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Vladimir Nabokov and the Art of Moral Acts - Dana Dragunoiu
2021-09-15

This book shows how ethics and aesthetics interact in the works of one of the most celebrated literary stylists of the twentieth century: the Russian American novelist Vladimir Nabokov. Dana Dragunoiu reads Nabokov's fictional worlds as battlegrounds between an autonomous will and heteronomous passions, demonstrating Nabokov's insistence that genuinely moral acts occur when the will triumphs over the passions by answering the call of duty. Dragunoiu puts Nabokov's novels into dialogue with the work of writers such as Alexander Pushkin, William Shakespeare, Leo Tolstoy, and Marcel Proust; with Kantian moral philosophy; with the institution of the modern duel of honor; and with the European traditions of chivalric literature that Nabokov studied as an undergraduate at Cambridge University. This configuration of literary influences and philosophical contexts allows Dragunoiu to advance an original and provocative argument about the formation, career, and legacies of an author who viewed moral activity as an art, and for whom artistic and moral acts served as testaments to the freedom of the will.

Lolita - Stephen Schiff 1998

(Applause Books). Foreword by Jeremy Irons, preface by Adrian Lyne. Based on the novel by Vladimir Nabokov, Schiff tells the astounding story behind the most controversial movie of our time. 75 movie stills. "Like Nabokov's novel, it is an eloquent tragedy laced with wit and a serious, disturbing work of art..." The New York Times

Nabokov's Mimicry of Freud - Teckyoung Kwon 2017-05-30

Teckyoung Kwon examines Nabokov's use of literary devices that draw upon psychology and biology, characters that imitate Freud or Nabokov in behavior or thought, and Jamesian concepts of time, memory, and consciousness in *The Defense*, *Despair*, *Lolita*, *Pale Fire*, and *Ada*.

Nabokov at Cornell - Gavriel Shapiro 2003

Table of contents

Nabokov's Canon - Marijeta Bozovic 2016-05-31

Nabokov's translation of Pushkin's *Eugene Onegin* (1964) and its accompanying Commentary, along with *Ada, or Ardor* (1969), his densely allusive late English language novel, have appeared nearly inscrutable to many interpreters of his work. If not outright failures, they are often

considered relatively unsuccessful curiosities. In Bozovic's insightful study, these key texts reveal Nabokov's ambitions to reimagine a canon of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Western masterpieces with Russian literature as a central, rather than marginal, strain. Nabokov's scholarly work, translations, and lectures on literature bear resemblance to New Critical canon reformations; however, Nabokov's canon is pointedly translingual and transnational and serves to legitimize his own literary practice. The new angles and theoretical framework offered by Nabokov's Canon help us to understand why Nabokov's provocative monuments remain powerful source texts for several generations of diverse international writers, as well as richly productive material for visual, cinematic, musical, and other artistic adaptations.

Transparent Things - Vladimir Nabokov 1989-10-23

"Transparent Things revolves around the four visits of the hero--sullen, gawky Hugh Person--to Switzerland . . . As a young publisher, Hugh is sent to interview R., falls in love with Armande on the way, wrests her, after multiple humiliations, from a grinning Scandinavian and returns to NY with his bride. . . . Eight years later--following a murder, a period of madness and a brief imprisonment--Hugh makes a lone sentimental journey to wheedle out his past. . . . The several strands of dream, memory, and time [are] set off against the literary theorizing of R. and, more centrally, against the world of observable objects." --Martin Amis

Letters to Véra - Vladimir Nabokov 2017-12-12

No marriage of a major twentieth-century writer is quite as beguiling as that of Vladimir Nabokov's to Véra Slonim. She shared his delight at the enchantment of life's trifles and literature's treasures, and he rated her as having the best and quickest sense of humor of any woman he had met. From their first encounter in 1923, Vladimir's letters to Véra chronicle a half-century-long love story, one that is playful, romantic, and memorable. At the same time, the letters reveal much about their author. We see the infectious fascination with which Vladimir observed everything—animals, people, speech, landscapes and cityscapes—and glimpse his ceaseless work on his poems, plays, stories, novels, memoirs, screenplays, and translations. This delightful volume is enhanced by

twenty-one photographs, as well as facsimiles of the letters and the puzzles and drawings Vladimir often sent to Véra. With 8 pages of photographs and 47 illustrations in text

Lolita - Edward Albee 1984

THE STORY: Widely familiar as a successful novel and motion picture, LOLITA details the controversial obsession of Humbert Humbert, a middle-aged man of some education and refinement, to possess Dolores Haze, a pre-teen nymphet. Comprised of a se

Lolita: A Screenplay - Vladimir Nabokov 1997-08-26

The screenplay for Kubrick's 1962 film tells the story of an older man's obsession with a young girl.

