

A16

Приглашение на казнь Invitation to a Beheading Приглашеніе на казнь

Early in the summer of 1934, Nabokov, in the midst of work on *Дар* [*Dar* / *The gift*] suddenly pivoted away and began to work on a new novel. On 24 June he started *Приглашение на казнь* [*Priglasenie na kazn'* / *Invitation to a Beheading* or literally “Invitation to an Execution”] and, as he described it, completed the first draft “in one fortnight of wonderful excitement and sustained inspiration.” Then he put the first draft aside to go back to *Dar*. But he took up the new novel again several months later and completed the first revisions on 15 September. Typing and further revisions carried through to the end of the year (*VNTRY* 408–10).

Priglasenie na kazn' was serialized in *Современные записки* [*Sovremennye zapiski* / *Contemporary annals*] from June 1935 to March 1936 (Nos. 58–60) and published in book form by Dom Knigi in Paris in November 1938.

In the wake of the tremendous success of the publication of *Lolita* in August 1958, Nabokov saw his opportunity to get his Russian works published in translation. In September 1958, Dmitri Nabokov agreed to translate *Priglasenie na kazn'* as *Invitation to a Beheading*. By December he had finished a first part of it and by June 1959 Nabokov began revising his son’s translation. At the end of the month he wrote the foreword. The novel became his third Russian novel to be published in English, by G.P. Putnam’s Sons on 21-Sep-1959, but the first one issued in the post-*Lolita* fallout (*VNTAY* 371, 377, 385, 393).

In 1966, Editions Victor of Paris, an imprint that belonged to Radio Liberty and probably supported by the CIA, issued *Priglasenie na kazn'* in Russian. Boyd writes that at the end of 1965

...the Radio Liberty organization for which Kirill [his brother] had worked approached him with an offer to republish some or all of his Russian novels for clandestine distribution in the Soviet Union. They would be published without an indication of Radio Liberty’s involvement, under the imprint of Editions Victor, and would not be for sale despite a price added for show. Although the scheme was not political (other books planned for publication included Camus’s *L’etranger* and a book that emerged in Russian as *Dublintsy* by Dzhems Dzhois), and although Nabokov was keen to have his *Lolita* [which he had already translated into Russian] published first, Radio Liberty settled on *Invitation to a Beheading*, to be followed a year later by *The Defense* (*VNTAY* 504–505).

For detailed documentation on the creation and publication of *Priglasenie na kazn'* and its translations into English and French, see “Welcome to the Block’: *Priglasenie na kazn'* / *Invitation to a Beheading*, A Documentary Record” by Brian Boyd in *Nabokov’s Invitation to a Beheading: A Critical Companion* edited by Julian W. Connolly (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press/AATSEEL, 1997).

Edition Summary

A16.1 *Приглашение на казнь* FIRST EDITION (DOM KNIGI), 17-Nov-1938, 1 issue

A16.2 *Invitation to a Beheading* FIRST TRANSLATED EDITION (G.P. PUTNAM’S SONS), 21-Sep-1959, 1 issue

A16.3 *Invitation to a Beheading* FIRST BRITISH TRANSLATED EDITION (WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON), 3-

Jun-1960, 3 issues

A16.4 Invitation to a Beheading FIRST WRAPPERS TRANSLATED EDITION (FAWCETT), Nov-1960, 1 issue

A16.5 Invitation to a Beheading FIRST BRITISH WRAPPERS TRANSLATED EDITION (PENGUIN), 29-Aug-1963, 7 issues

A16.6 Invitation to a Beheading NEW AMERICAN WRAPPERS TRANSLATED EDITION (CAPRICORN BOOKS), 30-Jan-1965, 13 issues

A16.7 Приглашение на казнь FIRST FRENCH EDITION (EDITIONS VICTOR), Nov-1966, 1 issue

A16.8 Приглашение на казнь FIRST AMERICAN EDITION (ARDIS), 1979, 3 issues

A16.9 Invitation to a Beheading NEW AMERICAN WRAPPERS TRANSLATED EDITION (VINTAGE), Sep-1989, 2 issues

A16.10 Приглашение на казнь FIRST RUSSIAN EDITION (AST, FOLIO), 2001, 2 issues

A16.11 Приглашение на казнь NEW RUSSIAN EDITION (KRISTALL), 2001, 1 issue

A16.12 Приглашение на казнь NEW RUSSIAN EDITION (AZBUKA), 2004, 1 issue

A16.13 Приглашение на казнь NEW RUSSIAN EDITION (AZBUKA), 2007, 5 issues

A16.14 Invitation to a Beheading NEW BRITISH EDITION (PENGUIN), 2012, 1 issue

Vladimir Nabokov: A Descriptive Bibliography, Revised

Приглашение на казнь Invitation to a Beheading Приглашеніе на казнь

A16.1

FIRST EDITION (DOM KNIGI)

