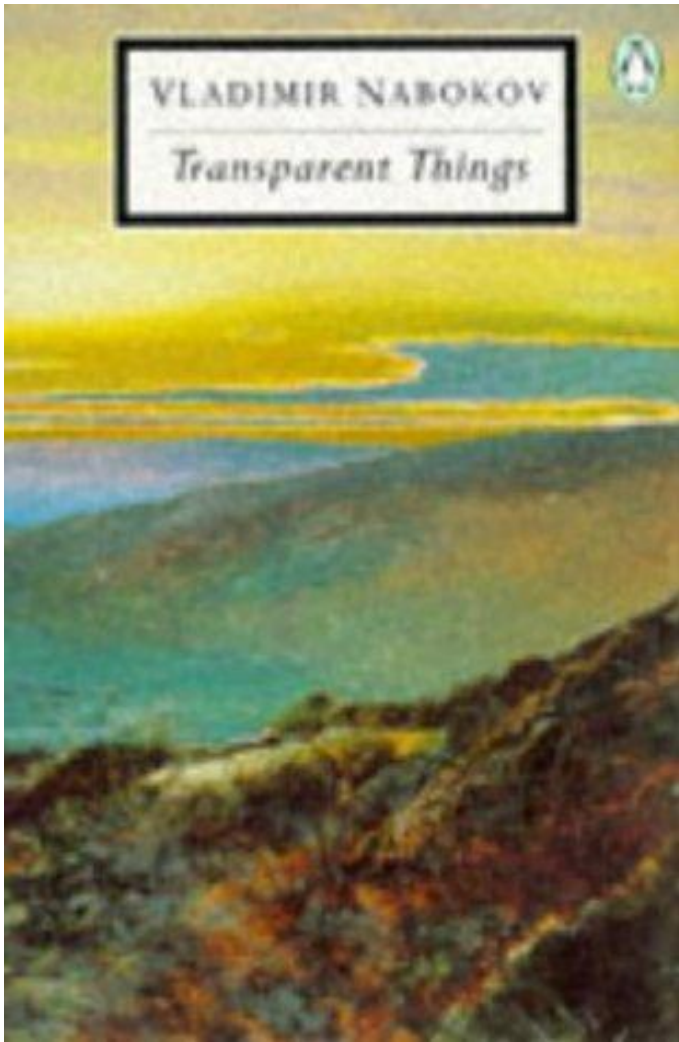

Vladimir Nabokov

Transparent Things



Title: Transparent Things

Author: Vladimir Nabokov

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Description

The darkly comic 'Transparent Things', one of Nabokov's final books, traces the bleak life of Hugh Person through murder, madness, prison and trips to Switzerland.

Insightful reviews

Eliot: The only post-*Pale Fire* Nabokov I have read. Unmistakable signs of creative decline. All the Nabokovian tics are on parade: the misogynistic and egomaniacal protagonist, the disdain for Freud and the far left, the translated Russian and untranslated French, the implausible sexual episodes, the heavily foreshadowed murder, etc. But the novel has an air of zestless inconsequence, like the work of a trivial imitator such as Banville. Even the wordplay is mediocre: e.g. Hugh Person/You Person, and as far as "sly scrambles" go, Adam von Libnikov is a big step down from Vivian Darkbloom.

Laura Henderson: This is a chronicle of a melancholy and masochistic journey of a lone man to locations of poignant personal significance, in retrospect, in his tragic life. If you are a fan of Nabokov's, the main character is a version of the often-seen neurotic, intelligent, and soul-sick young man, who is bound by a passion into a path that seems always thwarted.

The leading man is awkward, self-critical, and highly intelligent. Nabokov knows how to render a "chance turn of events" - wherein the anti-hero falls desperately in love with a shallow, beautiful, bitchy ski bunny in Switzerland, while working as a proofreader for a publishing company and meeting popular but pompous authors.

This is my idea of a great beach book but it is gloomy. It's an easy read and fans of Nabokov might like this rendering of some of his "favorite" themes of regret, unrequited love, man's relationship to memory and time, and wrenching nostalgia.

Carlos Clorth: Hugh Person is the main protagonist of this little novel that takes place during the various trips of the man to Switzerland. Nabokov switches between past and future while making fun of the delicious chocolât.