Lolita: A Screenplay - Vladimir Nabokov 2011-02-16

The screenplay for Kubrick's 1962 film tells the story of an older man's obsession with a young girl.

Bend Sinister - Vladimir Nabokov 2012-03-01

The state has been recently taken over and is being run by the tyrannical and philistine 'Average Man' party. Under the slogans of equality and happiness for all, it has done away with individualism and freedom of thought. Only John Krug, a brilliant philosopher, stands up to the regime. His antagonist, the leader of the new party, is his old school enemy, Paduk - known as the 'Toad'. Grieving over his wife's recent death, Krug is at first dismissive of Paduk's activities and sees no threat in them. But the sinister machine which Paduk has set in motion may prove stronger than the individual, stronger even than the grotesque 'Toad' himself.

The Mysterious Stranger and Other Stories - Mark Twain 2016-03-17

The Satirical and Bitter Side of Mark Twain "Man is made of dirt - I saw him made. I am not made of dirt. Man is a museum of diseases, a home of impurities; he comes to-day and is gone tomorrow; he begins as dirt and departs as stench; I am of the aristocracy of the Imperishables. And man has the Moral Sense. You understand? He has the Moral Sense. That would seem to be difference enough between us, all by itself." - Mark Twain, *The Mysterious Stranger* *The Mysterious Stranger and Other Stories* is a collection of nine short stories meant to divulge the human's wicked nature. *The Mysterious Stranger* is more of a novella in which

Satan observes - yet doesn't intervene - the human kind. He speaks of our precarious morality and fear and also about our innate compulsion of following the boldest and at the same time the most impulsive individual, thus acting more like sheep than wolves. Isn't there any hope? This Xist Classics edition has been professionally formatted for e-readers with a linked table of contents. This eBook also contains a bonus book club leadership guide and discussion questions. We hope you'll share this book with your friends, neighbors and colleagues and can't wait to hear what you have to say about it. Xist Publishing is a digital-first publisher. Xist Publishing creates books for the touchscreen generation and is dedicated to helping everyone develop a lifetime love of reading, no matter what form it takes.

The Original of Laura - Vladimir Nabokov 2013-01-08

When Vladimir Nabokov died in 1977, he left instructions for his heirs to burn the 138 handwritten index cards that made up the rough draft of his final and unfinished novel, *The Original of Laura*. But Nabokov's wife, Vera, could not bear to destroy her husband's last work, and when she died, the fate of the manuscript fell to her son. Dmitri Nabokov, now seventy-five—the Russian novelist's only surviving heir, and translator of many of his books—has wrestled for three decades with the decision of whether to honor his father's wish or preserve for posterity the last piece of writing of one of the greatest writers of the twentieth century. His decision finally to allow publication of the fragmented narrative—dark yet playful, preoccupied with mortality—affords us one last experience of Nabokov's magnificent creativity, the quintessence of his unparalleled body of work. Photos of the handwritten index cards accompany the text. They are perforated and can be removed and rearranged, as the author likely did when he was writing the novel.

A Critical Companion to Stanley Kubrick - Elsa Colombani 2020-10-16

A Critical Companion to Stanley Kubrick offers a thorough and detailed study of the films of the legendary director. Labeled a recluse, a provocateur, and a perfectionist, Kubrick revolutionized filmmaking, from the use of music in film, narrative pacing and structure, to depictions of war and violence. An unparalleled visionary, his work

continues to influence contemporary cinema and visual culture. This book delves into the complexities of his work and examines the wide range of topics and the multiple interpretations that his films inspire. The eighteen chapters in this book use a wide range of methodologies and explore new trends of research in film studies, providing a series of unique and novel perspectives on all of Kubrick's thirteen feature films, from *Fear and Desire* (1953) to *Eyes Wide Shut* (1999), as well as his work on *A.I. Artificial Intelligence* (Steven Spielberg, 2001).