¶ First printing, 17-Nov-1938



A16.1 First printing, 1938, cover, front



A16.1 First printing, 1938, title page



A16.1 First printing, 1938, copyright page

Collation: (19.5 X 13.9 cm), [1]⁸ 2–13⁸ (6 missigned as 9), 104 leaves, pp. [1–6] 7–205 [206–208]

Title page: В. СИРИНЪ | ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ | НА КАЗНЬ | РОМАНЪ | ДОМЪ КНИГИ - ПАРИЖЪ [V. Sirin" | Priglashenie | na kazn' | Roman" | Dom" Knigi - Parizh" / V. Sirin | Invitation | to an execution | A novel | Dom Knigi - Paris]

Copyright page: \the verso of the title-page is blank\ \however, facing the title-page\ *Обложка работы Б. Н. Гроссер* | Copyright 1938 by the author

Binding: Cream wrappers. Bottom edge untrimmed. Top and fore-edges unopened. **Front cover:** \heavy brown rule border with "B.C." in white in lower-right\ \red\ Б. СИРИНЪ | \brown\ ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ | \brown\ НА КАЗНЬ | \thick brown rule\ РОМАНЪ | \red\ ДОМЪ КНИГИ - ПАРИЖЪ. **Back cover:** \red\ ДОМЪ КНИГИ | MAISON DU LIVRE ÉTRANGER | 9, rue de l'Éperon — Paris 6^e. **Spine:** \running up, in red\ Б. СИРИНЪ — ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ | НА КАЗНЬ

Contents: [1-2] blank, [3] half-title, [4] copyright, [5] title page, [6] blank, 7–205 text, [206–207] blank, [208] publisher's ads

Price: \$0.80, later \$1.00 (see ad on p. 208)

Description: Newspaper ads priced the book at \$0.80. The publisher's ad on p. 208 priced the book at \$1.00.

Works:

- 1) Приглашеніе на казнь [Priglashenie na kazn' / Invitation to a beheading]

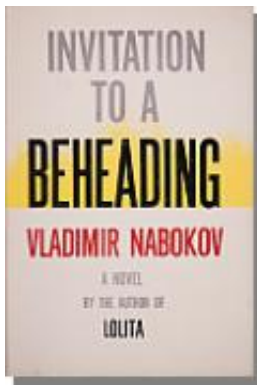
A16.2

FIRST TRANSLATED EDITION (G.P. PUTNAM'S SONS)

¶ First printing, 21-Sep-1959

Collation: (21.0 X 14.3), [1–7]¹⁶, 112 leaves, pp. [1–4] 5–8 [9–10] 11–223 [224]

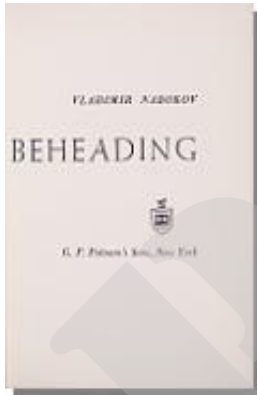
Title page: \across two pages\ \left page\ INVITATION | TO A | TRANSLATED BY DMITRI NABOKOV | *in collaboration with the author* | \right page\ VLADIMIR NABOKOV | BEHEADING | \publisher's



A16.2 First printing, 1959, cover, front



A16.2 First printing, 1959, binding, front



A16.2 First printing, 1959, title page



A16.2 First printing, 1959, title page, facing

device\ G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York

Copyright page: © 1959 BY VLADIMIR NABOKOV | All rights reserved. This book, or parts thereof, must | not be reproduced in any form without permission. | Published simultaneously in the Dominion of Canada | by Longmans, Green & Company, Toronto | Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 59-11024 | MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Binding: Quarter-bound in red cloth over boards with vertical gray wavy-patterned paper. Yellow endpapers. Top and bottom edges trimmed. Fore-edge untrimmed. Top edge stained red. **Front and back covers:** \blank\
Spine: \running down, gilt stamping\ INVITATION TO A BEHEADING | Vladimir Nabokov | \decorative device\
Putnam

Covering: White dust jacket. **Front cover:** \two lines gray\
INVITATION TO A | \over misty yellow background\
BEHEADING | \red\
VLADIMIR NABOKOV | \two lines gray\
A NOVEL | BY THE AUTHOR OF | LOLITA. **Back cover:** \excerpt from Nabokov's afterword to Lolita, blurb, publisher information. **Spine:** \running down\
title over misty yellow background | \gray\
INVITATION TO A | \black\
BEHEADING | \running across, in red\
NABOKOV | \gray\
PUTNAM. **Front flap:** \book description\
ITAB | \$3.95. **Back flap:** \continuation of book description, five blurbs, publisher information\

Contents: [1] half-title, [2-3] title pages, [4] copyright page, 5-8 foreword, [9] fly-title, [10] epigraph, 11-223 text, [224] blank