John: can Nabokov particularly paintings his genius in so narrow a quantity as this? beautiful much.

Josh: Wow. Lolita will get the entire press due to its scandalous subject material (and it is an awesome novel), yet obvious issues merits to return out of its shadow. So tightly built -- this is often Nabokov's third-to-last novel (counting the one who got here out posthumously), and he's on the peak of each unmarried one in all his powers -- linguistically, structurally, philosophically... once i ended I became again to web page 1 and re-read it. Almost comprehensive with the challenge to learn all of his novels in chronological order. Then i believe i'm going to do an identical factor as I did with obvious issues -- flip again to the start and begin over. definitely worth the investment.

Terri Jacobson: Vladimir Nabokov wrote this publication while he was once seventy three years old. it is a tricky publication to learn and understand, yet worth the effort. it is the tale of Hugh Person, and his four journeys to Switzerland in the course of his grownup lifetime, and the lifestyles adjustments that occurred to him there. the writer strikes between assorted time classes within the novel, and that could make it tough to follow. Nabokov truly urged taking notes whereas one reads this book. I learn many passages over, and ended up interpreting the entire booklet via twice. (It's basically 104 pages.) in lots of methods the e-book is sort of a puzzle to decipher. it truly is enjoyable to notice the entire situations the place Nabokov makes use of the paintings "transparent." He describes houses, people, and shadows as transparent; sexual love is defined as no longer transparent. there are various performs at the protagonist's surname of Person. There are cases within which Nabokov turns out to touch upon the sexuality of younger girls:"Not basically did the snapshots stick to Armande via all of the stages of the prior and the entire advancements of novice photography, however the lady additionally got here in a number of states of blameless undress. Her mom and dad and aunts, the insatiable takers of lovely pictures, believed in reality lady baby of ten, the dream of a Lutwidgean, had an analogous correct to overall nudity as an infant." (This is a connection with Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, a guy who took arguable images of younger children.)And whilst Hugh is ready to mattress 18 yr outdated Julia (who has been sexually energetic because the age of 13) the next occurs:"Hugh used to be moved to enfold in his shy paw the infantile hand that had unintentionally touched his kneecap. She used to be splendidly unique to the sexual eye along with her doll's face, her slanting eyes and topaz-teared earlobes, her moderate shape in an orange shirt and black skirt, her slender-jointed limbs, her exotically smooth hair squarely reduce at the forehead."And Nabokov additionally writes"Everyone has mystery tensions kept up from infancy. Hugh don't need to be embarrassed about them. actually at puberty sexual hope arises instead for the will to kill, which one often fulfills in one's dreams; and insomnia is in basic terms the phobia of turning into conscious in sleep of one's subconscious wants for slaughter and sex."The writing during this ebook is excellent, classic Nabokov. a few passages I liked"His father, a guy of sixty, shorter than Hugh and likewise pudgier, had elderly unappetizingly in the course of his fresh widowhood; his issues permit off a attribute foreshell, faint yet unmistakable, and he grunted and sighed in his sleep, dreaming of huge unwieldy blocks of blackness, which needed to be looked after out and faraway from one's direction or over which one needed to clamber in agonizing attitudes of debility and despair." "Hugh didn't linger in that exact room, for he had the uncanny feeling that Mrs. Flankard used to be making plans to be raped underneath Mr. Flankard's mauve snowflakes. Like many overripe and nonetheless good-looking woman artists, she relatively unaware huge bust, a wrinkled neck, and the scent of stale femininity on an eau de cologne base may possibly repel a fearful male." "This Henry Emery Person, our Person's father, could be defined as a well-meaning, earnest, expensive little man, or as a wretched fraud, looking on the attitude of sunshine and the location of the observer. loads of handwringing is going approximately at the hours of darkness of remorse, within the dungeon of the irreparable." "What robust words, what weapons, are kept up within the mountains, at appropriate spots, in particular caches of the granite heart, at the back of painted surfaces of metal made to resemble the mottling of the adjoining rocks!"The prose during this e-book is wealthy with flashes of humor. there's a lot to investigate and look at here. There are numerous dream sequences, and there are various names and titles of fictional books, plays, etc., which may lead one on many tangents of analysis. Nabokov touches on subject matters of sexuality, aging, the connection among fathers and sons, and the

function of "nymphets." obvious issues is a difficult and bracing studying experience.

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