Vladimir Nabokov and the Art of Painting - Gerard de Vries 2006

Studie van de verwijzingen naar beeldende kunst in het werk van de Russisch-Amerikaanse schrijver (1899-1977).

The Annotated Lolita - Vladimir Nabokov 1991-04-23

The annotated text of this modern classic. It assiduously illuminates the extravagant wordplay and the frequent literary allusions, parodies, and cross-references. Edited with a preface, introduction and notes by Alfred Appel, Jr.

The Five Senses in Nabokov's Works - Marie Bouchet 2020-06-19

This collection of essays focuses on a subject largely neglected in Nabokovian criticism—the importance and significance of the five senses in Vladimir Nabokov's work, poetics, politics and aesthetics. This text analyzes the crucial role of the author's synesthesia and multilingualism in relation to the five senses, as well as the sensual and erotic dimensions of sensoriality in his works. Each chapter provides a highly focused and sometimes provocative approach to the unique role that sensory perceptions play in the shaping and narrating of Nabokov's memories and in his creative process.

Teaching Nabokov's Lolita in the #MeToo Era - Elena Rakhimova-Sommers 2021-03-15

Teaching Nabokov's Lolita in the #MeToo Era seeks to critique the novel from the standpoint of its teachability to undergraduate and graduate students in the twenty-first century. The time has come to ask: in the #MeToo era and beyond, how do we approach Nabokov's inflammatory masterpiece, *Lolita*? How do we read a novel that describes an unpardonable crime? How do we balance analysis of *Lolita*'s brilliant

language and aesthetic complexity with due attention to its troubling content? This student-focused volume offers practical and specific answers to these questions and includes suggestions for teaching the novel in conventional and online modalities. Distinguished Nabokov scholars explore the multilayered nature of *Lolita* by sharing innovative assignments, creative-writing exercises, methodologies of teaching the novel through film and theatre, and new critical analyses and interpretations.

Lolita - Richard Corliss 2019-07-25

Stanley Kubrick's version of Vladimir Nabokov's novel was one of the most controversial films of the 1960s. This analysis is written by Richard Corliss, editor of 'Film Comment'. It features a brief production history and a detailed filmography.

The Defense - Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov 1980

Nabokov and His Fiction - Julian W. Connolly 1999-08-05

Published in 1999 to mark the centenary of Vladimir Nabokov's birth, this volume brings together the work of eleven of the world's foremost Nabokov scholars offering perspectives on the writer and his fiction. Their essays cover a broad range of topics and approaches, from close readings of major texts, including *Invitation of a Small Guest*, *Invitation of a Small Guest*, *Invitation of a Small Guest*, to penetrating discussions of the significant relationship between Nabokov's personal beliefs and experiences and his art. Several of the essays attempt to uncover the artistic principles that underlie the author's literary creations, while others seek to place Nabokov's work in a variety of literary and cultural contexts. Among these essays are a first glimpse at a little-known work, *The Tragedy of Mr Morn*, as well as a perspective on Nabokov's most famous novel, *Lolita*. The volume as a whole offers valuable insight into Nabokov scholarship.

Great Adaptations: Screenwriting and Global Storytelling - Alexis Krasilovsky 2017-10-02

Great Adaptations: Screenwriting and Global Storytelling is the Second Place Winner in the 2019 International Writers Awards! A vast majority of Academy Award-winning Best Pictures, television movies of the week,

and mini-series are adaptations, watched by millions of people globally. Great Adaptations: Screenwriting and Global Storytelling examines the technical methods of adapting novels, short stories, plays, life stories, magazine articles, blogs, comic books, graphic novels and videogames from one medium to another, focusing on the screenplay. Written in a clear and succinct style, perfect for intermediate and advanced screenwriting students, Great Adaptations explores topics essential to fully appreciating the creative, historical and sociological aspects of the adaptation process. It also provides up-to-date, practical advice on the legalities of acquiring rights and optioning and selling adaptations, and is inclusive of a diverse variety of perspectives that will inspire and challenge students and screenwriters alike. Please follow the link below to a short excerpt from an interview with Carole Dean about Great Adaptations:

<https://fromtheheartproductions.com/getting-creative-when-creating-great-adaptations/>

The Eye - Vladimir Nabokov 2011-02-16

Nabokov's fourth novel, *The Eye* is as much a farcical detective story as it is a profoundly refractive tale about the vicissitudes of identities and appearances. Nabokov's protagonist, Smurov, is a lovelorn, excruciatingly self-conscious Russian émigré living in prewar Berlin, who commits suicide after being humiliated by a jealous husband, only to suffer even greater indignities in the afterlife.

