

A14

Камера обскура Laughter in the Dark

The idea of a blind man being betrayed by his wife and her lover prompted Nabokov in January 1931 to write a novel he called *Райская Птица* [*Rayskaia Ptitsa / Bird of Paradise*]. Unhappy with the result, he revamped it totally and by May had finished the work, with the similar theme of a man betraying his wife and being betrayed in turn by his lover. The new title became *Камера обскура* [*Kamera obskura / Camera obscura*] (VNTRY 363–68, 378).

The first appearance of *Камера обскура* was in *Современные Записки* [*Sovremennye zapiski / Contemporary annals*], Paris. Chapters I–VII were in No. XLIX (May-1932), pp. 39–83; chapters VIII–XVII in No. L (Oct-1932), pp. 113–55; chapters XVII–XXVI in No. LI (Feb-1933), pp. 105–141; and chapters XXVII–XXXVI in No. LII (May-1933), pp. 66–106. (The last chapter in No. L is called XVII and the first in No. LI is also called XVII.) There are ellipses for all of chapters XX and XXXIII, the end of chapter XXIII, and the beginning of chapter XXXV.

The novel was excerpted in *Русский инвалид* [*Russkii invalid / Russian invalid*], Paris, on 22-May-1931 as “Отрывок из романа [Отрывок из романа / Excerpt from a novel]”, in *Наш век* [*Nash vek / Our age*], Berlin, on 8-Nov-1931 on p. 2, and in *Последние новости* [*Poslednie novosti / Latest news*], Paris, on 17-Apr-1932 and 18-Sep-1932. It was co-published as a book in December 1933 by *Sovremennye Zapiski* and *Parabola*.

Nabokov’s transformed the novel into the English *Laughter in the Dark* during the fall and into the winter of 1937, in the process making many changes, among them the names of the characters. He also considered other titles: “Blind Man’s Bluff”, “Colored Ghost”, “The Magic Lantern”, “The Clumsy Moth”, and “The Blind Moth” (VNTRY 445, 486). That translation was issued by Bobbs-Merrill on 6-May-1938.

A previous English translation was done by Winifred Roy and published by John Long in London in 1936 as *Camera Obscura*. See it as a D-item.

Edition Summary

- A14.1** *Камера обскура* FIRST EDITION (SOVREMENNYE ZAPISKI, PARABOLA), Dec-1933, 1 issue
- A14.2** *Laughter in the Dark* FIRST TRANSLATED EDITION (BOBBS-MERRILL), 6-May-1938, 3 issues
- A14.3** *Laughter in the Dark* FIRST WRAPPERS TRANSLATED EDITION (SIGNET BOOKS), Mar-1950, 1 issue
- A14.4** *Laughter in the Dark* NEW AMERICAN WRAPPERS TRANSLATED EDITION (BERKLEY), Sep-1958, 7 issues
- A14.5** *Laughter in the Dark* NEW AMERICAN TRANSLATED EDITION (NEW DIRECTIONS), 10-Nov-1960, 3 issues
- A14.6** *Laughter in the Dark* FIRST BRITISH TRANSLATED EDITION (WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON), 17-Mar-1961, 3 issues
- A14.7** *Laughter in the Dark* FIRST BRITISH WRAPPERS TRANSLATED EDITION (PENGUIN), 25-Apr-1963, 6 issues
- A14.8** *Камера обскура* FIRST AMERICAN EDITION (ARDIS), 1978, 2 issues
- A14.9** *Laughter in the Dark* NEW AMERICAN WRAPPERS TRANSLATED EDITION (NEW DIRECTIONS), 1978, 7 issues
- A14.10** *Laughter in the Dark* NEW AMERICAN TRANSLATED EDITION (VINTAGE), Dec-1989, 6 issues
- A14.11** *Камера обскура* FIRST RUSSIAN EDITION (VARIANT, DVA SLONA), 10-Sep-1991, 1 issue
- A14.12** *Laughter in the Dark* NEW AMERICAN WRAPPERS TRANSLATED EDITION (NEW DIRECTIONS), 1991, 3 issues

- A14.13 Камера обскура** FIRST BOOK CLUB EDITION (TERRA BOOK CLUB, AZBUKA), 11-Sep-1997, 1 issue
- A14.14 Laughter in the Dark** NEW BRITISH WRAPPERS TRANSLATED EDITION (PENGUIN), 28-May-1998, 1 issue
- A14.15 Камера обскура** NEW RUSSIAN EDITION (AZBUKA), 28-May-2000, 1 issue
- A14.16 Камера обскура** NEW RUSSIAN EDITION (AST, FOLIO), 29-Jan-2001, 1 issue
- A14.17 Камера обскура** NEW RUSSIAN EDITION (KRISTALL), 28-Sep-2001, 1 issue
- A14.18 Laughter in the Dark** NEW BRITISH WRAPPERS TRANSLATED EDITION (PENGUIN), 25-Oct-2001, 2 issues
- A14.19 Laughter in the Dark** NEW AMERICAN WRAPPERS TRANSLATED EDITION (NEW DIRECTIONS), 2006, 1 issue
- A14.20 Камера обскура** NEW RUSSIAN EDITION (AZBUKA), 18-May-2007, 5 issues
- A14.21 Laughter in the Dark** NEW BRITISH TRANSLATED EDITION (PENGUIN), 2012, 1 issue

Vladimir Nabokov: A Descriptive Bibliography, Revised

Камера обскура Laughter in the Dark

A14.1

FIRST EDITION (PARABOLA)

¶ First printing, Dec-1933



A14.1 First printing, 1933, cover, front



A14.1 First printing, 1933, title page



A14.1 First printing, 1933, copyright page

Collation: (19.5 X 13.1 cm), [1]⁸ 2–12⁸ 13⁶, 102 leaves, pp. [1–4] 5–203 [204]