Price: \$3.95

Works:

- 1) Foreword [to *Invitation to a Beheading*]
- 2) Invitation to a Beheading [Приглашение на казнь]



A16.2 First printing, 1959, copyright page

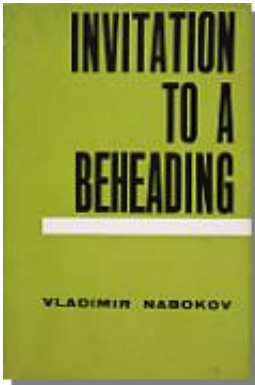
A16.3

FIRST BRITISH TRANSLATED EDITION (WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON)

¶ First printing, issue a, 3-Jun-1960

POINTS

Issues a and b are the same except for pricing. Issue c has a different binding and covering.



A16.3 First printing, issue a, 1960, cover, front



A16.3 First printing, issue a, 1960, title page

Collation: (19.7 X 12.9 cm), [A]¹⁶ B–F¹⁶ G⁸, 104 leaves, pp. [1–4] 5–7 [8] 9–208

Title page: *Invitation to a Beheading* | A novel by | VLADIMIR NABOKOV | Translated from the Russian by | DMITRI NABOKOV | in collaboration with the author | WEIDENFELD AND NICOLSON | 20 NEW BOND STREET LONDON W1

Copyright page: © 1959 by Vladimir Nabokov | First published in Germany in 1935 | First published in Great Britain in 1960 | PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN | IN 11-ON-13 POINT BASKERVILLE | BY THE SHENVAL PRESS | LONDON, HERTFORD AND HARLOW | R. 6709

Binding: Black cloth over boards. White endpapers. All edges trimmed. Top edge stained red. **Front and back covers:** \blank\. **Spine:** \running across in silver stamping\ INVITATION | TO A | BEHEADING | VLADIMIR | NABOKOV | WEIDENFELD | & NICOLSON

Covering: White dust jacket. **Front cover:** \green background\ INVITATION | TO A | BEHEADING | \white bar\ VLADIMIR NABOKOV. **Back cover:** \photo of author, biographical note\. **Front flap:** \title, book description\ | Jacket designed by Eric Ayers | 15s net. **Back flap:** \blurbs/ads for three Nabokov books\

Contents: [1] half-title, [2] list of author's books, [3] title page, [4] copyright page, 5–7 foreword, [8] epigraph, 9–208 text

Price: 15s

Works:

- 1) Foreword [to *Invitation to a Beheading*]
- 2) *Invitation to a Beheading* [Приглашение на казнь]



A16.3 First printing, issue a, 1960, copyright page

¶ First printing, issue b, unknown date

As issue a, except

Covering: Dust jacket. **Front flap:** \black, white, and gold sticker over original price\ 18/- | NET

Price: 18s

¶ First printing, issue c, unknown date

As issue a, except

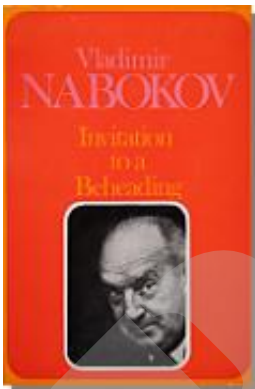
Binding: Dark blue cloth over boards. Top edge not stained. **Spine:** \running across, gilt stamping\ Invitation | to a | Beheading | \short rule\ | *Vladimir | Nabokov* | Weidenfeld | & Nicolson

Covering: White dust jacket. **Front cover:** \lavender\ Vladimir | \lavender\ NABOKOV | \three lines in pale yellow\ Invitation | to a | Beheading | \photo of Nabokov by Philippe Halsman, within a white border, on an orange background, on a pale yellow background\ **Back cover:** \publisher's list of 21 books by Nabokov | ISBN 0 297 16747 2. **Spine:** \pale yellow background\ \running down\ V. NABOKOV Invitation to a Beheading | \running across\ Weidenfeld | & Nicolson. **Front flap:** \book description\ | In UK only | £2.25 net. **Back flap:** \description continued, biographical note\ Photograph on the front of this jacket | © Philippe Halsman

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-297-16747-2

Price: £2.25

POINTS
Issue c has a different binding, redesigned dust jacket, a new price, and an ISBN compared to issues a and b.



A16.3 First printing, issue c, cover, front

A16.4 FIRST WRAPPERS TRANSLATED EDITION (FAWCETT)

¶ First printing, Nov-1960

Collation: (17.9 X 10.6 cm), pp. [i-iv] v-viii 9-223 [224]

Title page: A CREST REPRINT | Invitation | to a | Beheading | by Vladimir Nabokov | TRANSLATED BY | DMITRI NABOKOV | IN COLLABORATION WITH | VLADIMIR NABOKOV | \publisher's device\ | Fawcett Publications, Inc., Greenwich, Conn.

