

## Letters to Véra

By Vladimir Nabokov



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The letters of the great writer to his wife—gathered here for the first time—chronicle a decades-long love story and document anew the creative energies of an artist who was always at work.

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 in 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 form a narrative arc that tells a half-century-long love story, one that is playful, romantic, pithy and memorable. At the same time, the letters tell us much about the man and the writer. We see the infectious fascination with which Vladimir observed everything—animals, people, speech, the landscapes and cityscapes he encountered—and learn of the poems, plays, stories, novels, memoirs, screenplays and translations on which he worked ceaselessly. This delicious volume contains twenty-one photographs, as well as facsimiles of the letters themselves and the puzzles and doodles Vladimir often sent to Véra.



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#### **Editorial Review**

#### Review

"It is the prose itself that provides the lasting affirmation. The unresting responsiveness; the exquisite evocations of animals and of children; the way that everyone he comes across is minutely individualized; the detailed visualizations of soirces and street scenes; the raw-nerved susceptibility to weather and underlying it all the lavishness, the freely offered gift, of his divine energy." —Martin Amis, *The New York Times Book Review* (front page)

"A self-portrait of the young Vladimir unvarnished by Nabokovian irony. The earliest letters, intoxicated with language and desire, are intoxicating to read . . . A lifetime of scholarship informs this massive tome."

—Judith Thurman, *The New Yorker* 

"Letters to Véra, a five-decade epistolary love story, is like being handed a celebrity's unlocked iPhone. Pry away . . . I still hope for Nabokovian romance." —Keziah Weir, Elle

"A fascinating collection of correspondence . . . A wife—and indeed, a son—who could inspire such caring and creative letters as these deserve to be included in Nabokov's literary legacy." —Peter Tonguette, *The Christian Science Monitor* 

"Letters to Véra opens the workshop door and shows us Vladimir not in his accredited hard-shell case of genius but as a soft, vulnerable practicing writer . . . Again and again, we see what Charles Kinbote, in Pale Fire, calls the magic of a mind 'perceiving and transforming the world, taking it in and taking it apart, recombining its elements." —David Lipsky, Harper's Magazine

#### About the Author

**VLADIMIR NABOKOV** studied French and Russian literature at Trinity College, Cambridge, then lived in Berlin and Paris, writing prolifically in Russian under the pseudonym Sirin. In 1940, he left France for America, where he wrote some of his greatest works, including *Lolita* (1955) and *Pnin*(1957), while also teaching at Wellesley, Harvard, and Cornell. After returning to Europe in 1959, he wrote *Pale Fire* (1962) and *Ada* (1969) and translated his earlier Russian novels, stories and poems into English. He died in Switzerland in 1977.

**OLGA VORONINA** was deputy director of the Nabokov Museum in St. Petersburg and was the Nabokov Estate representative in Russia before receiving a PhD in Slavic languages and literatures from Harvard University. She is now assistant professor of Russian and director of the Russian and Eurasian Studies Program at Bard College.

**BRIAN BOYD,** University Distinguished Professor of English, University of Auckland, wrote an MA thesis that Vladimir Nabokov called "brilliant" and a PhD thesis that Véra Nabokov thought the best thing written about her husband to date. His biography of Nabokov won awards on four continents; his criticism has been translated into eighteen languages. He has edited Nabokov's English-language novels, autobiography, butterfly writings, and translations from Russian poetry.

#### **Users Review**

#### From reader reviews:

#### **Anne Stewart:**

Nowadays reading books become more than want or need but also get a life style. This reading practice give you lot of advantages. Associate programs you got of course the knowledge the particular information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The info you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want feel happy read one along with theme for entertaining including comic or novel. Often the Letters to Véra is kind of book which is giving the reader unstable experience.

#### **Amanda Dell:**

People live in this new time of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the free time or they will get wide range of stress from both everyday life and work. So , if we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not a robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to an individual of course your answer may unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, the actual book you have read will be Letters to Véra.

#### Frank Jorge:

The book untitled Letters to Véra contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains your girlfriend idea with easy approach. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read that. The book was authored by famous author. The author provides you in the new time of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can open up their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice go through.

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