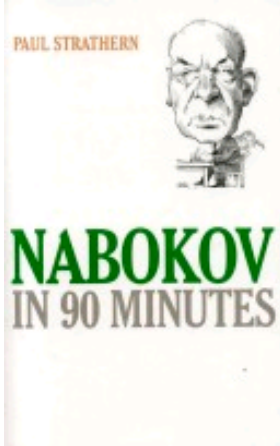


Nabokov in 90 Minutes, by Paul Strathern. Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 2005; ISBN 156663590X, 120pp., \$8.95.



A REVIEW IN 90 WORDS

The Title: Why not “Nabokov for Dummies” — or was that oxymoron too obvious even for Paul Strathern?

The Content: The narrative, albeit mercifully brief, is indeed for “unoxy” morons. Nabokov’s early life, we are told, was “marred” by the October Revolution; his father was killed “amidst sensational circumstances,” *The Gift* “includes... perverse but precise observation” and in *Lolita* Nabokov is “utterly convincing.”

The Best Part of the Book: Quotes from Nabokov, but not enough to justify its existence.

Enough said.

*Galya Diment,
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