

# A47

## Tyrants Destroyed and Other Stories

*Tyrants Destroyed and Other Stories* is the second collection of stories, gathered into “Nabokov dozen” groups of 13 each, that McGraw-Hill published in the middle 1970s. It was also the last submission in an eleven-book, five-year deal between the author and the publisher. Twelve of the stories were written in Russian and first appeared in émigré newspapers and periodicals. They were translated by Dmitri Nabokov and then revised by Vladimir Nabokov from late November to early January 1973 (*VNTAY* 608).

On submitting the manuscript, Nabokov had placed “Tyrants Destroyed” in the first position, making the title of the collection, *Tyrants Destroyed and Other Stories*. Then, on 13-Apr-1973, he wrote to the editor-in-chief of McGraw-Hill (*VNSL* 515):

I take this opportunity to mention a change I would like to make in the title of the second collection of short stories, the typescript of which is already in McGraw-Hill’s hands. I want to change the order of the stories, moving *Perfection* to first place and switching *Tyrants Destroyed* to number 11, the former place of *Perfection*. The title of the entire volume would then be PERFECTION, which I think is more pleasing.

Obviously, this change was never made.

After the McGraw-Hill edition in 1975, there were three further editions. The 13 stories have been available since 1995 in *The Collected Stories of Vladimir Nabokov*.

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### Edition Summary

**A47.1 Tyrants Destroyed and Other Stories** FIRST EDITION (MCGRAW-HILL), 27-Jan-1975, 2 issues

**A47.2 Tyrants Destroyed and Other Stories** FIRST BRITISH EDITION (WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON), 20-Nov-1975, 2 issues

**A47.3 Tyrants Destroyed and Other Stories** FIRST WRAPPERS EDITION (MCGRAW-HILL), 1981, 1 issue

**A47.4 Tyrants Destroyed and Other Stories** FIRST BRITISH WRAPPERS EDITION (PENGUIN), 1981, 2 issues

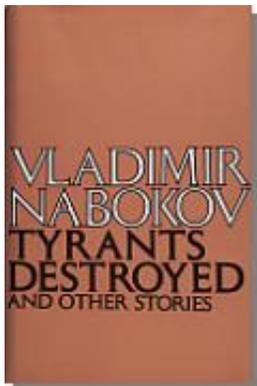
# Vladimir Nabokov: A Descriptive Bibliography, Revised

## Tyrants Destroyed and Other Stories

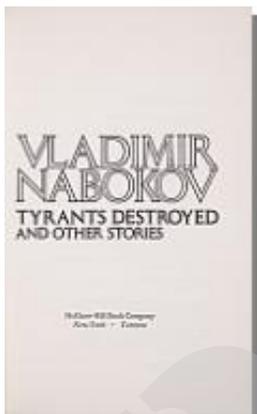
A47.1

FIRST EDITION (MCGRAW-HILL)

¶ First printing, 27-Jan-1975



A47.1 First printing, 1975, cover, front



A47.1 First printing, 1975, title page



A47.1 First printing, 1975, copyright page

**Collation:** (21.3 X 13.9 cm), perfect bound, 128 leaves, pp. [i–viii] ix [x] xi [xii] [1–2] 3–37 [38–40] 41–58, [59–60] 61–68 [69–70] 71–99 [100–102] 103–110 [111–112] 113–121 [122–124] 125–139 [140–142] 143–155 [156–158] 159–168 [169–170] 171–183 [184–186] 187–202 [203–204] 205–215 [216–218] 219–238 [239–240]

**Title page:** VLADIMIR | NABOKOV | TYRANTS DESTROYED | AND OTHER STORIES | McGraw-Hill Book Company | New York • Toronto