Stanley Kubrick Director - Alexander Walker 2000-10-03

Illustrated with eight pages of color and black-and-white photographs, an expanded edition of a study first published in 1971 follows the career and directorial techniques of Stanley Kubrick, including his last picture, *Eyes Wide Shut*. Reprint. 10,000 first printing.

Lolita - Vladimir Nabokov 1989-03-13

Awe and exhilaration--along with heartbreak and mordant wit--abound in *Lolita*, Nabokov's most famous and controversial novel, which tells the story of the aging Humbert Humbert's obsessive, devouring, and doomed passion for the nymphet Dolores Haze. *Lolita* is also the story of a hypercivilized European colliding with the cheerful barbarism of postwar

America. Most of all, it is a meditation on love--love as outrage and hallucination, madness and transformation.

Vladimir Nabokov - Vladimir Nabokov 2012-09-06

“Wonderful, compulsively readable, delicious” personal correspondences, spanning decades in the life and literary career of the author of *Lolita* (The Washington Post Book World). An icon of twentieth-century literature, Vladimir Nabokov was a novelist, poet, and playwright, whose personal life was a fascinating story in itself. This collection of more than four hundred letters chronicles the author’s career, recording his struggles in the publishing world, the battles over *Lolita*, and his relationship with his wife, among other subjects, and gives a surprising look at the personality behind the creator of such classics as *Pale Fire* and *Invitation to a Beheading*. “Dip in anywhere, and delight follows.” —John Updike

Invitation to a Beheading - Vladimir Nabokov 1989-09-19

Like Kafka's *The Castle*, *Invitation to a Beheading* embodies a vision of a bizarre and irrational world. In an unnamed dream country, the young man Cincinnatus C. is condemned to death by beheading for "gnostical turpitude," an imaginary crime that defies definition. Cincinnatus spends his last days in an absurd jail, where he is visited by chimerical jailers, an executioner who masquerades as a fellow prisoner, and by his in-laws, who lug their furniture with them into his cell. When Cincinnatus is led out to be executed, he simply wills his executioners out of existence: they disappear, along with the whole world they inhabit.

Authorship in Film Adaptation - Jack Boozer 2009-06-03

Authoring a film adaptation of a literary source not only requires a media conversion but also a transformation as a result of the differing dramatic demands of cinema. The most critical central step in this transformation of a literary source to the screen is the writing of the screenplay. The screenplay usually serves to recruit producers, director, and actors; to attract capital investment; and to give focus to the conception and production of the film project. Often undergoing multiple revisions prior to production, the screenplay represents the crucial decisions of writer and director that will determine how and to what end the film will imitate or depart from its original source. *Authorship in Film Adaptation* is an

accessible, provocative text that opens up new areas of discussion on the central process of adaptation surrounding the screenplay and screenwriter-director collaboration. In contrast to narrow binary comparisons of literary source text and film, the twelve essays in this collection also give attention to the underappreciated role of the screenplay and film pre-production that can signal the primary intention for a film. Divided into four parts, this collection looks first at the role of Hollywood's activist producers and major auteurs such as Hitchcock and Kubrick as they worked with screenwriters to formulate their audio-visual goals. The second part offers case studies of *Devil in a Blue Dress* and *The Sweet Hereafter*, for which the directors wrote their own adapted screenplays. Considering the variety of writer-director working relationships that are possible, Part III focuses on adaptations that alter genre, time, and place, and Part IV investigates adaptations that alter stories of romance, sexuality, and ethnicity.

The Translator's Doubts - Julia Trubikhina 2019-08-28

Using Vladimir Nabokov as its “case study,” this volume approaches translation as a crucial avenue into literary history and theory, philosophy and interpretation. The book attempts to bring together issues in translation and the shift in Nabokov studies from its earlier emphasis on the “metaliterary” to the more recent “metaphysical” approach. Addressing specific texts (both literary and cinematic), the book investigates Nabokov’s deeply ambivalent relationship to translation as a hermeneutic oscillation on his part between the relative stability of meaning, which expresses itself philosophically as a faith in the beyond, and deep metaphysical uncertainty. While Nabokov’s practice of translation changes profoundly over the course of his career, his adherence to the Romantic notion of a “true” but ultimately elusive metaphysical language remained paradoxically constant.