Title page: В. СИРИНЪ | КАМЕРА | ОБСКУРА | РОМАНЪ | КНИГОИЗДАТЕЛЬСТВА | «СОВРЕМЕННЫЯ ЗАПИСКИ» | и | «ПАРАБОЛА» [V. Sirin" | Kamera | obskura | roman" | Knigoizdatel'stva | Sovremennyya zapiski | i | Parabola / V. Sirin | Kamera | obskura | A novel | Publishing houses | Sovremennyya zapiski | and Parabola]

Copyright page: Alle Rechte, insbesondere die der Ueber- | setzung und Verfilmung, vorbehalten. | Copyright by V. Nabokoff-Sirin. | Buchdruckerei Speer & Schmidt, Berlin SW 68

Binding: White wrappers. Bottom edge untrimmed. Top and fore-edges unopened. **Front cover:** \black-and-white pattern of a strip of film with the author and title repeated in white\ В. СИРИНЪ | КАМЕРА | ОБСКУРА | \rule in white\. **Back cover:** Складъ изданія | RETROPOLIS-VERLAG A. G. | BERLIN W 15 | \short rule\ | Для Франціи и Бельгіи: | MAISON DU LIVRE ETRANGER | PARIS VI | \sometimes stamped in purple\ Printed in Germany. **Spine:** \running up\ В. СИРИНЪ / КАМЕРА ОБСКУРА

Contents: [1–2] blank, [3] title-page, [4] copyright-page, 5–203 text, [204] text

Price: 25 francs

Works:

- 1) Камера обскура [Kamera obskura / Camera obscura]

A14.2

FIRST TRANSLATED EDITION (BOBBS-MERRILL)

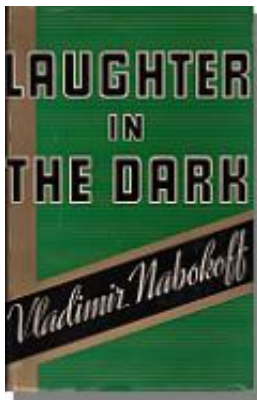
¶ First printing, variant a, 6-May-1938

POINTS

Variant a has a green binding, variant b has an orange binding, and variant c has a brown binding.

Collation: (20.6 X 13.0 cm), [1–16]⁸ [17]¹⁰ [18]⁸, 146 leaves, pp. [1–6] 7–292

Title page: LAUGHTER | IN THE DARK | BY | VLADIMIR NABOKOFF | \decorative device\ | THE BOBBS-MERRILL COMPANY | Indianapolis & New York | PUBLISHERS



A14.2 First printing, variant a, 1938, cover, front



A14.2 First printing, variant a, 1938, binding, front



A14.2 First printing, variant a, 1938, title page, facing



A14.2 First printing, variant a, 1938, copyright page

Copyright page: COPYRIGHT, 1938 | THE BOBBS-MERRILL COMPANY | FIRST EDITION | *A different version of this novel | has been published in England | under the title | Camera Obscura |* MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | PRINTED AND BOUND BY | BRAUNWORTH & CO., INC. | BUILDERS OF BOOKS | BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

Binding: Green cloth over boards. White endpapers. Fore-edge untrimmed. Top and bottom edges trimmed. **Front and back covers:** \blank\. **Spine:** \running down\ \decorative gilt stamping\ | \rectangular black background\ \gilt stamping\ LAUGHTER | IN THE | DARK | \small circle\ | Vladimir | Nabokoff | \decorative gilt stamping\ | \gilt stamping\ BOBBS | MERRILL | \decorative gilt stamping\

Covering: White dust jacket. **Front cover:** \green background with horizontal gold pattern, gold band down left side and gold outlining black band under author's name\ \title is black lettering outlined in white\ LAUGHTER | IN | THE DARK | \author's name is in white over black band angled up from the lower left to middle right\ Vladimir Nabokoff. **Back cover:** \publisher ads for eight fiction and seven general titles\. **Spine:** \black background\ \running across\ \gold band\ | \title in white\ LAUGHTER | IN | THE DARK | \green\ NABOKOFF | \gold band\ | \gold band\ | \publisher in green\ BOBBS | MERRILL | \gold band\. **Front flap:** \title, author, book description | \$2.50. **Back flap:** \title, author, book description continued\.

Contents: [1] half-title, [2] blank, [3] title page, [4] copyright page, [5] fly-title, [6] blank, 7–292 text

Price: \$2.50

Description: All sources that distinguish the three variants give the “green/orange/brown” sequence of priority. I have no direct evidence to corroborate this or any other ordering. The two Library of Congress deposit copies, however, have the green binding. Also, I have examined another green binding stamped “editorial copy”. The clear implication is that the green binding has precedence.

Boyd gives a publication date of 22-Apr-1938.

The first English translation, as *Camera Obscura*, had been done by Winifred Roy and published by John Long, a Hutchinson imprint, in London in 1936. (See in the D-items.)

Works:

- 1) Laughter in the Dark [Камера обская]



A14.2 First printing, variant b, binding, front

¶ First printing, variant b, unknown date

As variant a, except

Binding: Orange cloth over boards with black stamping.



A14.2 First printing, variant c, binding, front

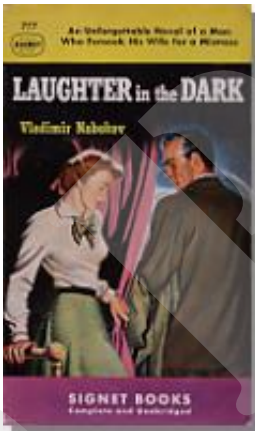
¶ First printing, variant c, unknown date

As variant a, except

Binding: Brown cloth over boards with dark blue stamping.

