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## **Salem Press Announces the Newest Addition to its Critical Insights Series; *Critical Insights: Lolita***

Edited by Rachel Stauffer, an Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator of Russian studies at Ferrum College, *Critical Insights: Lolita* presents essays on *Lolita* written predominantly, although not exclusively, by students and instructors trained in Slavic languages and literatures. As an American novel, written and published in English, the amount of scholarship in English on *Lolita* is much greater than that of Nabokov's other novels, most of which were written first in Russian and then later translated into English. Although Nabokov had begun a Russian novel on the same theme, *Lolita* was the first book he wrote entirely in English from the outset. The essays within this volume reflect the existing scholarship while also offering additional, global perspectives and approaches to *Lolita* that are representative of both new and old trends in the study of this important and complex novel.

Beginning with **The Book and the Author**, Editor Rachel Stauffer provides an introduction on *Lolita* while Julian W. Connolly follows with a biography on Nabokov. The book then shifts to a series of four **Contextual Essays**, Sara Dickinson provides the historical background of *Lolita* from nineteenth-century Russian literature by identifying some of the connections between that novel and its canonical predecessors. Lucia C. A. Williams takes a psychological approach, addressing the relationship between Humbert and Lolita as sexually abusive, and delves into the mental and emotional damage that it inflicts on Lolita based on current understanding about child psychology. Alexei Lalo provides unique insight into male sexuality in *Lolita* as he compares the novel with the works of other twentieth-century Russian authors, including Viktor Pelevin, a well-known, living post-Soviet author. Lalo's piece provides a critical lens that is not often examined in the context of *Lolita*, nor in the context of Russian literature more broadly. Thomas Seifrid's comparative analysis traces the influence of Rainer Maria Rilke in *Lolita*, providing more than ample evidence that Nabokov must have intended such a subtext.

The next major section of the present volume, **Critical Readings**, is devoted to a range of topics concerning the novel. Inna Kapilevich's chapter continues the discussion about nineteenth-century Russian literature with an emphasis on Nikolai Chernyshevsky. Similarly, Natalia Dame's chapter considers the Russian roots of Nabokov's *nymphet* through an insightful and thought-provoking analysis of Russian women in nineteenth-century *fin-de siècle* Russian literature. The reprinted article from Priscilla Meyer, a veteran scholar of Nabokov, considers the question of Clare Quilty as a literary double or *doppelganger* of Humbert Humbert, which is a vital question for any reader of *Lolita* who is familiar with this phenomenon in literature,

particularly in Russian literature. Lyndsay Miller’s chapter on revision and narrative authority in *Lolita* brings to light the role of Humbert as a narrator—is he reliable or unreliable? Additionally, Miller examines how exactly Humbert functions as his words are ultimately manipulated by Nabokov. Rebecca Freeh-Maciorowski considers an important element of the narrative in her examination of *ocularcentrism*. The careful attention to visual details and the sense of vision in particular in *Lolita* are considered here, and in the context of earlier work on the topic, with new perspectives. Other essay topics are:

- “The Sweet Game of Anesthesia: Nabokov’s Playful Conditioning Strategies in *Lolita*” by Michael Federspiel
- “Rabbit-like Fear Response in *Lolita*: Humbert Humbert as Predator and Dolores Haze as Prey” by Rachel Stauffer
- “A Garden and a Twilight and a Palace Gate: *Lolita* Outside Humbert’s Control” by Kirsten Rutsala
- “The Evanescent Fountain of Youth: The ‘*Lolita*’-Mega-Metaphor in Vladimir Nabokov’s Novels” by Ljuba Tarvi

Each essay in *Critical Insights: Lolita* is 2,500 to 5,000 words in length, and all essays conclude with a list of Works Cited and detailed endnotes. Also included in this volume are **Appendixes** to provide readers with additional information and opportunities for further research, including a **Chronology of Vladimir Nabokov’s Life**, a list of **Works by Vladimir Nabokov**, an annotated **Bibliography**, biographies of the **Editors** and **Contributors**, and an alphabetical **Index**.

The *Critical Insights* Series distills the best of both classic and current literary criticism of the world’s most studied literature. Edited and written by some of academia’s most distinguished literary scholars, *Critical Insights: Lolita* provides authoritative, in-depth scholarship that students and researchers will rely on for years. This volume is destined to become a valuable purchase for all.

**Free Online with Print Purchase.**

In addition, *Critical Insights: Lolita* comes with complimentary online access via <http://online.salempress.com>. A single purchase of the printed version is all it takes to gain access to this important title on the web.

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