Ireland on Stage - Hiroko Mikami 2007

Essays on Irish theatre in the second half of the twentieth century

Mocking Sex - Freya Kirsten Russell 1999

Lolita between Adaptation and Interpretation - Anna Pilińska 2015-09-04

"This book offers a comparative analysis of three versions of Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita*: namely, the original novel (1955), the script written by the novelist himself and published as *Lolita: A Screenplay* (1974), and Stanley Kubrick's film based on *Lolita*'s storyline (1962). Kubrick's final product oscillates between adaptation and interpretation, as it draws from both Nabokov's novel and script, but also uses the improvisational talents of the cast, eventually rendering the director's firm autorial hand clearly visible throughout the film. The book analyses how various additions and subtractions made first by Nabokov as a screenwriter, and later by Kubrick as a movie director, influence the reception of the four main characters: Lolita, Humbert Humbert, Charlotte Haze, and Clare Quilty. The original novel's multilayered web of intertextual references -- among them the works of Edgar Allan Poe and the typically Nabokovian critique of Freudian theories -- becomes significantly reduced in the script and the film, with Kubrick additionally enriching the film version of the story with cinematic references"--Provided by publisher.

Estudios de literatura norteamericana: Nabokov y otros autores contemporáneos - Juan José Torres Núñez (ed.) 2013-10-02

Este libro recoge una colección de artículos sobre Vladimir Nabokov y otros autores contemporáneos de la literatura norteamericana. Al cumplirse cincuenta años de la publicación de *Lolita* y coincidiendo con la aparición en España del primer tomo de las obras completas de este autor, este volumen propone una relectura crítica de su obra. Respecto a los otros autores se sigue el mismo planteamiento. En el primer capítulo se analiza el relato de Nabokov "The Admiralty Spire", se centra el estudio en la narración, su construcción y sus rasgos destacables, resaltando las constantes alusiones a la literatura rusa. El segundo capítulo nos muestra la imagen que Nabokov ofrece de los Estados Unidos en la novela "Lolita". En esta aspecto la obra refleja el fuerte impacto que sufrieron los artistas e intelectuales como Nabokov al verse obligados a cruzar el Atlántico y adaptarse a una sociedad que en aquellos años era muy distinta a la europea. En el tercer capítulo se muestra las reflexiones de los estudiantes sobre la lectura de "Lolita", como Nabokov no era un autor comprometido con su tiempo, se le

compara con un el dramaturgo inglés, Edward Bond, para que así los estudiantes puedan tener una visión más amplia y enriquecedora. El capítulo cuarto nos ofrece un análisis comparativo de "Lolita" del original inglés a la traducción que el propio autor hace al ruso, analizando las referencias literarias, adiciones, sustituciones, omisiones, el estilo, el vocabulario y las rimas y aliteraciones. Analizando si se deben a las posibilidades fonéticas y léxicas que ofrece la lengua rusa o a las diferencias culturales y sociales del lector. En el quinto capítulo se analiza "Death of a Salesman" de Arthur Miller. Se realiza un recorrido por los valores masculinos y femeninos presentes en la obra teniendo en cuenta la imagen crítica que el autor muestra de la sociedad americana. En el sexto capítulo nos ofrece una caracterización general del relato breve norteamericano contemporáneo a la vez que una profundización en su rasgo esencial: la interculturalidad, fruto de la convivencia e interacción de culturas, razas y credos de muy distinta procedencia. Y en el capítulo 7 se no ofrece una aproximación a la obra de Malcolm Lowry "Bajo el volcán", enfocada a desvelar el protagonismo de España y de la Guerra Civil en la novela que habitualmente a quedado solapado por la imagen de autodestrucción de un personaje en un país, México, en un día muy señalado, el día de los Muertos.