A14.3

FIRST WRAPPERS TRANSLATED EDITION (SIGNET BOOKS, IMPRINT OF NEW AMERICAN LIBRARY)



A14.3 First printing, 1950, cover, front

¶ First printing, Mar-1950

Collation: (18.0 X 10.7 cm), 144 pages

Title page: LAUGHTER | IN THE DARK | BY | VLADIMIR NABOKOV | \publisher's device\ | A SIGNET BOOK | Published by THE NEW AMERICAN LIBRARY

Copyright page: COPYRIGHT, 1938, BY NEW DIRECTIONS | *Published as a SIGNET BOOK | By Arrangement with New Directions* | FIRST PRINTING, MARCH 1950 | A different version of this novel has | been published in England under the title | *Camera Obscura* | \three lines within ruled box\ SIGNET BOOKS are published by | *The New American Library of World Literature, Inc.* | 245 Fifth Avenue, New York 16, New York | PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \illustration of man eying female usher\.

Series and Number: 777

Price: \$0.25

Works:

- 1) Laughter in the Dark [Камера обскюра]

A14.4

NEW AMERICAN WRAPPERS TRANSLATED EDITION (BERKLEY)

¶ First printing, variant a, Sep-1958

Collation: (16.2 X 10.6 cm), 160 pages

Title page: LAUGHTER | IN THE DARK | Vladimir Nabokov | \publisher's device\ | BERKLEY PUBLISHING CORP. | 145 West 57th Street • New York 19, N.Y.

Copyright page: COPYRIGHT © 1938, BY NEW DIRECTIONS | *Published by arrangement with | New Directions* | BERKLEY EDITION,



A14.4 First printing, variant a, 1958, cover, front

SEPTEMBER, 1958 | ... | PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** illustration of large side-lighted head in background and couple, woman in red dress, seated, man in brown jacket, standing, in foreground.

Series and Number: G-156

Price: \$0.35

Works:

- 1) Laughter in the Dark [Камепа о́бщкыпа]



A14.4 Second printing, 1961, cover, front

¶ First printing, variant b, unknown date

As variant a, except

Copyright page: ... | last line\ PRINTED IN CANADA

¶ Second printing, Aug-1961

As first printing, variant a, except

Collation: (18.0 X 10.6 cm), 160 pages

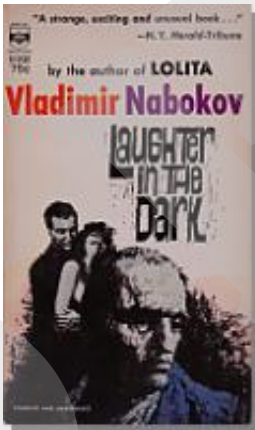
Title page: Laughter | in the | Dark | Vladimir Nabokov | \publisher's device\
| A BERKLEY MEDALLION BOOK | published by | THE BERKLEY PUBLISHING CORPORATION

Copyright page: ... | Berkley Edition, September, 1958 | New Edition, August, 1961 | ...

Binding: White wrappers. All edges stained red. **Front cover:** \happy couple in background, somber man in foreground\
\

Series and Number: Berkley Medallion Book, BG553

Price: \$0.50



A14.4 Third printing, 1966, cover, front

¶ Third printing, Aug-1966

As second printing, except

Title page: \without the last two lines\
\

Copyright page: ... | 3rd Printing, August, 1966 | ...

Binding: **Front cover:** \changed number and price\
\

Series and Number: Berkley Medallion Book, S1232

Price: \$0.75

¶ Fourth printing, May-1969

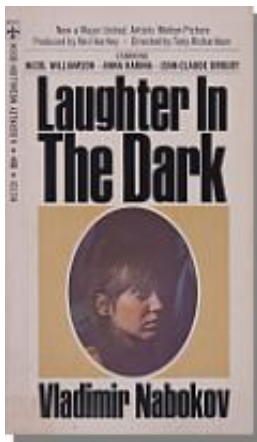
As second printing, except

Title page: Laughter | In The Dark | VLADIMIR | NABOKOV | \publisher's device\
| \rule\ A BERKLEY MEDALLION BOOK | PUBLISHED BY | BERKLEY PUBLISHING CORPORATION

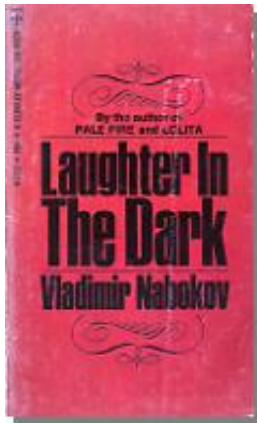
Copyright page: ... | New Edition, May, 1969 (4th Printing) | ;

Binding: White wrappers. All edges stained yellow. **Front cover:** \film tie-in with oval inset picture of Anna Karina\
\

Series and Number: Berkley Medallion Book, N1720



A14.4 Fourth printing, 1969, cover, front



A14.4 Fifth printing, 1970, cover, front



A14.4 Sixth printing, 1972, cover, front

Price: \$0.95

¶ Fifth printing, May-1970

As fourth printing, except

Copyright page: Copyright 1938, by New Directions; Renewed © 1966 by Vladimir Nabokov | ... | 5th Printing, May, 1970 | SBN 425-01720-6 | ...

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \maroon background with no artwork\

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 425-01720-6

¶ Sixth printing, May-1972

As fourth printing, except

Title page: LAUGHTER IN | THE DARK | \rule\ | Vladimir Nabokov | \publisher's device\ | \rule\ | A BERKLEY MEDALLION BOOK | PUBLISHED BY | BERKLEY PUBLISHING CORPORATION | \rule\

Copyright page: ... | New Edition, May, 1972 (6th Printing)

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \illustration of three flower-strewn people, a man with dark glasses and a cane and a young couple\

Series and Number: Berkley Medallion Book, Z2169

Price: \$1.25

A14.5

NEW AMERICAN TRANSLATED EDITION (NEW DIRECTIONS)

¶ First printing, variant a, 10-Nov-1960

Collation: (20.8 X 13.8 cm), [1-7]¹⁶ [8]⁴ [9-10]¹⁶, 148 leaves, pp. [1-6] 7-292 [293-296]