**Copyright page:** Book designed by Marcy J. Katz. | Copyright © 1975 by Vladimir Nabokov | All rights reserved. | Printed in the United States of America. | No part of this publication may | be reproduced, stored in a retrieval | system, or transmitted, | in any form or by any means, | electronic, mechanical, photocopying, | recording, or otherwise, without the prior written | permission of the publisher. | Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data | Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899- | Tyrants destroyed and other stories. | “Of the thirteen stories in this collection the first | twelve have been translated from the Russian by Dmitri | Nabokov in collaboration with the author. The thir- | teenth story was written in English.” | CONTENTS: Tyrants destroyed.—A nursery tale.—Music. | —Lik.—Recruiting. [etc.] | I. Title. | PZ3.N121Ty3 891.7'3'42 74-19209 | ISBN 0-07-045739-5 | “A Nursery Tale” and “The Admiralty Spire” originally | appeared in *Playboy* Magazine. | “The Vane Sisters” was first published in *The Hudson | Review*, Vol. XI, No. 4 (Winter 1958-1959). | “Bachmann” originally appeared in *Vogue* Magazine. | “Lik” and “Perfection” © 1974 by McGraw-Hill Inter- | national, Inc. These stories originally appeared in | *The New Yorker*. | 123456789 BPPB 798765

**Binding:** Black cloth over boards. Orange-brown endpapers. Top edge stained black. All edges trimmed. **Front cover:** \blind stamping\ VLADIMIR | NABOKOV | TYRANTS | DESTROYED | AND OTHER STORIES. **Back cover:** \gilt stamping\ 0-07-045739-5. **Spine:** \gilt stamping\ NABOKOV TYRANTS DESTROYED | AND OTHER STORIES | \gilt background\ Mc | Graw | Hill.

**Covering:** White dust jacket. \gold background\ **Front cover:** \white bordered in black\ VLADIMIR | \white bordered in black\ NABOKOV | TYRANTS | DESTROYED | AND OTHER STORIES. **Back cover:** \photo of Nabokov by Halsman\ \white\ 0-07-045739-5. **Spine:** \running down\ \white bordered in black\ NABOKOV \black\ TYRANTS DESTROYED | AND OTHER STORIES | \white background\ \gold\ Mc | Graw | Hill. **Front flap:** \$8.95 | \white bordered in black\ VLADIMIR | \white bordered in black\ NABOKOV | TYRANTS | DESTROYED | AND OTHER STORIES | \blurb\ **Back flap:** \photo & design credits\ \publisher information\

**Contents:** [i] half-title, [ii–iii] list of books by author, [iv] blank, [v] title page, [vi] copyright page, [vii] dedication, [viii] blank, ix contents, [x] blank, xi foreword, [xii] blank, [1] story title, [2] preface, 3–37 story, [38] blank, [39] story title, [40] preface, 41–58, [59] story title, [60] preface, 61–68 story, [69] story title, [70] preface, 71–99 story, [100] blank, [101] story title, [102] preface, 103–110 story, [111] story title, [112] preface, 113–121 story, [122] blank, [123] story title, [124] preface, 125–139 story, [140] blank, [141] story title, [142] preface, 143–155 story, [156] blank, [157] story title, [158] preface, 159–168 story, [169] story title, [170] preface, 171–183 story, [184] blank, [185] story title, [186] preface, 187–202 story, [203] story title, [204] preface, 205–215 story, [216] blank,

[217] story title, [218] preface, 219–238 story, [239–240] blank

**ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN:** 0-07-045739-5

**Price:** \$8.95

**Description:** The first 12 stories were translated from the Russian by Dmitri Nabokov and then revised by Vladimir Nabokov. The last one was written in English.

**Works:**

- 1) Foreword [to *Tyrants Destroyed and Other Stories*]
- 2) [Preface to “Tyrants Destroyed”]
- 3) Tyrants Destroyed [Истребление тиранов]
- 4) [Preface to “A Nursery Tale”]
- 5) A Nursery Tale [Сказка]
- 6) [Preface to “Music”]
- 7) Music [Музыка]
- 8) [Preface to “Lik”]
- 9) Lik [Лик]
- 10) [Preface to “Recruiting”]
- 11) Recruiting [Набор]
- 12) [Preface to “Terror”]
- 13) Terror [Ужас]
- 14) [Preface to “The Admiralty Spire”]
- 15) The Admiralty Spire [Адмиралтейская игла]
- 16) [Preface to “A Matter of Chance”]
- 17) A Matter of Chance [Случайность]
- 18) [Preface to “In Memory of L.I. Shigaev”]
- 19) In Memory of L.I. Shigaeva [Памяти Л.И. Шигаева]
- 20) [Preface to “Bachmann”]
- 21) Bachmann [Бахман]
- 22) [Preface to “Perfection”]
- 23) Perfection [Совершенство]
- 24) [Preface to “Vasiliy Shishkov”]  
– A poem in English, *The Poets* “From room to hallway a candle passes” (1971), is embedded.
- 25) Vasiliy Shishkov [Василий Шишков]
- 26) [Preface to “The Vane Sisters”]
- 27) The Vane Sisters