Lolita - Stephen Schiff 1997

Nabokov and Nietzsche - Michael Rodgers 2018-04-19

Nabokov and Nietzsche: Problems and Perspectives addresses the many knotted issues in the work of Vladimir Nabokov - *Lolita*'s moral stance, Pnin's relationship with memory, *Pale Fire*'s ambiguous internal authorship - that often frustrate interpretation. It does so by arguing that the philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche, as both a conceptual instrument and a largely unnoticed influence on Nabokov himself, can help to untie some of these knots. The study addresses the fundamental problems in Nabokov's writing that make his work perplexing, mysterious and frequently uneasy rather than simply focusing on the literary puzzles and games that, although inherent, do not necessarily define his body of work. Michael Rodgers shows that Nietzsche's philosophy provides new,

but not always palatable, perspectives in order to negotiate interpretative impasses, and that the uneasy aspects of Nabokov's work offer the reader manifold rewards.

Vintage Nabokov - Vladimir Nabokov 2011-02-16

Vintage Readers are a perfect introduction to some of the greatest modern writers presented in attractive, accessible paperback editions. "It was Nabokov's gift to bring paradise wherever he alighted." —John Updike, *The New York Review of Books* Novelist, poet, critic, translator, and, above all, a peerless imaginer, Vladimir Nabokov was arguably the most dazzling prose stylist of the twentieth century. In novels like *Lolita*, *Pale Fire*, and *Invitation of a Small Creature*, he turned language into an instrument of ecstasy. *Vintage Nabokov* includes sections 1-10 of his most famous and controversial novel, *Lolita*; the stories "The Return of Chorb," "The Aurelian," "A Forgotten Poet," "Time and Ebb," "Signs and Symbols," "The Vane Sisters," and "Lance"; and chapter 12 from his memoir *Invitation of a Small Creature*.

Listening to Stanley Kubrick - Christine Lee Gengaro 2013

In *Listening to Stanley Kubrick*, Christine Gengaro provides an in-depth exploration of the music that was composed for Stanley Kubrick's films and places the preexistent music he utilized into historical context. This book offers a thoroughly researched examination into the musical elements of one of cinema's most brilliant artists.

A Reader's Guide to Nabokov's "Lolita" - Julian W. Connolly 2009

"Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita* is one of the most fascinating and controversial novels of the twentieth century. This book seeks to guide readers through the intricacies of Nabokov's work and to help them achieve a better understanding of his rich artistic design. Chapters include an analysis of the novel, a discussion of its precursors in Nabokov's work and in world literature, an essay on the character of

Dolly Haze (Humbert's "Lolita"). and a commentary on the critical and cultural afterlife of the novel. The volume concludes with an annotated bibliography of selected critical reading. The guide should prove illuminating both for first-time readers of *Lolita* and for experienced re-readers of Nabokov's text." --Book Jacket.

Lolita in the Afterlife - Jenny Minton Quigley 2021-03-16

A vibrant collection of sharp and essential modern pieces on Vladimir Nabokov's perennially provocative book—with original contributions from a stellar cast of prominent twenty-first century writers. In 1958, Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita* was published in the United States to immediate controversy and bestsellerdom. More than sixty years later, this phenomenal novel generates as much buzz as it did when originally published. Central to countless issues at the forefront of our national discourse—art and politics, race and whiteness, gender and power, sexual trauma—*Lolita* lives on, in an afterlife as blinding as a supernova. *Lolita in the Afterlife* is edited by the daughter of *Lolita*'s original publisher in America. WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY Robin Givhan • Aleksandar Hemon • Jim Shepard • Emily Mortimer • Laura Lippman • Erika L. Sánchez • Sarah Weinman • Andre Dubus III • Mary Gaitskill • Zainab Salbi • Christina Baker Kline • Ian Frazier • Cheryl Strayed • Sloane Crosley • Victor LaValle • Jill Kargman • Lila Azam Zanganeh • Roxane Gay • Claire Dederer • Jessica Shattuck • Stacy Schiff • Susan Choi • Kate Elizabeth Russell • Tom Bissell • Kira Von Eichel • Bindu Bansinath • Dani Shapiro • Alexander Chee • Lauren Groff • Morgan Jerkins

Despair - Владимир Владимирович Набоков 1970

Extensively revised by Nabokov in 1965--thirty years after its original publication--*Despair* is the wickedly inventive and richly derisive story of Hermann, a man who undertakes the perfect crime--his own murder.