Copyright page: ... | First Crest printing, November, 1960 | ...

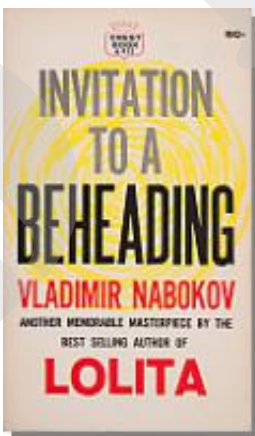
Binding: White wrappers. All edges stained red. **Front cover:** \circular yellow pattern under lettering\

Series and Number: Crest Book, d 412

Price: \$0.50

Works:

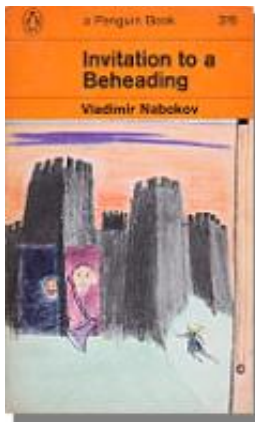
- 1) Foreword [to *Invitation to a Beheading*]
- 2) *Invitation to a Beheading* [Приглашение на казнь]



A16.4 First printing, 1960, cover, front

A16.5 FIRST BRITISH WRAPPERS TRANSLATED EDITION (PENGUIN)

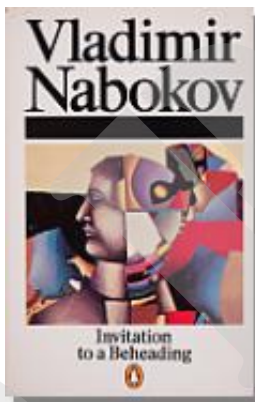
¶ First printing, 29-Aug-1963



A16.5 First printing, 1963, cover, front



A16.5 Second printing, 1969, cover, front



A16.5 Third printing, 1980, cover, front

Collation: (17.9 X 10.8 cm), pp. [1–6] 7–9 [10] 11–190 [191–192]

Title page: INVITATION | TO A BEHEADING | A NOVEL BY | VLADIMIR NABOKOV | TRANSLATED FROM THE RUSSIAN BY | DMITRI NABOKOV | IN COLLABORATION WITH | THE AUTHOR | PENGUIN BOOKS

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

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \orange background\ \illustration of girl running toward a castle on which are superimposed two faces and an ax\

Series and Number: 1984

Price: 3/6

Description: p. [1] has the credit, "Cover design by Dimitry Nabokov".

Works:

- 1) Foreword [to *Invitation to a Beheading*]
- 2) Invitation to a Beheading [Приглашение на казнь]

¶ Second printing, Apr-1969

As first printing, except

Title page: \publisher's device above publisher's name\

Copyright page: ... | Published in Penguin Books 1963 | Reissued 1969 | ...

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \different layout and illustration as the first printing but with more intense colors\ **Back cover:** ... | Cover illustration by Dmitri Nabokov | ...

Price: 20p, 4/-

¶ Third printing, 1980

As first printing, except

Collation: (19.7 X 12.6 cm), 192 pages

Copyright page: ... | Published in Penguin Books 1963 | Reprinted 1969, 1980 | ...

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \detail from *The Brothers*, 1958 by Richard Lindner\

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-14-001984-7

Price: £1.75

¶ Fourth printing, 1983

As third printing, except

Copyright page: ... | Published in Penguin Books 1963 | Reprinted 1969, 1980, 1983 | ...

Price: £2.95

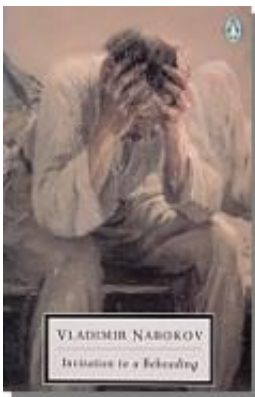
¶ Fifth printing, 25-Jan-1990

Copyright page: ... | Published in Penguin Books 1963 | 5 7 9 10 8 6

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** Man on bench holding his head, detail from *Inmates in Prison* by N.A. Yaroshenko.

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-14-010040-7

Series and Number: Penguin Twentieth-Century Classics



A16.5 Fifth printing, 1990, cover, front



A16.5 Eleventh printing, 2001, cover, front



A16.5 Thirteenth printing, 2010, cover, front

Price: £4.99

¶ Eleventh printing, 2001

Collation: (19.8 X 12.8 cm), 192 pages

Title page: INVITATION | TO A BEHEADING | A NOVEL BY | VLADIMIR NABOKOV | TRANSLATED FROM THE RUSSIAN BY | DMITRI NABOKOV | IN COLLABORATION WITH | THE AUTHOR | \publisher's\ | PENGUIN BOOKS

Copyright page: ... | Published in Penguin Books 1963 | Reprinted in Penguin Classics 2001 | 11 | ... | 978-0-14-118560-6

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** Photo of serrated blade on wooden surface by Jeff Cottenden.