¶ Second printing, date unknown

*As first printing, except*

**Copyright page:** ... | 23456789 BPBP 798765 | ...

**A47.2 FIRST BRITISH EDITION (WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON)**

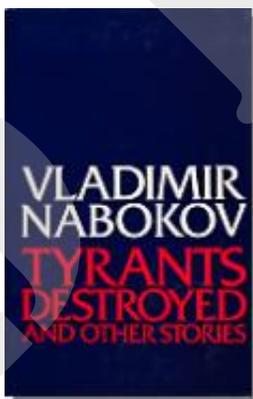
¶ First printing, issue a, 20-Nov-1975

*As first edition, except*

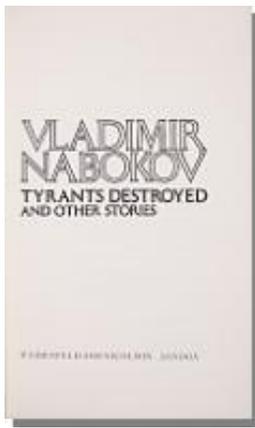
**Collation:** (21.5 X 13.5 cm), pp. [i–viii] ix [x] xi [xii] [1–2] 3–37 [38–40] 41–58, [59–60] 61–68 [69–70] 71–99 [100–102] 103–110 [111–112] 113–121 [122–124] 125–139 [140–142] 143–155 [156–158] 159–168 [169–170] 171–183 [184–186] 187–202 [203–204] 205–215 [216–218] 219–238 [239]

**Title page:** VLADIMIR | NABOKOV | TYRANTS DESTROYED | AND OTHER STORIES | WEIDENFELD AND NICOLSON LONDON

**Copyright page:** Copyright © 1975 by Vladimir Nabokov | First published in Great Britain in 1975 by | Weidenfeld and Nicolson | All rights reserved. | No part of this publication may be | reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, | in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, | photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior | permission of the copyright owner. | “A Nursery Tale” and “The Admiralty Spire” originally | appeared in *Playboy Magazine*. | “The Vane Sisters” was first published in *The Hudson | Review*, Vol. XI, No. 4 (Winter 1958–1959). | “Bachmann” originally appeared in *Vogue Magazine*. | “Lik” and “Perfection” © 1974 by McGraw-Hill | International, Inc. These stories originally appeared in | *The New Yorker*. | Weidenfeld and Nicolson | 11 St



A47.2 First printing, issue a, 1975, cover, front



A47.2 First printing, issue a, 1975, title page



A47.2 First printing, issue a, 1975, copyright page

John's Hill London SW11 | ISBN 0 297 77023 3 | Printed in Great Britain by | REDWOOD BURN LIMITED | Trowbridge and Esher

**Binding:** Black cloth over boards. White endpapers; the final leaf of the last signature is used as the lining-paper (i.e., the back paste-down endpaper). All edges trimmed. **Front and back covers:** \blank\. **Spine:** \gilt stamping\ \running down\ NABOKOV TYRANTS DESTROYED | AND OTHER STORIES | \running across\ Weidenfeld | & Nicolson.

**Covering:** White dust jacket. \navy blue background\ **Front cover:** \white\ VLADIMIR | \white\ NABOKOV | \red\ TYRANTS | \red\ DESTROYED | \red\ AND OTHER STORIES. **Back cover:** \photo of Nabokov by Halsman\. **Spine:** \running down\ \white\ NABOKOV \red\ TYRANTS DESTROYED | \red\ AND OTHER STORIES | \white\ Weidenfeld | & Nicolson. **Front flap:** \navy blue\ VLADIMIR | \navy blue\ NABOKOV | \red\ TYRANTS | \red\ DESTROYED | \red\ AND OTHER STORIES | \short description\. | Price | (in UK only) | £4.50 net. **Back flap:** photo by Halsmann | ISBN 0 297 77023 3 | \publisher information\

