

In terms of the ending of *The Price of Salt*, I agree with Alita's claim that the extent to which each ending is happy is a matter of perspective. In terms of traditional queer literature, the idea that neither Therese nor Carol dies does constitute a happy ending, as it subverts the "bury your gays trope" as well as the fact that there is no "circumstance that forces them apart," both of which Alita mentions in her response. I also concur with Alita's interpretation that Therese's ending is fundamentally "happier" than Carol's; however, I do not believe that this means that Carol's ending is necessarily *unhappy*.

Surely, Carol's losing her daughter is difficult and will likely be irreconcilable in the future, but I think that the implications of the idea that this freedom allows Carol to start over entirely have been overlooked. Although Carol will have to work through the issues that result from her choice outside of the novel's canon, she is now finally free from all things binding her to the life she'd previously been living. It is not often that a person is able to make a choice which relinquishes them entirely from the bindings and responsibilities of their lives, and so I argue that Carol's ability to do just that can be read as a happy ending, as she is now free to live and love in any manner she chooses without worrying about the implications her queerness may have on her preexisting life.