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 978-0-14-118560-6

Series and Number: Penguin Classics

Price: £11.99

¶ Thirteen printing, 2010

As eleventh printing, except

Title page: VLADIMIR NABOKOV | *Invitation to a Beheading* | *Translated from the Russian by Dmitri Nabokov* | *in collaboration with Vladimir Nabokov* | \publisher's device\ | PENGUIN BOOKS

Copyright page: PENGUIN CLASSICS | ... | First published 1935 | This translation first published in Great Britain by Weidenfeld & Nicolson 1960 | Reissued in Penguin Classics 2010 | 13 | ... | ISBN: 978-0-141-18560-6 | ...

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \distorted checkerboard pattern overlaid by central box containing author, title, series, overlaid by illustration of saw-toothed bow and violin with hands emerging from the F-holes and gripping the strings, by David Foldvari\ **Back cover:** \distorted checkerboard pattern overlaid by central box with book information overlaid by a saw-toothed violin bow\.

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 978-0-141-18560-6

Series and Number: Penguin Modern Classics

Price: £12.00

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

Includes one page 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.

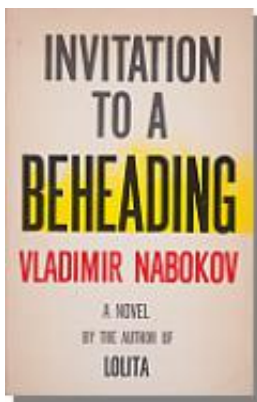
A16.6

NEW AMERICAN WRAPPERS TRANSLATED EDITION (CAPRICORN BOOKS, IMPRINT OF PUTNAM'S)

¶ First printing, 30-Jan-1965

Collation: (20.3 X 12.8 cm), pp. [1-4] 5-8 [9- 10] 11-223 [224]

Title page: \across two pages\ \left page\ INVITATION | TO A |



A16.6 First printing, 1965, cover, front

TRANSLATED BY DMITRI NABOKOV | *in collaboration with the author* | \right page\ VLADIMIR NABOKOV | BEHEADING | Capricorn Books, New York

Copyright page: © 1959 BY VLADIMIR NABOKOV | All rights reserved. This book, or parts thereof, must | not be reproduced in any form without permission. | CAPRICORN BOOKS EDITION 1965 | Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 59-11024 | MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \two lines gray\ INVITATION | TO A | \over misty yellow background\ BEHEADING | \red\ VLADIMIR NABOKOV | \two lines gray\ A NOVEL | BY THE AUTHOR OF | LOLITA. **Back cover:** \author, title, book description, blurb\ | A CAPRICORN GIANT \$1.65. **Spine:** \running down\ \gray\ INVITATION TO A \black\ BEHEADING | \red\ NABOKOV | \running across\ CAP | GIANT | 255

Series and Number: Cap Giant, 255

Price: \$1.65

Description: Capricorn Books was Putnam's trade paperback imprint.

Works:

- 1) Foreword [to *Invitation to a Beheading*]
- 2) Invitation to a Beheading [Приглашение на казнь]

¶ Second printing, unknown date

As first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | SECOND IMPRESSION | ...

¶ Third printing, variant a, unknown date

As first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | THIRD IMPRESSION | ...

Price: \$1.85

¶ Third printing, variant b, unknown date

As first printing, except

Collation: (20.2 X 13.4 cm)

Copyright page: ... | THIRD IMPRESSION | ...

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

Front and back covers: \blank\. **Spine:** \running down, gilt stamping\ INVITATION TO A BEHEADING | Vladimir Nabokov | \decorative device\ | Putnam

Covering: White dust jacket as for first translation with price at bottom of front flap changed to \$5.95

Price: \$5.95

Description: The title page states that this was published by Capricorn Books. But the binding and dust jacket credit Putnam's.

¶ Fourth printing, unknown date

As first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | FOURTH IMPRESSION | ...

Binding: Back cover: ... | A CAPRICORN GIANT \$1.95

Price: \$1.95

¶ Fifth printing, unknown date

As first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | Fifth Impression | ...

Binding: Back cover: ... | A CAPRICORN GIANT \$2.25

Price: \$2.25

¶ Sixth printing, unknown date

Unexamined

POINTS

This is the only cloth bound issue in this edition of wrappers issues.

¶ Seventh printing, unknown date

As fifth printing, except

Title page: \last two lines on right-hand page\ *Capricorn Books* | G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York

Copyright page: ... | Seventh Impression | SBN: 399-50220-3 | ...

Binding: Back cover: ... | A CAPRICORN GIANT \$2.95

Price: \$2.95

¶ Eighth printing, unknown date

As seventh printing, except

Copyright page: ... | Eighth Impression | ...

