BIBLIOGRAPHY

BARTH, JOHN

PRIMARY SOURCES :


NON FICTION


SECONDARY SOURCES:


NABOKOV, VLADIMIR

PRIMARY SOURCES


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GENERAL CRITICISM


ranging from the Elizabethan drama to the worst of
detective novels . . . (231)

In Ada or Ardor, Nabokov parodies the theme of the brother-
sister incest, which is an obsession with American intellectuals. Ada or Ardor, like Pale Fire and Lolita, is a complex novel. It celebrates
the powers of consciousness. Fred Kaplan argues “Ada or Ardor is
an extraordinary and a luxurious piece of fiction. It is a myth of love
and a romance of the mind . . . ” (119). The narrator of the story in
Ada or Ardor is the retrospective nonagenarian, Van Veen. His
reminiscences form the subject matter he memorializes his long love
for Ada. “The image of Ada kept rising within him like a biter and
brilliant wave, ready to swallow him.” (252).

Van Veen’s ecstatic love affair began when he was fourteen
and the black-haired Ada was twelve. The two were irresistibly
drawn to each other by their inner nature. Their love violated the
most serious sexual taboo, namely, incest. For well over two
decades, from early adolescence to mature adulthood Van Veen
and Ada enjoyed four fleeting periods of illicit ardor. As recorded
by John Thompson in “. . . A magically precarious they are, Van
in athletics and scholarship, Ada in art, lepidopterology, and

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