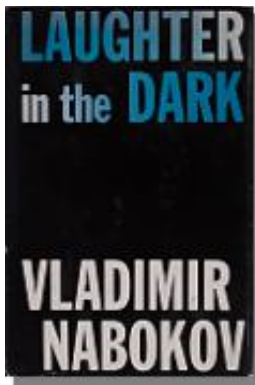
Title page: LAUGHTER | IN THE DARK | BY | VLADIMIR NABOKOV | \device\ | A NEW DIRECTIONS BOOK

Copyright page: COPYRIGHT, 1938 | NEW DIRECTIONS | NEW EDITION, 1960 | LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CATALOG CARD NUMBER 60-16644 | Manufactured in the United States of America

Binding: Blue cloth over boards. White endpapers. All edges trimmed. **Front and back covers:** \blank\ **Spine:** \white stamping, running across\ NABOKOV | • | LAUGHTER | in the | DARK | • | NEW DIRECTIONS

POINTS

Only variants a and b include the biographical note on the dust jacket.



A14.5 First printing, variant a, 1960, cover, front



A14.5 First printing, variant a, 1960, title page



A14.5 First printing, variant a, 1960, copyright page



Covering: White dust jacket. **Front cover:** \black background\ \title shading between blue and pale blue\ LAUGHTER | in the DARK | \author in white\ VLADIMIR | NABOKOV. **Back cover:** \author biography, publisher information\ . **Spine:** \black background\ \white\ NABOKOV \pale blue shading into blue\ LAUGHTER in the DARK. **Front flap:** \title, author, book description\ | *Jacket design by Griselda Ohannessian* | *Charles Kaplan* | \$3.50 | A NEW DIRECTIONS BOOK. **Back flap:** \descriptions of other books by Nabokov\ | \publisher information\

Contents: [1] half-title, [2] blank, [3] title page, [4] copyright page, [5] dedication, [6] blank, 7–292 text, [293–296] blank

Price: \$3.50

Press run: Both variants, 2958 copies

Description: A six-paragraph biographical note (with an additional paragraph by the publisher) appears on the back cover of the dust jacket for the first time.

The publisher had 2958 copies printed, probably 1490 in one variant and 1468 in the other. Publisher records don't distinguish between the variants.

It is very difficult to sort out the various printings, bindings, and other features of this edition and understand their relationships to each other and their chronological sequence.

Works:

- 1) Laughter in the Dark [Камепа обскыра]
- 2) Vladimir Nabokov

¶ First printing, variant b, unknown date

As variant a, except

Copyright page: \two lines added\ NEW DIRECTIONS BOOKS ARE PUBLISHED BY JAMES LAUGHLIN | NEW YORK OFFICE: 333 SIXTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 14

¶ Second printing, unknown date

As first printing, variant a, except

Collation: (20.1 X 13.4 cm)

Copyright page: ... | New edition, 1960 (ISBN: 0-8112-1326-3) | Published in Canada by McClelland & Stewart, Ltd. | ... | SECOND PRINTING

Covering: White dust jacket. **Front cover:** \all lettering in solid white\ . **Back cover:** \publisher's address uses the zip code\ . **Spine:** \all lettering in solid white\ . **Front flap:** \text reset\ ... | \$12.50 | ISBN: 0-8112-1326-3 | ... **Back flap:** \text reset, listed books repriced\

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-8112-1326-3

Price: \$12.50

A14.6

FIRST BRITISH TRANSLATED EDITION (WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON)

¶ First printing, 17-Mar-1961



A14.6 First printing, 1961, cover, front

Collation: (19.6 X 13.0 cm), [A]¹⁶ B-F¹⁶ G⁸, 104 leaves, pp. [1-4] 5-208

Title page: *Laughter in the Dark* | *A Novel by* | VLADIMIR NABOKOV | WEIDENFELD AND NICOLSON | 20 NEW BOND STREET LONDON W1

Copyright page: © 1961 by Vladimir Nabokov | *The original Russian text of this novel was published* | *under the title Kamera Obskura in 1933* | *in Paris. The author's own English version, under its present title,* | *was published in the United States in 1938* | PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN | IN 11-ON-13 POINT BASKERVILLE | BY THE SHENVAL PRESS | LONDON, HERTFORD AND HARLOW | 17/6729

Binding: Black cloth over boards. White endpapers. All edges trimmed.

Front and back covers: \blank\ **Spine:** \silver stamping, running across\ laughter | in the | dark | VLADIMIR | NABOKOV | WEIDENFELD | & NICOLSON

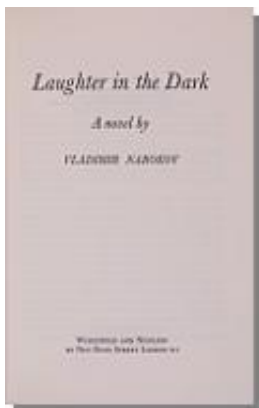
Covering: White dust jacket. **Front cover:** \illustration of seated man wearing dark glasses\ laughter in the dark | VLADIMIR | NABOKOV.

Back cover: \ads for four other Nabokov books\ **Spine:** \tan background, running across\ laughter | in the | dark | VLADIMIR | NABOKOV | WEIDENFELD | & NICOLSON. **Front flap:** \title, book description\ | *Jacket designed by Charles Mozley.* **Back flap:** \author photo\ | *Colin Sherborne* | \author biography\ | WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON | 17/6729

Price: 15s

Works:

- 1) *Laughter in the Dark* [Кamera обская]



A14.6 First printing, 1961, cover, front



A14.6 First printing, 1961, cover, front

POINTS

Issue a is in black cloth, issue b in blue. The prices are also different.

