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The Secret History of Vladimir Nabokov

By Andrea Pitzer

Pegasus. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 448 pages. Dimensions: 0.9in. x 0.6in. x 0.1in. A startling and revelatory examination of Nabokov's life and work, notably *Pale Fire* and *Lolita*, bringing new insight into one of the twentieth century's most enigmatic authors. Novelist Vladimir Nabokov witnessed the horrors of his century, escaping Revolutionary Russia then Germany under Hitler, and fleeing France with his Jewish wife and son just weeks before Paris fell to the Nazis. He repeatedly faced accusations of turning a blind eye to human suffering to write artful tales of depravity. But does one of the greatest writers in the English language really deserve the label of amoral aesthete bestowed on him by so many critics? Using information from newly-declassified intelligence files and recovered military history, journalist Andrea Pitzer argues that far from being a proponent of art for art's sake, Vladimir Nabokov managed to hide disturbing history in his fiction, history that has gone unnoticed for decades. Nabokov emerges as a kind of documentary conjurer, spending the most productive decades of his career recording a saga of forgotten concentration camps and searing bigotry, from World War I to the Gulag and the Holocaust. *Lolita* surrenders Humbert Humbert's secret identity, and reveals a Nabokov appalled...



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Reviews

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