

Contents

Introduction to the English-Language Edition: Volodya ix

ONE

Life: *Speak, Memory* 1

TWO

Reality: *The Gift, Look at the Harlequins!,
The Real Life of Sebastian Knight* 45

THREE

The Oppressor and the Oppressed:
Invitation to a Beheading, Bend Sinister 87

FOUR

Cruelty: *Pnin* 123

FIVE

Genius and Madness: *Pale Fire* 161

SIX

Love: *Lolita* 200

SEVEN

Heaven and Hell: *Ada or Ardor* 247

Notes Translated by Dorna Khazeni 285

Bibliography 315

Acknowledgments 319

Credits 321

Index 325

This page intentionally left blank