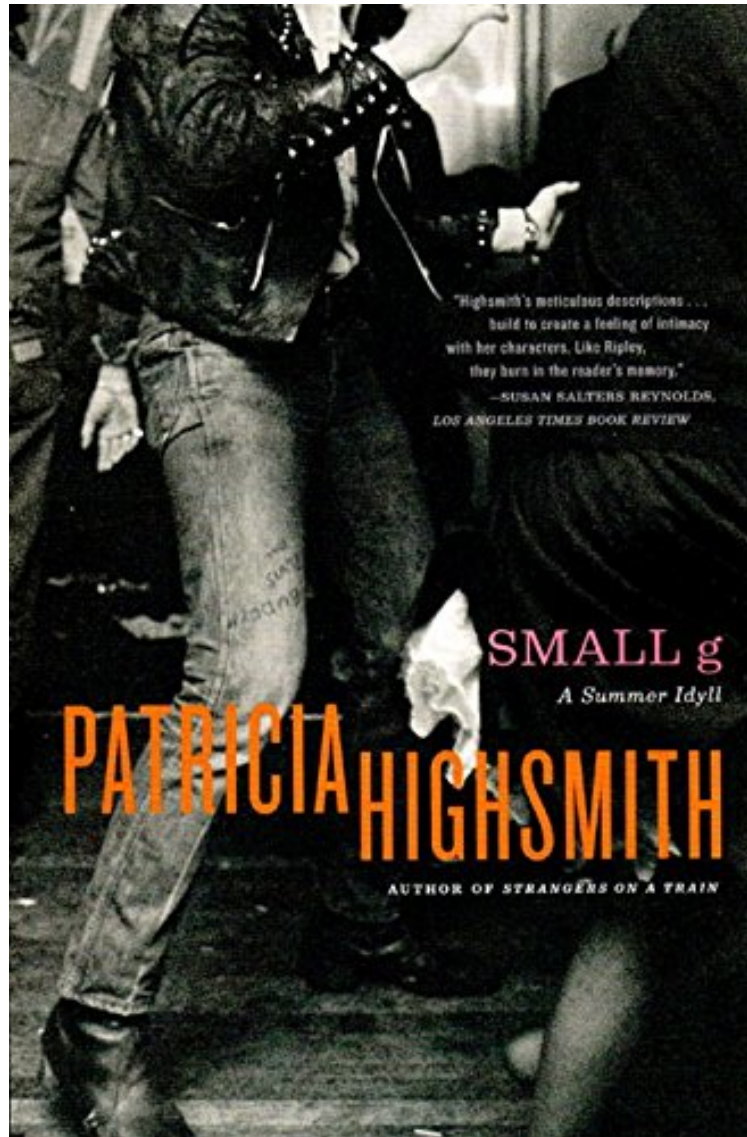


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Small g: A Summer Idyll

Patricia Highsmith

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#2110629 in Books Patricia Highsmith 2005-06-17 2005-06-17 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.30 x .90 x 5.50l, .61 #File Name: 0393327035320 pages Small g A Summer Idyll | File size: 23.Mb

Patricia Highsmith : Small g: A Summer Idyll before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Small g: A Summer Idyll:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Final Work Satisfying By Philip Hopbell While this last book shows signs of waning ability it is still a disturbing study of bad actions. Some may chafe at the broad characterizations of the antagonist Renate, however after living in Europe for some years I can say it is a pretty good description of a certain type. The story is a character study of people who believe their actions serve a higher purpose and are even righteous.

After competing the book I lay in bed reflecting on the final pages and what I felt about two actions both condemnable. Highsmith was concerned with ambiguity and this final work is wonderfully ambiguous and disturbing. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not a Ripley By Loro I expected this novel to be similar to the Ripley books in which none of the characters are appealing. Instead, the characters are mostly likeable (except for the villain who was, in some ways, sympathetic). This is a character-driven novel and an enjoyable read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer Like most of Patricia Highsmith's work, I could not put the book down until finished.

"Like Ripley, [Highsmith's characters] burn in a reader's memory." Susan Salters Reynolds, Los Angeles Times Book Review In unmistakable Highsmithian fashion, *Small g*, Patricia Highsmith's final novel, opens near a seedy Zurich bar with the brutal murder of Petey Ritter. Unraveling the vagaries of love, sexuality, jealousy, and death, Highsmith weaves a mystery both hilarious and astonishing, a classic fairy tale executed with a characteristic penchant for darkness. Published in paperback for the first time in America, *Small g* is at once an exorcism of Highsmith's literary demons and a revelatory capstone to a wholly remarkable career. It is a delightfully incantatory work that, in the tradition of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, shows us how bizarre and unpredictable love can be.

From Publishers Weekly The last novel by this still underappreciated author, published here nine years after Highsmith's death, is a sour, mostly inert comedy of manners. In Zurich, Rickie Markwalder mourns his younger lover, Peter Ritter, stabbed to death late one night six months earlier. Accompanied by his small dog, Lulu, Rickie haunts a local bar called Jakob's, identified in guidebooks with a "small g" (for gay), hanging out with acquaintances. The bar draws a mixed crowd, most of whom are in love with people they shouldn't be (a familiar Highsmith theme). Renate, a club-footed, middle-aged atelier owner and her young employee Luisa are other regulars. Homophobic to the point of caricature, Renate despised Peter (upon whom Luisa had a crush) and despises Rickie. When a handsome young man, Teddie, comes to the bar, she and an associate set out to wreck any relationship he might develop with either Rickie or Luisa, both of whom are attracted to him. When Rickie and Luisa realize what Renate is trying to do, they make their own plans to punish her in return. While the narrative never flags, at no point does it take off. There are flashes of the author's wit, but much of the writing captures surfaces and nothing more, and Highsmith's remarkable observational powers are muffled. Although most of the characters are well drawn, Renate is simply too much of an ogre to serve as either a realistic threat or a foil, and the story suffers accordingly. Overall, this is a disappointing final note by one of our more interesting writers. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist This final book from esteemed crime writer Highsmith, who died in 1995, is more a complement to her pseudonymous lesbian novel *Price of Salt* than to her better known Ripley thrillers. The action centers on Jakob's, a pub in Zurich known as "Small g" for its "partially gay" clientele. A colorful clash of characters meet and mingle at Small g, including Rickie, a self-consciously aging gay man; Luisa, a young seamstress with a troubled past; Renate, Luisa's controlling and viciously homophobic employer and landlady; and Renate's neohenchman, Willi, a sinister and brooding halfwit. Following the stabbing death of Petey, Rickie's young lover, Rickie befriends Luisa, who had once been his rival for Petey's affections. They similarly both fall for and lust after the fetching Teddie, whose arrival at Small g triggers an escalating series of disastrous events. While Highsmith's last book--only now published in the U.S.-- does not live up to its potential as a suspense thriller, it does offer an intriguing exploration of gay culture and the complexities of love, jealousy, possessiveness, and friendship. Misha Stone Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved "Its superabundance of characters is only one of the elements that give *Small g* its air of Shakespearean complexity." - David Leavitt, *New York Times Book* "The best thing about *Small g* is the affectionate homage it pays to relationships that are not exclusive or possessive, that may or may not be sexual, but which have the power to create happiness or break a stranglehold that is choking off a full, delicious life." - *Lambda Book Report* "All those qualities that have made Highsmith such an important figure?her carefully crafted prose, her understanding of human frailties and the randomness of life?are present in this final work." - Aaron Stander, *I Love a Mystery*