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Michael Karp, SOC

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Dmitri Nabokov
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Dear Mr. Nabokov:

I am a visual effects cameraman for Digital Domain in Venice, California, and I am also a narrative film instructor at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena (BTW, thank you for your support of the European campus!)

Lolita continues to be a controversial subject in my classes, especially since the release of the Lyne film. Stephen Schiff has provided some valuable insights to me, but I definitely need your help.

An important question concerns whether Humbert fantasizes any of the events in Lolita. **NOT UNLESS HE SAYS SO -**

For example, many people believe that that Lolita was a twelve-year-old virgin who was raped by her delusional, self-absolving stepfather **NONSENSE**

Others believe the opposite, that Lolita was actually a sexually precocious girl who **lost her virginity** at summer camp and then **seduced** Humbert. **IT IS A DEGREE AT LEAST** **SHE CERTAINLY DID HER PART**

Still others believe that your father intentionally decided that the truth about the objective reality of Lolita should be unknowable.

TO A CERTAIN POINT (BLUNTED BY THE HEAVY-HANDINESS OF SOME INTERPRETERS) THIS IS TRUE OF MUCH OF HIS WRITING - E.G. INVITATION TO A BEHINDING, WHERE, ON SOME ... COMPLETELY LEFT

Which version do you believe to be Vladimir's intent?

Some have suggested that Humbert is an "unreliable narrator". But just how unreliable is he? Did he fantasize Lolita's infatuation with Quilty? Did Humbert fantasize that Lolita had sex with Charlie at camp? Did he fantasize that Lolita and Humbert seduced one another? And isn't Lolita joking when she accuses Humbert of raping her, claiming herself as a formerly "daisy-fresh girl?" ^{NO} ^{PARTIALLY, AT LEAST} ^{YES, WITH A CUSTFUL NUANCE} ^{NO}

REDDING CONFIRMS WHAT I'VE MARKED

Vladimir's wrote his novel in the first person, while he wrote his 1961 screenplay in the third person. Humbert's first person version of events could be subjective and falsified, but Nabokov's omniscient third person screenplay seemed to indicate that Humbert was not hallucinating Lolita's sexual aggressiveness. ^{HERE ARE SOME DIFFERENCES, BUT POSSIBLY THIS IS RIGHT. I SHALL BE PLAYING THE VN CAMO EN AN ITALIAN VERSION OF SCREENPLAY AT MILAN'S TEATRO PICCOLO.}

Many of these issues were raised during audience questioning of Mr. Lyne, when he previewed Lolita in Beverly Hills for the British Film Society. The same questions are also asked on the <http://www.amazon.com> web site, in the Lolita Reading Group Guide.

I look forward to your answers to these questions:

- Was Lolita forcibly raped, or merely the victim of statutory rape? ^{I DON'T THINK SO}
- Was Lolita promiscuous? Did she premeditate and desire having sex with Quilty, Charlie and Humbert? Or was this just wishful thinking on Humbert's part? ^{NO}
- Is Humbert's story real or imagined? In addition, is the reality of Humbert's narrative subjective or objective? ^{DID SHADE INVENT KINBORE, OR VICE VERSA. OR WAS IT RECIPROCAL, OR ARE THESE SILLY QUESTIONS? EVERY FICTION IS, IN SOME SENSE, FULL OF THE ABOVE - BUT THE AUTHOR IS GOD. (NOT THE REVERSE)}
- How does Mr. Lyne's splendid film deal with the premise of the unreliable narrator? ^{I CONCUR}

IT IS MORE FAITHFUL
THAN KUBRICK'S IN PART
BECAUSE IT DOES NOT
THE ADOLESCENT FLASHBACK.
FOR INSTANCE, IT'S ESSENTIAL:
IT SUGGESTS THAT THE WHOLE
"PARADISE" PARENTHESIS IS,
FOR HIM, ALSO A QUEST FOR LOST
CHILDHOOD, DESTINED TO CLOSE WHEN HE
REALIZES HE CUBED 2. EVEN IN
PREGNANT, NON-NYMPHET

Sincerely,
Michael Karp

SOPH - VERY GREAT
PUSHED. HOPE
IT'S LEGIBLE
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