¶ Second printing, issue a, 1969

Unexamined

Binding: Black cloth over boards

Covering: White dust jacket. **Front cover:** \round-cornered box with green background, author name in blue, title in white, and author photo\ **Back cover:** \list of 14 books by Nabokov\ **Spine:** \running down\ V. NABOKOV *Laughter in the Dark* | \running across\ Weidenfeld | & Nicolson. **Front flap:** \book description\ | Price (in UK only) | 42s net | £2.10 net. **Back flap:** \biographical note\ | Photograph on the front of this jacket | © Philippe Halsman

Price: 42s, £2.10

¶ Second printing, issue b, unknown date

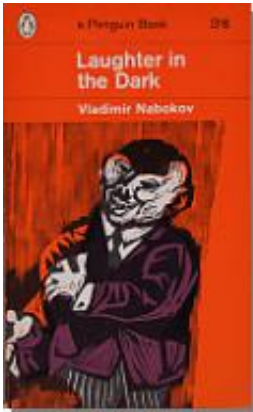
As second printing, issue a, except

Binding: Blue cloth over boards

Price: £3.50

A14.7 FIRST BRITISH WRAPPERS TRANSLATED EDITION (PENGUIN)

¶ First printing, 25-Apr-1963



A14.7 First printing, 1963, cover, front

Collation: (18.1 X 11.1 cm), 192 pages

Title page: VLADIMIR NABOKOV | \bloated rule\ | *Laughter in the Dark* | PENGUIN BOOKS

Copyright page: ... | Published in Penguin Books 1963 | ...

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \orange background\ \woodcut of man laughing by Morton Dimonstein\

Series and Number: 1932

Price: 3/6

Works:

- 1) *Laughter in the Dark* [Камепа обькыпа]

¶ Second printing, 1969

Unexamined

¶ Third printing, Jun-1969

As first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | Reissued 1969 | Reprinted 1969 | ...

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \film tie-in with still of Nicol Williamson on floor, eyes open, dark glasses askew, gun next to him\

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 14-001932-4

Price: 20p, 4/-



A14.7 Third printing, 1969, cover, front

¶ Fourth printing, 1982

As first printing, except

Collation: (19.8 X 12.8 cm)

Copyright page: ... | Reprinted 1969, 1982 | ...

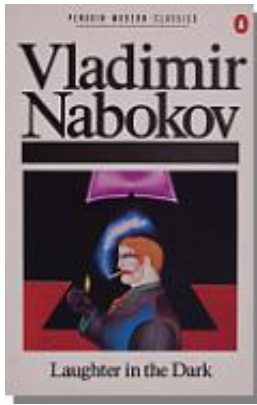
Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \illustration of a man smoking, a detail from *Pillow* by Richard Lindner\

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-14-001932-4

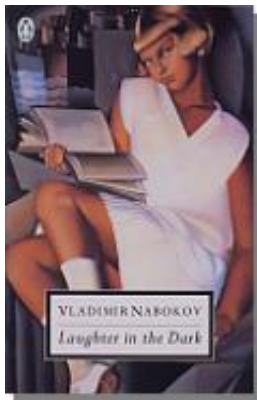
Price: £2.25



A14.7 Fourth printing, 1982, cover, front



A14.7 Fifth printing, 1986, cover, front



A14.7 Sixth printing, 1990, cover, front

¶ Fifth printing, 27-Nov-1986

As fourth printing, except

Copyright page: ... | Published in Penguin Books 1963 | Reprinted 1969 (twice), 1982, 1986 | ...

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-14-008619-6

Price: £3.95

¶ Sixth printing, 26-Jul-1990

As fifth printing, except

Copyright page: ... | Published in Penguin Books 1963 | 7 9 10 8 6 | ...

Binding: White covers. Front page: \painting of girl with book sitting in chair, *Portrait of a Young Girl* by Tamara de Lempicka\.

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-14-018165-2

Price: £4.99

A14.8

FIRST AMERICAN EDITION (ARDIS)

¶ First printing, variant a, 1978



A14.8 First printing, variant a, 1978, binding, front

Collation: (17.5 X 12.3 cm), 204 pages

Title page: ВЛАДИМИР | НАБОКОВ | КАМЕРА | ОБСКУРА | Ардис / Анн Арбор | Ardis / Ann Arbor

Copyright page: Copyright © 1932 by Vladimir Nabokov | Ardis reprint of the first edition, 1978 | ISBN 0-88233-391-7 | Ardis Publishers | 2901 Heatherway | Ann Arbor, Michigan

Binding: Wine-colored leatherette over boards with headband. All edges trimmed. **Front cover:** \gilt stamping\ ВЛАДИМИР | НАБОКОВ | КАМЕРА | ОБСКУРА. **Back cover:** \blank\. **Spine:** \gilt stamping\ \running down\ НАБОКОВ КАМЕРА ОБСКУРА | \running across\ Ardis

Covering: Issued without

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-88233-391-7

Press run: 200 copies

Works:

1) Камера обскура [Kamera obskura / Camera obscura]



A14.8 First printing, variant a,

1978, title page



A14.8 First printing, variant a, 1978, copyright page



A14.8 First printing, variant b, 1978, cover, front

¶ First printing, variant b, 1978

As variant a, except

Collation: (17.8 X 12.6 cm)

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \light-green background\. **Back cover:** \light-green background\ \list of eleven Nabokov books\. **Spine:** \light-green background\

A14.9

NEW AMERICAN WRAPPERS TRANSLATED EDITION (NEW DIRECTIONS)

¶ First printing, 1978

Collation: (20.3 X 13.1 cm), 296 pages

Copyright page: ... | New edition, 1960 (ISBN: 0-8112-1326-3); first issued as | New Directions Paperbook 458 (ISBN: 0-8112-0708-0) in 1978 | ... | New Directions Books are printed for James Laughlin | by New Directions Publishing Corporation | 333 Sixth Avenue, New York 10014 \no printing statement\

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \black background, all lettering in solid white\. **Back cover:** LITERATURE/ISBN: 0-8112-0708-0 | \title, author, book description, blurbs, other Nabokov books, book designer\ A NEW DIRECTIONS PAPERBOOK NDP458 \$3.95. **Spine:** \all lettering in solid white\.

