



# Ada, or Ardor: A Family Chronicle

*Vladimir Nabokov*

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Vladimir Nabokov

## Ada, or Ardor: A Family Chronicle Vladimir Nabokov

Published two weeks after Vladimir Nabokov's seventieth birthday, *Ada, or Ardor* is one of his greatest masterpieces, the glorious culmination of his career as a novelist. It tells a love story troubled by incest, but it is also at once a fairy tale, epic, philosophical treatise on the nature of time, parody of the history of the novel, and erotic catalogue. *Ada, or Ardor* is no less than the supreme work of an imagination at white heat.

This is the first American edition to include the extensive and ingeniously sardonic appendix by the author, written under the anagrammatic pseudonym Vivian Darkbloom.

One of the twentieth century's master prose stylists, Vladimir Nabokov was born in St. Petersburg in 1899. He studied French and Russian literature at Trinity College, Cambridge, then lived in Berlin and Paris, where he launched a brilliant literary career. In 1940 he moved to the United States, and achieved renown as a novelist, poet, critic, and translator. He taught literature at Wellesley, Stanford, Cornell, and Harvard. In 1961 he moved to Montreux, Switzerland, where he died in 1977.

"Nabokov writes prose the only way it should be written, that is, ecstatically." ?John Updike

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