**Contents:** [i] half-title, [ii-iii] list of books by author, [iv] blank, [v] title page, [vi] copyright page, [vii] dedication, [viii] blank, ix contents, [x] blank, xi foreword, [xii] blank, [1] story title, [2] preface, 3-37 story, [38] blank, [39] story title, [40] preface, 41-58, [59] story title, [60] preface, 61-68 story, [69] story title, [70] preface, 71-99 story, [100] blank, [101] story title, [102] preface, 103-110 story, [111] story title, [112] preface, 113-121 story, [122] blank, [123] story title, [124] preface, 125-139 story, [140] blank, [141] story title, [142] preface, 143-155 story, [156] blank, [157] story title, [158] preface, 159-168 story, [169] story title, [170] preface, 171-183 story, [184] blank, [185] story title, [186] preface, 187-202 story, [203] story title, [204] preface, 205-215 story, [216] blank, [217] story title, [218] preface, 219-238 story, [239] blank

**ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN:** 0-297-77023-3

**Price:** £4.50

¶ First printing, issue b, date unknown

*As first printing, issue a, except*

**Covering:** White dust jacket. **Front flap:** \label over original price\ WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON | IN U.K. ONLY | £5.50

**Price:** £5.50

### A47.3 FIRST WRAPPERS EDITION (MCGRAW-HILL)

¶ First printing, 1981

*As first edition, except*

**Collation:** (20.2 X 13.4 cm), 252 pages

**Title page:** VLADIMIR | NABOKOV | TYRANTS DESTROYED | AND OTHER STORIES | McGraw-Hill Book Company | New York ...

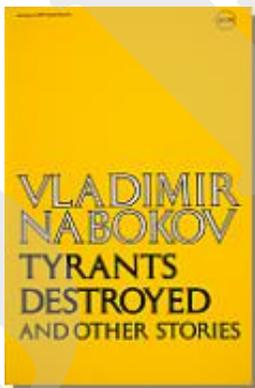
**Copyright page:** ... | 0-07-045718-2 (paperback) | ... | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 F G F G 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 | First paperback edition, 1981

**Binding:** White wrappers with yellow background and black and white lettering.

**ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN:** 0-07-045718-2

**Series and Number:** McGraw-Hill Paperbacks

**Price:** \$5.95



A47.3 First printing, 1981, cover, front

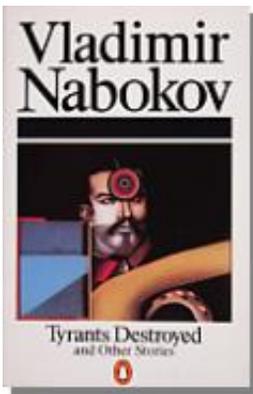
### A47.4 FIRST BRITISH WRAPPERS EDITION (PENGUIN)

¶ First printing, 1981

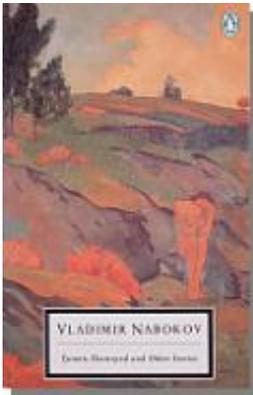
*As first edition, except*

**Collation:** (19.6 X 12.8 cm), 224 pages

**Title page:** Vladimir Nabokov | Tyrants Destroyed | and Other Stories | Penguin Books



A47.4 First printing, 1981,  
cover, front



A47.4 Second printing, cover,  
front

**Copyright page:** ... | Published in Penguin Books 1981 | ...

**Binding:** White wrappers with cover art of a detail from *Louis II, 1962* by Richard Lindner.

**ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN:** 0-14-004734-4

**Price:** £2.50

¶ Second printing, date unknown

*As first printing, except*

**Copyright page:** ... | 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 | ...

**Binding:** White wrappers with cover art of *Melancholia* by Paul Serusier.

**ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN:** 0-14-008625-0

**Series and Number:** Penguin Twentieth-Century Classics

**Price:** £5.99