these two are so vibrant, so double edged that the rest of the world they are travelling through falls away. Secondary characters like Richard and Harge seem pale and lifeless. Therese's world without Carol is a cold and grey place. There were moments, especially in the first half of the novel when you feel like you are watching a rather dry play put on by some local actors. Patience by the reader is rewarded with a technicolor ride and I suppose this contrast is what impressed me the most about this novel. Much like the Wizard of Oz, Therese and her life are transformed when she recognizes and accepts who she is and who she loves. The writing is gorgeous. I had to stop listening to the novel and slow down and read the words on the page just to savour Highsmith's talent. She captures that incredible rush one feels when you fall in love for the first time. "How was it possible to be afraid in love, Therese thought. The two things did not go together. How was it possible to be afraid, when the two of them grew stronger together every day? And every night. Every night was different, and every morning. Together they possessed a miracle." pg. 173 And this; " Once they came upon a little town they liked and spent the night there, without pajamas or toothbrushes, without past or future, and the night became another of those islands in time, suspended somewhere in the heart or in the memory, intact and absolute." pg 177 Big sigh. Picturing Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara in the starring roles of the soon to be released Carol? Wow. Can't wait.

I read this book some time ago, it's one of my favourites, but I decided to buy the movie edition for the beautiful cover. Even when Carol is a love story, very different from her other crime themed novels, you can still tell it's a Highsmith's work. This time writing about falling in love for the first time, she sorta shows the parallels between the criminal and the amorous mind. A universal feeling. Amazing character development (Therese). And finally, not a catastrophic ending. I would recommend reading this and then watching the film to have a full perspective on both characters.

What got me to notice and read this book was the movie when it was recently released. After the

movie ended, all I wanted to do was to lock myself in my room to reminisce every single scene. (Cate Blanchett as Carol? Rooney Mara as Therese? Yes please!!) This compelled me to buy the book and.. It was the best decision ever. Although it was slightly different from the movie, I found that the book's story plot was actually more intriguing as compared to the movie (In the movie, Carol always being so far away and hardly seemed to be 'in the moment' whenever she was with Therese). I felt confusion, suspense and breathtaking moments that I could not simply put down the book! I am head over heels obsessed with Carol and I'm hoping and praying that there will be a sequel. Though... I highly doubt there would be. But I can always dream, right?

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