Price: \$3.95

¶ Ninth printing, 1979

As seventh printing, except

Title page: \replacing publisher and city line\ A PARAGON BOOK

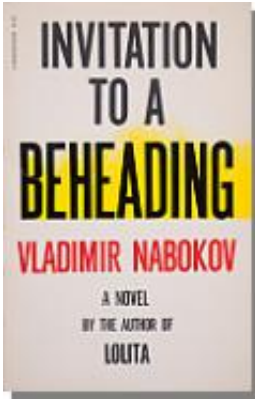
Copyright page: ... | PARAGON BOOKS | are published by | G.P. Putnam's Sons | ... | First Paragon Books Printing, 1979 | SBN: 399-50115-0 *Ninth Impression* | ...

Binding: Front cover: \$3.95

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-399-50115-0

Price: \$3.95

Description: Paragon Books was an imprint of Putnam's.



A16.6 Ninth printing, 1979, cover, front

¶ New ninth printing, unknown date

As seventh printing, except

Title page: \replacing publisher and city\ *A Wideview/Perigee Book* | G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS New York

Copyright page: ... | Perigee Books | are published by | The Putnam Publishing Group | ... | *Ninth Impression* | SBN 399-50115-0 | ...

Binding: Front cover: \$6.95

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-399-50115-0

Price: \$6.95

Description: Wideview/Perigee was an imprint of Putnam's.

¶ Tenth printing, unknown date

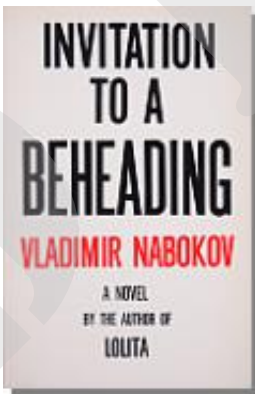
As Wideview/Perigee ninth printing, except

Copyright page: ... | *Tenth Impression* | ...

Binding: Front cover: \without the misty yellow background under the title\.

Back cover: ... A WIDEVIEW/PERIGEE BOOK \$8.95 ... | ...

Price: \$8.95



A16.6 Tenth printing, cover, front

¶ Eleventh printing, unknown date

As tenth printing, except

Copyright page: ... | Eleventh Impression | ...

Price: 8.95

A16.7

FIRST FRENCH EDITION (EDITIONS VICTOR)

¶ First printing, Nov-1966



A16.7 First printing, 1966, cover, front



A16.7 First printing, 1966, title page



A16.7 First printing, 1966, copyright page

Collation: (18.6 X 13.4 cm), pp. [1–8] 9–218 [219–220]

Title page: Владимир Набоков | ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ | НА КАЗНЬ | РОМАН | Editions Victor | Paris

Copyright page: Copyright 1938 - V. Nabokov

Colophon: IMPRIMERIE BERESNIAK — PARIS | IMPRIMÉ EN FRANCE

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \purple background with quarter of a yellow sunburst in the lower left\ \white\ Владимир Набоков | \two lines in yellow\ ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ | НА КАЗНЬ. **Back cover:** \biographical note on Nabokov\ **Spine:** \purple background\ \running down, in white\ ВЛАДИМИР НАБОКОВ | \yellow\ ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ | НА КАЗНЬ. Inside back cover: \list of books by the author\

Contents: [1–2] blank, [3] half-title, [4] blank, [5] title page, [6] copyright page, [7] note on the author, [8] list of books by the author, 9–24 preface, 25–218 text, [219] colophon, [220] blank

Description: This edition includes a short author biography, “Главные произведения Владимира Набокова [Glavnye proizvedeniia Vladimira Nabokova/Vladimir Nabokov’s main works]” and “Предисловие [Predislovie/Preface]” by Julian Moynahan. The preface appears in English in *Novel*, Fall 1967, pp. 12–18.

According to Moynahan, the “Victor Press imprint” belonged to “Radio Liberty”, an organization which he was “fairly convinced” was on the CIA subsidy payroll. Nabokov had “apparently” given “Radio Liberty” the Russian language reprint rights to this novel and several others. Moynahan wrote the preface in English, Nabokov reviewed it, and it was then Russianized by a translator.

In an unpublished letter of 10-Apr-1966, Véra Nabokov wrote that the “Radio Liberty Committee in Munich” intended to publish the novel in Russian.

The U.S. government had a program to distribute books in the Soviet Union in the late 1950s in Russian by American authors and also Russian authors proscribed in the Soviet Union. The books were given to visitors from the Soviet Union. The program was covertly funded at that time by the C.I.A. (Ludmilla Thorne in a letter to *The New Yorker*, 21-Nov-2005, p. 10.)

(Also see A10.6 and *VNTAY* 504–5, 524.)