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-8112-0708-0

Series and Number: New Directions Paperbook, NDP458

Price: \$3.95

Works:

- 1) Laughter in the Dark [Камера обськура]

¶ Second printing, unknown date

As first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | 80 Eighth Avenue, New York 10011 | SECOND PRINTING

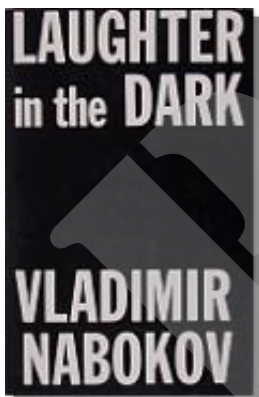
Binding: White wrappers with white lettering and black background. **Back cover:** \upper right\ SECOND PRINTING | ... | \lower right\ \$4.25

Price: \$4.25

¶ Third printing, unknown date

As second printing, except

Copyright page: ... | THIRD PRINTING



A14.9 First printing, 1978, cover, front

Binding: White wrappers with white lettering and black background. **Back cover:** \upper right\ THIRD PRINTING | ... | \lower right\ \$4.95

Price: \$4.95

¶ Fourth printing, unknown date

Unexamined

¶ Fifth printing, unknown date

As second printing, except

Copyright page: ... | FIFTH PRINTING

Binding: White wrappers with white lettering and black background. **Back cover:** \upper right\ FIFTH PRINTING | ... | \lower right\ \$6.95

Price: \$6.95

¶ Sixth printing, unknown date

Unexamined

¶ Seventh printing, unknown date

As second printing, except

Copyright page: ... | SEVENTH PRINTING

Binding: White wrappers with white lettering and black background. **Back cover:** \upper right\ SEVENTH PRINTING | ... | \lower left\ \$8.95

Price: \$8.95

A14.10

NEW AMERICAN TRANSLATED EDITION (VINTAGE, IMPRINT OF RANDOM HOUSE, USA)

¶ First printing, Dec-1989

Collation: (20.3 X 13.1 cm), 304 pages

Title page: Laughter | in | the | Dark | by | Vladimir Nabokov | VINTAGE INTERNATIONAL | Vintage Books | A Division of Random House, Inc. | New York

Copyright page: FIRST VINTAGE INTERNATIONAL EDITION, DECEMBER 1989 | Copyright 1938 by Bobbs-Merrill Company | Copyright renewed 1965 by Vladimir Nabokov | ... | 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \photo of man with dark glasses by Barnaby Hall\

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-679-72450-8

Series and Number: Vintage International

Price: \$8.95

Description: The Vintage International series incorporated textual corrections of earlier typesettings, usually of the first editions, of the English language issues. *Laughter in the Dark* needed no such corrections.

Works:

1) Laughter in the Dark [Камепа обскыпа]

¶ Tenth printing, unknown date

As first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | 10 | ...

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-679-72450-8

Price: \$13.00

¶ Eleventh printing, unknown date

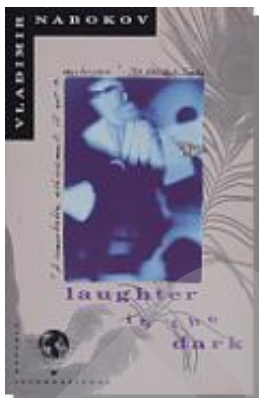
As first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 | ...

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-679-72450-8

Price: \$14.00

¶ Thirteenth printing, unknown date



A14.10 First printing, 1989, cover, front

As first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 978-0-679-72450-6

Price: \$14.95

¶ Fourteenth printing, 2009

As first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | 20 19 18 17 16 15 14

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \art of a specimen box filled with black paper cutouts of a woman with large red lips and stiletto-like four-fingered hands, the title a cutout on her dress and the author's name imprinted on the box, by Dave Eggers, cover photograph by Alison Gootee\.

Contents: [294] is a publisher ad for the then forthcoming *The Original of Laura*. [295–298] are publisher's ads for other Nabokov books.

Price: \$15.00



A14.10 Fourteenth printing, 2009, cover, front



A14.10 Library printing, cover, front

¶ Library printing, unknown date, distributed by Paw Prints

As Vintage fourteenth printing, 2009, except

Binding: Pictorial boards. **Back cover:** \bottom fifth of the back cover has information about Paw Prints instead of Vintage\. **Spine:** \no publisher information\

Description: This binding in pictorial boards was produced for the library market. The 304 internal pages are exactly the same as for the fourteenth printing. But the binding has the differences noted above.

A14.11 FIRST RUSSIAN EDITION (VARIANT)

¶ First printing, 10-Sep-1991

Collation: (20.0 X 12.7 cm), 128 pages

Title page: ВЛАДИМИР НАБОКОВ | КАМЕРА ОБСКУРА | \publisher's device\ | Одесса | «Вариант» – «Два Слона» | 1991

Copyright page: ... | ISBN 5-8086-0015-4 | ...

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \illustration of nude on stairway\

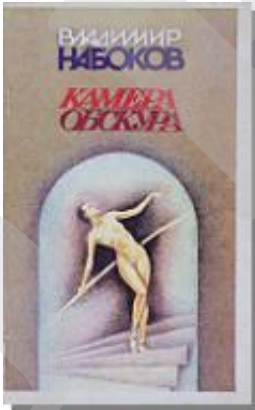
ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 5-8086-0015-4

Price: 4 rubles 50 kopeks

Press run: 100,000 copies according to the colophon

Works:

1) Камера обскура [Kamera obskura / Camera obscura]



A14.11 First printing, 1991, cover, front

A14.12

NEW AMERICAN WRAPPERS TRANSLATED EDITION (NEW DIRECTIONS)

¶ First printing, 1991



A14.12 First printing, 1991, cover, front

Collation: (20.2 X 13.0 cm), 296 pages

Title page: VLADIMIR NABOKOV | \rule\ | LAUGHTER IN | THE DARK | \publisher's device\ | A NEW DIRECTIONS BOOK

Copyright page: ... | Revised edition published by New Directions in 1960; first issued as a New | Directions Paperbook in 1978; published in 1991 as New Directions Paperbook 729 in the Revived Modern Classics Series. | ... | ISBN 0-8112-1186-X | ...

