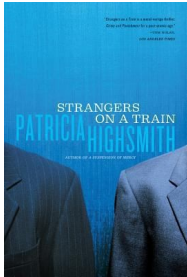


Books by the Stack



Strangers on a Train by Patricia Highsmith

The inspiration for Alfred Hitchcock's classic 1951 film, *Strangers on a Train* launched Highsmith on a prolific career of noir fiction, proving her a master at depicting the unsettling forces that tremble beneath the surface of everyday contemporary life.

Why you'll like it: *Noir classic, psychological thriller, character study.*

About the Author: Patricia Highsmith (1921-1995) was the author of more than twenty novels, including *Strangers on a Train*, *The Price of Salt* and *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, as well as numerous short stories.

Questions for Discussion

1. What were your initial feelings towards Bruno? Did they change over the course of the novel? Is he mad? Considering Guy, Guy seems troubled even before meeting Bruno. Was this, in a sense, inevitable?
2. Why didn't Guy go to the police immediately after Miriam's murder? Why did Guy kill Bruno's father? After he committed the murder, how did your perception or experience of Guy change?
3. Were you ever frustrated by Guy's actions? Is Guy psychologically disturbed?
4. What role do women play in the book? What's your opinion of Miriam? Of Anne? What do they represent?
5. Highsmith introduces the idea of individual duality, that there are opposites in the world, competing forces between good and evil. What larger point is Highsmith making? More generally, what is Highsmith saying about the nature of evil?
6. What did you make of Bruno's death? Was it suicide?
7. Did you find the 'trap' at the end of the book believable?
8. The film is notably different from the book. Did the difference affect your reading experience?
9. Would you recommend the novel?
(Questions by LovliestBookGroup.com)

