

APPENDICES

Summary of *Lolita*

Lolita is a story about the life of its narrator and protagonist, Humbert Humbert, which focuses on his disastrous love affair with a young girl named Dolores Haze (also known in Humbert's mind as Lolita). Humbert is writing the manuscript for *Lolita* from a jail cell, where he is imprisoned for the murder of Clare Quilty. Humbert writes that he has had an obsession with young girls in his adult life, beginning with his unrequited passion for a young girl named Annabel, with whom he falls in love as a young boy.

Humbert's first hasty marriage to a woman named Valeria ends badly on their emigration from France to America. In America, Humbert rents a room in a house owned by Charlotte Haze and her daughter Dolores or Lolita. He immediately becomes obsessed with the 12-year-old Lolita, who reminds him physically of Annabel. Humbert marries Charlotte while Lolita goes to a summer camp, but before she returns, her mother discovers Humbert's journal that contains Humbert's disgust for her and lust for Lolita. Charlotte goes insane and runs out into the street to mail a letter to Lolita about Humbert's sick intention, but she is suddenly hit by a car and gets killed.

Soon afterwards, Humbert fetches Lolita from the camp and they go to a hotel for a night, where they have sex for the first time and become lovers. Later Humbert tells Lolita that her mother is dead, and they begin a year-long driving tour, all the while continuing their affair.

After a year, they move to Lolita's hometown, Beardsley, where Humbert enrolls Lolita in a private girl school. Humbert quickly becomes paranoid and jealous, and he fights with Lolita frequently about her associations with boys of her age.

Eventually, Lolita mysteriously says that she wants to leave Beardsley and go to another long journey. Suddenly, Lolita vanishes, leaving Humbert all alone. He drives around by himself looking for her in all the places they have visited, trying to learn the truth. Later, he has a two-year love affair with an insane woman in her mid-20s named Rita because at that time Humbert really needs a company.

About three years after Lolita's disappearance, Humbert receives a letter from now the 18-year-old Lolita, announcing that she is married with Richard F. Schiller and pregnant, and needs money. When Humbert receives the letter, he leaves Rita a note that says he leaves her forever. Humbert goes to Lolita's house and tells her that he still loves her. He gives her four thousand dollars, but in exchange he demands to know with whom she has disappeared on that road trip. She tells him about Quilty, which sends Humbert into a rage. He finds Quilty and then murders him. Humbert then dies in prison and Lolita dies in childbirth a short while later.

Biography of Vladimir Nabokov

Vladimir Nabokov was born on April 23, 1899 in St. Petersburg, Russia as the eldest son of five children. He grows up in a rich, cultured, liberal family. He began attending the highly regarded Tenishev School in 1911. Bolshevik revolution and the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II forced his family to move to England in 1919 where Nabokov enrolled in Cambridge. He majored in French and Russian literature.

In 1923, Nabokov moved to Berlin, where he wrote poetry and short stories for the Russian newspaper. In 1925, he married Vera Slonim, a Russian emigre. Nabokov's first Russian novel, Mary (Mashenka), was published that year. In 1940, Nabokov and Vera, along with their son Dimitri (born in 1934), emigrated to the US and lived in Cambridge, Massachusetts. His first English novel, The Real Life of Sebastian Knight, was published in 1941. His works were also published in "The New Yorker" newspaper and others respected.

In the early 1950s, Nabokov composed the work that would define him. Lolita was a hard sell to publishers, but by the end of the decade, with Nabokov now 60, the book was such a hit.

In 1961, he and Vera moved to Montreux, Switzerland, where they remained until he died in 1977. In the final 16 years of his life, Nabokov published several novels, including the well-received Pale Fire in 1962, and Ada or Ardor: a family Chronicle in 1969, which Nabokov felt was his best work. He also worked closely with his son, translating his earlier Russian work into English.

In his life, he has published 19 novels, several works of poetry, plays, short stories, and non fiction.