Binding: White wrappers with photo by Jeff Clapper of glass shards.

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-8112-1186-X

Series and Number: New Directions Paperbook, NDP729

Price: \$9.95

Works:

1) Laughter in the Dark [Камера обскура]

¶ Second printing, unknown date

Unexamined

¶ Third printing, unknown date

As first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | THIRD PRINTING

Binding: White wrappers with "THIRD PRINTING" and new price on back cover.

Price: \$11.95



A14.12 Third printing, cover, front

A14.13

FIRST BOOK CLUB EDITION (AZBUKA)

¶ First printing, 11-Sep-1997



A14.13 First printing, 1997, cover, front

Collation: (18.0 X 11.3 cm), 192 pages

Title page: Владимир | НАБОКОВ | Камера | обскура | \publisher's device\ | Санкт-Петербург | Издательство «Азбука» | Книжный клуб «Терра» | 1997

Copyright page: ... | ISBN 5-7684-0385-X | ...

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \Edvard Munch's "The Vampire" (1893)\

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 5-7684-0385-X

Works:

1) Камера обскура [Kamera obskura / Camera obscura]

A14.14 NEW BRITISH WRAPPERS TRANSLATED EDITION (PENGUIN)

¶ First printing, 28-May-1998



A14.14 First printing, 1998, cover, front

Collation: (19.4 X 12.7 cm), 208 pages

Title page: *Laughter in the Dark* | \short rule\ | VLADIMIR NABOKOV |
Afterword by CRAIG RAINE | \publisher's device\ | PENGUIN BOOKS

Copyright page: ... | Published in Penguin Books 1963 | Published with an
Afterword 1998 | 1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2 | ...

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \painting of girl with book sitting in
chair, *Portrait of a Young Girl* by Tamara de Lempicka\

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-14-018823-1

Series and Number: Penguin Twentieth-Century Classics

Price: £7.99

Additional Works: "Afterword" by Craig Raine.

Works:

- 1) *Laughter in the Dark* [Камера обскура]

A14.15 NEW RUSSIAN EDITION (AZBUKA)

¶ First printing, 28-May-2000



A14.15 First printing, 2000, cover, front

Collation: (17.9 X 11.4 cm), 240 pages

Title page: Владимир | НАБОКОВ | Камера | обскура | \publisher's device\
| Санкт-Петербург | Издательство «Азбука» | 2000

Copyright page: ... | ISBN 5-267-00210-0 | ...

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \illustration by B. Drouson, 1991\
ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 5-267-00210-0

Series and Number: Азбука-классика

Press run: 10,000 copies according to the colophon

Works:

- 1) *Камера обскура* [Kamera obskura / Camera obscura]

A14.16 NEW RUSSIAN EDITION (FOLIO)

¶ First printing, 29-Jan-2001



A14.16 First printing, 2001, cover, front

Collation: (16.5 X 10.7 cm), 256 pages

Title page: \script initial\ Владимир | \script initial\ НАБОКОВ | \rule\
\script\ Камера обскура | *Камера обскура* | \short rule\
\publisher's device\ ФОЛИО | МОСКВА | 2001

Copyright page: ... | Текст печатается по изданию: | *Набоков В.В.*
Приглашение на казнь: Романы. — | Харьков: «Фоллио»; М.: ООО
«Издательство АСТ», 1997 | ... | ISBN 5-17-004934-X (ООО
«Издательство АСТ») | ISBN 966-03-1184-2 («Фоллио») | ...

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \illustration of young woman in frilly
clothes and black stockings on settee\
ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 5-17-004934-X, 966-03-1184-2

Series and Number: *Классическая и современная проза, вып. 39*

Press run: 5000 copies according to the colophon

Works:

- 1) *Камера обскура* [Kamera obskura / Camera obscura]

A14.17

A14.17 First printing, 2001,
cover, front

NEW RUSSIAN EDITION (KRISTALL)

¶ First printing, 28-Sep-2001

Collation: (19.9 X 10.6 cm), 160 pages

Title page: Владимир | НАБОКОВ | КАМЕРА | ОБСКУРА | \\ | Санкт-Петербург | КРИСТАЛЛ | 2001

Copyright page: ... | ISBN 5-306-00198-0 | ...

Binding: Pictorial boards. **Front cover:** \illustration of three vertically-arranged butterflies\

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 5-306-00198-0

Series and Number: Русский стиль

Press run: 5000 copies according to the colophon

Works:

- 1) Камера обскура [Камера obskura / Camera obscura]

A14.18

A14.18 Seventh printing, 2001,
cover, front

NEW BRITISH WRAPPERS TRANSLATED EDITION (PENGUIN)

¶ Seventh printing, 25-Oct-2001

Collation: (19.7 X 12.7 cm), 208 pages

Title page: VLADIMIR NABOKOV | *Laughter in the Dark* | *Afterword by Craig Raine* | \publisher's device\ | PENGUIN BOOKS

Copyright page: ... | Published in Penguin Books 1963 | Published with an Afterword 1998 | Reprinted in Penguin Classics 2001 | 7 | ... | ISBN-13: 978-0-14-118652-8 | ...

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** Photo of deeply shadowed figures by Jason Manning.

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 978-0-14-118652-8

Series and Number: Penguin Classics

Price: £8.99

Additional Works: "Afterword" by Craig Raine.

Works:

- 1) Laughter in the Dark [Камера обскура]

¶ Ninth printing, 29-Mar-2010

As first printing, except

Title page: VLADIMIR NABOKOV | *Laughter in the Dark* | *Translated from the Russian by Vladimir Nabokov* | \publisher's device\ | PENGUIN BOOKS

Copyright page: PENGUIN CLASSICS | ... | First published in Russian as *Camera Obscura* 1933 | The author's own English version, under its present title, was published in the United States 1938 | First published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson 1961 | Reissued in Penguin Classics 2010 | 9 | ... | ISBN: 978-0-141-18652-8 | ...