Additional Works: The preface was written by Julian Moynahan, reviewed by Nabokov, and translated into Russian by an unknown translator

Works:

- 1) Приглашение на казнь [Priglasenie na kazn' / Invitation to a beheading]

A16.8

FIRST AMERICAN EDITION (ARDIS)

¶ First printing, variant a, 1979



A16.8 First printing, variant a, 1979, cover, front

Collation: (17.7 X 12.5 cm), pp. [19–24] 25–218

Title page: ВЛАДИМИР НАБОКОВ | ПРИГЛА- | ШЕНИЕ | НА КАЗНЬ | ARDIS / ANN ARBOR

Copyright page: Vladimir Nabokov | Приглашение на казнь | Copyright © 1938 by Vladimir Nabokov | Ardis reprint, Copyright © 1979 by the | Vladimir Nabokov Estate | ISBN 0-88233-429-8 (cloth) | ISBN 0-88233-430-1 (paper) | Published by Ardis, | 2901 Heatherway | Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104

Binding: Dark blue leatherette over boards with headband. Black endpapers. All edges trimmed. **Front cover:** \gilt stamping\ ВЛАДИМИР НАБОКОВ | ПРИГЛА- | ШЕНИЕ | НА КАЗНЬ. **Back cover:** \blank\ **Spine:** \running down\ \gilt stamping\ НАБОКОВ ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ НА КАЗНЬ | \running across\ Ardis



A16.8 First printing, variant a, 1979, title page



A16.8 First printing, variant a, 1979, copyright page



A16.8 First printing, variant b, 1979, cover, front

Covering: Issued without

Contents: [19] publisher's device, [20] blank, [21] title page, [22] copyright page, [23] fly-title, [24] blank, 25–218 text

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-88233-429-8

Press run: 100 copies

Works:

- 1) Приглашение на казнь [Priglasheenie na kazn' / Invitation to a beheading]

¶ First printing, variant b, 1979

As variant a, except

Binding: Beige wrappers. **Back cover:** \list of Nabokov books from the publisher\

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-88233-430-1

Press run: 1200 copies

¶ Second printing, Feb-1984

Unexamined

Press run: 700 copies

A16.9

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

¶ First printing, Sep-1989

Collation: (20.3 X 13.0 cm), 240 pages

Title page: Invitation | to a | Beheading | VLADIMIR NABOKOV | TRANSLATED BY DMITRI NABOKOV | in collaboration with the author | VINTAGE INTERNATIONAL | *Vintage Books* | A Division of Random House, Inc. | New York

Copyright page: ... | First Vintage International Edition, September 1989 | ... | ISBN 0-679-72531-8 (pbk.) : \$7.95 | ... | 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \photo by Barnaby Hall of rose-colored party of people's faces\

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-679-72531-8

Series and Number: Vintage International



A16.9 First printing, 1989,
cover, front



A16.9 Twenty-first printing,
2009, cover, front

Price: \$7.95

Description: The typesetting of the first American translated edition in 1959, A16.2, spawned one further edition, A16.6.

Nabokov's corrections of that typesetting were incorporated into the text of this edition and published for the first time:

- p. 6, line 2 – changed “*Zapiski*” to “*Zapiski*,”.
- p. 7, line 28 – changed “worlding” to “worldling”.
- p. 14, line 28 – changed “bosom” to “bosom,”.
- p. 72, line 4 – changed “moping there?” to “moping about there?”.
- p. 74, line 9 – changed “whch” to “which”.
- p. 129, line 25 – changed “now.)” to “now).”.
- p. 189, line 18 – changed “studied” to “studded”.

Works:

- 1) Foreword [to *Invitation to a Beheading*]
- 2) Invitation to a Beheading [Приглашение на казнь]

¶ Twenty-first printing, 2009

As first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | 21 23 25 27 29 28 26 24 22

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \art of a specimen box filled with two white pinned pieces of paper with the title and author and a pinned drawing of a chair, by Yentus & Booher, cover photograph by Alison Gootee\.

Contents: With four pages of publisher's ads for Nabokov books.

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 978-0-679-72531-2

Price: \$14.00

A16.10



A16.10 First printing, 2001,
cover, front

FIRST RUSSIAN EDITION (FOLIO)

¶ First printing, 2001

Collation: (16.5 X 10.8 cm), 256 pages

Title page: \stylized graphic “В”\ *Владимир* | \stylized graphic “Н”\ *НАБОКОВ* | \rule\ | \script\ Приглашение на казнь | *Приглашение* | на казнь | \rule\ | роман | \publisher's device of “аст издательство”\ ФОЛИО | МОСКВА | 2001

Copyright page: ... | Текст печатается по изданию: | Набоков В.В. Приглашение на казнь: Романы. — | Харьков: «Folio»; М.: ООО «Издательство АСТ», 1997 | ... | ISBN 5-17-004251-5 (ООО «Издательство АСТ») | 966-03-1183-4 («Folio») | ...

