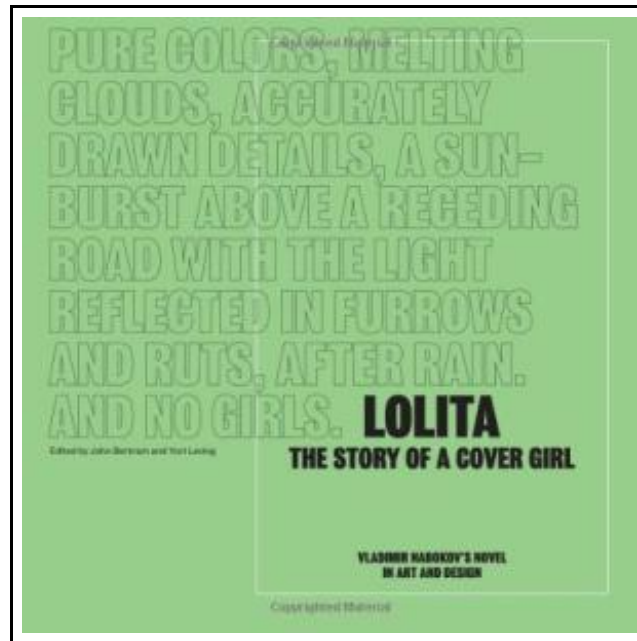


Lolita: The Story of a Cover Girl: Vladimir Nabokov's Novel in Art and Design



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Reviews

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(Bernadette Baumbach)

LOLITA: THE STORY OF A COVER GIRL: VLADIMIR NABOKOV'S NOVEL IN ART AND DESIGN



Print. 1 Paperback(s), 2013. soft. Book Condition: New. What should Lolita look like? The question has dogged book-cover designers since 1955, when Lolita was first published in a plain green wrapper. The heroine of Vladimir Nabokov's classic novel has often been shown as a teenage seductress in heart-shaped glasses, a deceptive image that misreads the book but has seeped deep into our cultural life, from fashion to film. In this richly illustrated study, some 80 graphic designers, illustrators, and Nabokov scholars survey more than half a century of Lolita book jackets, exploring the strange design history of one of the most important novels of the 20th century and offering new ways of thinking visually about difficult books."The sexualized vision of Lolita perpetuated by popular culture has very little to do with the text of Nabokov's novel, in which Lolita is not a teen-aged seductress but a sexually abused twelve-year-old girl. [This book] challenges this prevailing misrepresentation with essays by book designers, artists, and Nabokov scholars, and a preface by Mary Gaitskill that considers the problem of capturing Nabokov's psychologically complex story in a single image. The book's centerpiece is the Lolita Book Cover Project, for which the co-editor John Bertram, an architect based in Los Angeles, commissioned designers to create new covers for the book."The New Yorker 251.



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