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \criss-crossing pattern overlaid by central box containing author, title, series, overlaid by illustration of an usherette with flashlight against a red background, by Astrid Chesney\.

Back cover: \criss-crossing pattern, overlaid by central box containing book information, overlaid by hat drawn in red\.

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 978-0-141-18652-8

Series and Number: Penguin Modern Classics

Price: £12.00

Description: This issue continues a printing number sequence (ninth) and uses a continuing ISBN. But the text has been reset, it has a new



A14.18 Ninth printing, 2010,
cover, front

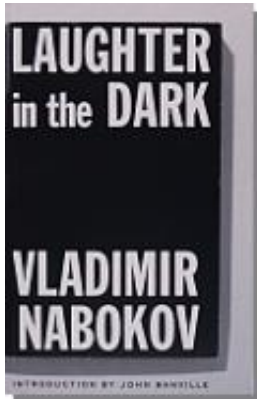
pagination, and it does not include the Craig Raine “Afterword”.

Includes three pages of publisher’s ads for Nabokov books.

One in a series of Nabokov books that Penguin reset and issued with new covers in late 2009 and into 2010.

A14.19 NEW AMERICAN WRAPPERS TRANSLATED EDITION (NEW DIRECTIONS)

¶ First printing, 2006



A14.19 First printing, 2006, cover, front

Collation: (20.3 X 13.0 cm), pp. [i–iv] v–xi [xii] [5–6] 7–292 [293–296]

Title page: LAUGHTER in the DARK | VLADIMIR NABOKOV | INTRODUCTION BY JOHN BANVILLE | A NEW DIRECTIONS BOOK

Copyright page: ... | Revised edition first published by New Directions in 1960; first issued as a | New Directions Paperbook in 1978; published in 1991 as New Directions Paperbook | 729 in the Revived Modern Classics Series. Reissued, with a new Introduction, | as New Directions Paperbook 1045 in 2006. | ... | ISBN-13: 978-0-8112-1674-6 (alk. paper) | ISBN-10: 0-8112-1674-8 (alk. paper) | ...

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** reproduction of original New Directions white on black cover\ | INTRODUCTION BY JOHN BANVILLE

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 978-0-8112-1674-6, 978-0-8112-1674-6

Series and Number: A New Directions Paperbook NDP1045

Price: \$12.95

Additional Works: Introduction by John Banville

Works:

1) Laughter in the Dark [Камера обскура]

A14.20 NEW RUSSIAN EDITION (AZBUKA)

¶ First hardcover printing, 18-May-2007



A14.20 First hardcover printing, 2007, cover, front

Collation: (16.6 X 10.6 cm), 256 pages

Title page: ВЛАДИМИР | НАБОКОВ | КАМЕРА | ОБСКУРА | \publisher’s device\ | Санкт-Петербург | Издательство Дом | «Азбука-классика» | 2007

Copyright page: ... | ISBN 978-5-91181-457-1 | ...

Binding: Pictorial boards. **Front cover:** detail (of only the woman in black) from *The Orange Scarf* by Tamara de Lempicka\

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 978-5-91181-457-1

Press run: 5000 copies according to the colophon

Additional Works: Includes as a lead-in a Russian translation by Dmitri Nabokov of the first two paragraphs from Nabokov’s American version, *Laughter in the Dark*.

Works:

1) Камера обскура [Kamera obskura / Camera obscura]

¶ First wrappers printing, 2009

As first hardcover printing, except

Collation: (18.0 X 11.5 cm), 224 pages

Title page: Владимир | НАБОКОВ | Камера | обскура | Роман | \publisher’s device\ | Санкт-Петербург | Издательство Дом | «Азбука-классика» | 2009

Copyright page: ... | Russian translation of excerpt copyright © 2007 | by Dmitri Nabokov | ... | ISBN 978-5-395-00297-6 ...

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** detail (of only the woman in black) from *The Orange Scarf* by Tamara de Lempicka\

Press run: 5000 copies according to the colophon



A14.20 First wrappers

¶ Second hardcover printing, 2009

As first hardcover printing, except

Press run: 7000 copies according to the colophon

¶ Third hardcover printing, 2010

As first hardcover printing, except

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 978-5-9985-0859-2

Press run: 7000 copies according to the colophon

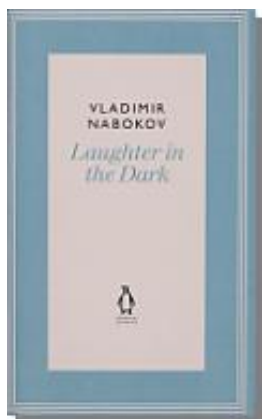
¶ Second wrappers printing, 2012

As first wrappers printing, except

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 978-5-389-01930-0

Press run: 3000 copies according to the colophon

A14.21



A14.21 First printing, 2012, cover, front

NEW BRITISH TRANSLATED EDITION (PENGUIN)

¶ First printing, 2012

Title page: VLADIMIR | NABOKOV | *Laughter in the | Dark* | *Translated from the Russian by* | *VLADIMIR NABOKOV* | \publisher's device\ | PENGUIN | \rule\ | CLASSICS

Copyright page: PENGUIN CLASSICS | ... | This edition published in Penguin Classics 2012 | 001 | ... | ISBN 978-0-141-19695-4 | ...

Binding: Pale gray paper over boards with black stamping

Covering: White dust jacket with pale blue borders and black and pale blue lettering

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 978-0-141-19695-4

Series and Number: Penguin Classics, 5

Price: £20.00

Description: One of 22 hardcover volumes in a uniform set of Nabokov editions published by Penguin Classics, an imprint of Penguin Books.

Works:

1) *Laughter in the Dark* [Камера обскура]