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# Strangers On A Train (BBC Radio Collection)



## Synopsis

This highly-charged and thrilling BBC Radio 4 dramatisation of a Patricia Highsmith novel twists an ordinary encounter between two strangers into an disquieting tale of obsession and peril. When two men meet on a train, there's nothing they fear to say. They'll never see each other again. But a misunderstanding binds them together, in word, deed and blood. The starry cast includes Anton Lesser, Michael Sheen, Saskia Reeves and Bill Nighy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Highsmith's 1950 debut novel made her famous (and inspired a Hitchcock film) but, unlike some of her later titles, was never recorded. William Roberts does the reading honors. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

"Murder, in Patricia Highsmith's hands, is made to occur almost as casually as the

bumping of a fender. - New York Review of Books

"Patricia Highsmith's novels are peerlessly disturbing. - The New Yorker --This text refers to the Paperback

edition.

I've never read a book quite like this. It really makes you think about how you might have some part of you capable of atrocities like guy found out through meeting Bruno. This is definitely a psychological thriller and how people can mess with your mind. Basically Bruno drove guy crazy to

the point of doing something he never thought himself possible of doing. I really like the book and only gave it four stars because then of the book just seemed like guy was going through a haze, going through the motions of coping with the aftermath. This haze made me feel in a haze and I found myself skimming quickly through his melancholy thought filled pages.

This particular edition is not the complete novel, but a very abridged version. The description on does not state this.

We all know you aren't hurting for money, , so selling badly abridged novels without stating that fact is just plain shady. I'm not made of cash & actually choose which Kindle books to buy very carefully, I was duped and am angry as all get out. You should be ashamed.

Excellent character development, but for me the ending was continually telegraphed throughout the narrative. Yes there was a twist but the fire gone conclusion relied on a parlor trick and felt cheap to me. Honestly I could not sympathize with the protagonist and he seemed far too passive, whiny and far from the complex. His foil was developed as flawed and totally without any redeeming qualities, the complete antithesis of Guy. I can see why Hitchcock wanted to make this a movie, mainly to correct its flaws and bring some fetal tension and humanity into this story.

Here are the opening sentences of Patricia Highsmith's novel *Strangers on a Train*: "The train tore along with an angry, irregular rhythm. it was having to stop at smaller and more frequent stations, where it would wait impatiently for a moment, then attack the prairie again. But progress was imperceptible. The prairie only undulated, like a vast, pink-tan blanket being casually shaken. The faster the train went, the more buoyant and taunting the undulations. Guy took his eyes from the window and hitched himself back against the seat. Miriam would delay the divorce at best, he thought." Here, meanwhile, are the opening sentence of this eBook: "The train rushed along angrily. Guy was thinking about Miriam. He saw her round pink face, her cruel mouth  $\hat{A}f\hat{A}\hat{c}\hat{A} \hat{a} \rightarrow \hat{A} \hat{A}$  he started to hate her." I don't know who took it upon themselves to rewrite Highsmith's book, but this version (ASIN: B01FKPEFP0; published by "MUMOO") isn't her novel. The actual eBook of *Strangers on a Train* is published by W. W. Norton & Company. This reads more like an unauthorized, bootleg version that would be better titled **STRANGERS ON A TRAIN FOR DUMMIES**. I don't know why is allowing this garbage to be sold on its site. Beware. \* \* \* \* \*

This is an amazing psychological thriller. If you've not read it, you're in for a treat. Pat Highsmith's freshman novel is so well written and plotted that it makes some of her merely excellent later works seem dull by comparison.

When I finished reading *Small g, a Summer Idyll*, I thought I had read all of Highsmith's books, until I realized that I had seen Hitchcock's movie but never read *Strangers On A Train*. It was a great read displaying her unequalled talent for the psychological development of her characters.

Patricia Highsmith was ahead of her time, constructing the perfect crime novel long before it would truly be appreciated. Sadly she was never as famously accepted as she could have been while still living, but thanks to reprints and reissues her novels are being given a new breath of life. Now I say all of this and I have only had the pleasure of reading one of her novels, but that novel was so articulately perfect that I have nothing but the utmost respect for the late author. *'Strangers on a Train'* is so brilliantly crafted that I'm racking my brain to find a flaw, a drawback of some sort and the only thing I can muster is that here and there there are some grammatical errors, but other than that...I'm coming up empty handed. Any fan of the Hitchcock film will immediately understand why the famed late director scooped up the film rights to this novel. The premise alone deserves the reader's utmost respect. Two strangers get wrapped up in the perfect crime that escalates into the most horrific journey into the human psyche. Up and coming architect Guy Haines is traveling by train to meet his estranged wife Miriam to pursue a divorce. Miriam has given Guy nothing but heartache, nothing but trouble, and his nerves are getting the better of him. What if she refuses the divorce? He has a lot riding on this. He has a big job in the works that could finally make for him the name he's been waiting to make. He also has a wonderful supportive woman, Anne, waiting to give her his hand in marriage. He needs this divorce more now than ever. Charles Bruno so happens to be traveling on the same train. Bruno is traveling to escape his father, a man he abhors with every fiber in his body. His father has denied him all that he feels he is entitled to, and he's come to loathe him in such a way that his death seems all Bruno can think of. If only his father were out of the picture, if only somehow, somehow he could be rid of this horror of a man. And with that the wheels begin to turn, as Guy meets Bruno and Bruno delves deeply into this man, winning over his trust and then devising a plan which involves a double homicide, the two of them trading off murders. It seems so perfect, Bruno, who has no relation to either Guy or Miriam, kills Miriam to free Guy of his ex and in return Guy murders Bruno's father. Guy immediately dismisses the idea as a sick joke and from that point on does all he can to avoid Bruno. Bruno on the other hand doesn't so easily forget

Guy, and he decides to go ahead with the plan whether Guy wants to participate or not, but it's after he's snuffed the life out of Miriam that the trouble really begins. In order for a plan like this to work the two parties would need to remain separate, distant and out of touch, but Bruno slowly becomes obsessed with Guy, falling in love with him in a way and begins to haunt, stalk and torture (mentally) Guy to the point to sheer insanity. The novel continues to weave Bruno's twisted web and we, the reader, are able to sit back and experience madness at its most effective. Patricia was able to paint this picture so clear that we are left with no feeling other than contentment and pure satisfaction. Yes, this novel plays out differently than the famed film, but that's no reason to disregard the novel altogether. It's worth every word penned!

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