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \illustration of a snowy forest with arms clasping a tree\

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 5-17-004251-5, 966-03-1183-4

Series and Number: Классическая и современная проза, вып. 40

Press run: 5000 copies according to the colophon

Description: The text was taken from the 1997 Folio/AST edition, “Приглашение на казнь: Романы”. See the L-items.

Works:

- 1) Приглашение на казнь [Priglasenie na kazn' / Invitation to a beheading]

¶ Second printing, 2003

Unexamined

A16.11

NEW RUSSIAN EDITION (KRISTALL)

¶ First printing, 2001

Collation: (19.9 X 10.6 cm), 160 pages



A16.11 First printing, 2001, cover, front

Title page: Владимир | НАБОКОВ | ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ | НА КАЗНЬ' | \device\ | Санкт-Петербург | КРИСТАЛЛ | 2001

Binding: Pictorial boards with front cover illustration of multiple butterflies

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 5-306-00140-8

Series and Number: Русский стиль

Press run: 5000 copies according to the colophon

Works:

- 1) Приглашение на казнь [Priglasheñie na kazn' / Invitation to a beheading]

A16.12 NEW RUSSIAN EDITION (AZBUKA)

¶ First printing, 2004

Unexamined

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 5-352-00693-X

A16.13 NEW RUSSIAN EDITION (AZBUKA)

¶ First hardcover printing, 2007



A16.13 First hardcover printing, 2007, cover, front

Collation: (16.5 X 10.4 cm), 224 pages

Title page: ВЛАДИМИР | НАБОКОВ | ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ | НА КАЗНЬ' | \publisher's device\ | Санкт-Петербург | Издательский Дом | «Азбука-классика» | 2007

Binding: Pictorial boards with drawing by Alla Kanarefina of gaunt executioner with ax over his shoulder

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 978-5-91181-484-7

Press run: 5000 copies according to the colophon

Works:

(† means a work translated by someone other than Nabokov)

- 1) Приглашение на казнь [Priglasheñie na kazn' / Invitation to a beheading]
- 2) † Предисловие автора к американскому изданию [of *Invitation to a Beheading*] [Predislovie avtora k amerikanskomu izdaniuu [of *Invitation to a Beheading*] / Author's foreword to the American edition [of *Invitation to a Beheading*]] [Foreword [to *Invitation to a Beheading*]]
– The first and fourth paragraphs have been omitted because they deal with the English translation.

¶ First wrappers printing, 2009

As first hardcover printing, except

Collation: (18.0 X 11.5 cm), 192 pages

Title page: Владимир | НАБОКОВ | *Приглашение* | на казнь | Роман | \publisher's device\ | Санкт-Петербург | Издательская Группа | «Азбука-классика» | 2009

Binding: Wrappers

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 978-5-9985-0221-7

Press run: 5000 copies according to the colophon



A16.13 First wrappers printing, 2009, cover, front

¶ Third hardcover printing, 2010

As first hardcover printing, except

Title page: ВЛАДИМИР | НАБОКОВ | ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ | НА КАЗНЬ' |
 \publisher's device\ | Санкт-Петербург | Издательская Группа |
 «Азбука-классика» | 2010

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 978-5-9985-0858-5

Press run: 7000 copies according to the colophon

¶ New wrappers printing, 2011

As first wrappers printing, except

Title page: Владимир | НАБОКОВ | *Приглашение | на казнь | Роман* |
 \publisher's device\ | АЗБУКА | Санкт-Петербург | 2011

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 978-5-389-01932-4

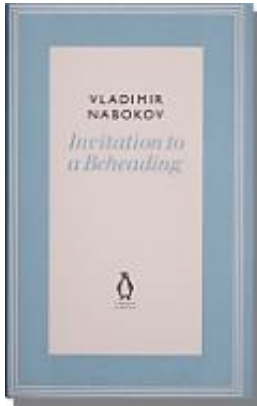
Press run: 5000 copies according to the colophon

¶ New wrappers printing, 2012

As 2011 wrappers printing, except

Press run: 3000 copies according to the colophon

A16.14



A16.14 First printing, 2012,
cover, front

NEW BRITISH EDITION (PENGUIN)

¶ First printing, 2012

Collation: (19.0 X 11.7 cm), 256 pages

Title page: VLADIMIR | NABOKOV | *Invitation to a | Beheading* |
 Translated from the Russian by | DMITRI NABOKOV in collaboration
 with | VLADIMIR NABOKOV | \publisher's device\ | PENGUIN | \rule\ |
 CLASSICS

Copyright page: PENGUIN CLASSICS | ... | This edition published in
 Penguin Classics 2012 | 1 | ... | ISBN: 978-0-141-19697-8 | ...

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: 978-0-141-19697-8

Series and Number: Penguin Classics, 7

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) Foreword [to *Invitation to a Beheading*]
- 2) *Invitation to a Beheading* [Приглашение на казнь]