

# Collected Poems The Penguin Vladimir Nabokov Hard

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**Living Root** Michael Heller 2000-01-01 In this literary memoir, poet and essayist Michael Heller interweaves family and personal history with reflections on language, poetry, religion, and memory itself.

*The Literary Review* 1981

Vladimir Nabokov Neil Cornwell 1999 Vladimir Nabokov's extraordinary literary career, as a master of Russian and English prose, is unique. Acclaimed in the limited Russian emigre world, under the name of Sirin, Nabokov switched to writing in English and settled in America, a refugee from Hitler's Europe. Exile, memory, lost love and the magic of childhood are among his themes. Neil Cornwell's study, published for the Nabokov centenary, examines five of Nabokov's major novels, plus his short stories and critical writings, situating his work against the ever-expanding mass of VN scholarship, and noting his cultural debt to Russia, Europe, America and the British Isles.

Nabokov Leona Toker 2016-11-01 Vladimir Nabokov described the literature course he taught at Cornell as "a kind of detective investigation of the mystery of literary structures." Leona Toker here pursues a similar investigation of the enigmatic structures of Nabokov's own fiction. According to Toker, most previous critics stressed either Nabokov's concern with form or the humanistic side of his works, but rarely if ever the two together. In sensitive and revealing readings of ten novels, Toker demonstrates that the need to reconcile the human element with aesthetic or metaphysical pursuits is a constant theme of Nabokov's and that the tension between technique and content is itself a key to his fiction. Written with verve and precision, Toker's book begins with Pnin and follows the circular pattern that is one of her subject's own favored devices.

Vladimir Nabokov: 'Lolita' John Lennard 2008-01-01 An illuminating study of Vladimir Nabokov's controversial novel with special attention to its film versions. From its first publication in 1955 Nabokov's Lolita has been denounced as immoral filth, hailed as a moral masterpiece, and both praised and damne.

Culture and the Rites/Rights of Grief Zbigniew Białas 2013-09-20 Although generally resented and deemed unfavourable for individuals, societies and nations, grief, grievance, and grieving, along with a complex list of epithets that could, under varying circumstances, accompany them – racial grief, political grievance, protracted grieving, chronic grief, traumatic, unresolved grievance – nevertheless occupy a significant place in culture and its manifestations in literature, art, history, science, and politics. Culture and the Rites/Rights of Grief offers an intellectual excursion into realms of potentially regenerative problematics, too frequently dismissed without due consideration. In this light, the volume constitutes a weighty contribution to the field of literary and cultural studies. First and foremost, however, Culture and the Rites/Rights of Grief is to be intellectually enjoyed by readers with an interest in present-day literary, cultural and political phenomena, at the intersection of which grief and grieving execute an imposing presence, albeit one that remains as indeterminate and flitting as the nature of contemporary cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary encounters.

**Think, Write, Speak** Vladimir Nabokov Literary Trust 2021-02-09 A rich compilation of the previously uncollected Russian and English prose and interviews of one of the twentieth century's greatest writers, edited by Nabokov experts Brian Boyd and Anastasia Tolstoy. "I think like a genius, I write like a distinguished author, and I speak like a child": so Vladimir Nabokov famously wrote in the introduction to his volume of selected prose, Strong Opinions. Think, Write, Speak follows up where that volume left off, with a rich compilation of his uncollected prose and interviews, from a 1921 essay about Cambridge to two final interviews in 1977. The chronological order allows us to watch the Cambridge student and the fledgling Berlin reviewer and poet turn into the acclaimed Paris émigré novelist whose stature brought him to teach in America, where his international success exploded with Lolita and propelled him back to Europe. Whether his subject is Proust or Pushkin, the sport of boxing or the privileges of democracy, Nabokov's supreme individuality, his keen wit, and his alertness to the details of life illuminate the page.

**Strong Opinions** Vladimir Nabokov 1990-03-17 In this collection of interviews, articles, and editorials, Nabokov ranges over his life, art, education, politics, literature, movies, and modern times, among other subjects. Strong Opinions offers his trenchant, witty, and always engaging views on everything from the Russian Revolution to the correct pronunciation of Lolita.

**Despair** Владимир Владимирович Набоков 1970 Extensively revised by Nabokov in 1965--thirty years after its original publication--Despair is the wickedly inventive and richly derisive story of Hermann, a man who undertakes the perfect crime--his own murder.

**The American Tradition in Literature** Barbara Perkins 1994 A collection of short stories and poems that traces the emergence of American literature from the early 19th to late 20th century.

**Novellas** Vladimir Nabokov 2012 In Nabokov's novellas we find some of his most potent and dazzling writing. Collected together for the first time in this elegant hardback edition, which forms part of a complete series of his works, these three pieces are remarkable works of literature. In The Eye, a fussily self-conscious Russian tutor shoots himself after a humiliating beating by his mistress' husband. There follows a satirical detective story and a wonderfully layered exploration of identity, appearance and the loss of self in a world of word-play and confusion. Nabokov described The Enchanter, written in Paris in 1939, as 'the first little throb of Lolita'. The plot is similar: a middle-aged man wedding an unattractive widow in order to indulge his paedophilic obsession with her daughter. The legendary The Original of Laura has been the source of much anxiety and contention for Nabokov's fans - and family. The late

Vladimir Nabokov requested that this unfinished work be destroyed, but his son, Dmitri, eventually took the decision to publish it many years later. The novel was complete in Nabokov's mind, though he died before he could translate his vision on to paper. It is hard, however, to imagine any scholars, Nabokov enthusiasts or literature lovers being disappointed by even these fragments.

**Pale Fire** Vladimir Nabokov 2000 A novel constructed around the last great poem of a fictional American poet, John Shade, and an account of his death. The poem appears in full and the narrative develops through the lengthy, and increasingly eccentric, notes by his posthumous editor.

**A Little Larger Than the Entire Universe** Fernando Pessoa 2006-04-04 The largest and richest English-language volume of poetry from “the greatest twentieth-century writer you have never heard of” (Los Angeles Times) Edited, Translated, and with an Introduction by Richard Zenith, the author of the Pulitzer Prize finalist *Pessoa: A Biography* A Penguin Classic Writing obsessively in French, English, and Portuguese, poet Fernando Pessoa (1888–1935) left a prodigious body of work, much of it credited to three “heteronyms”—Alberto Caeiro, Ricardo Reis, and Alvaro de Campos—alter egos with startlingly different styles, points of view, and biographies. Offering a unique sampling of his most famous voices, this collection features Pessoa’s major, best-known works and several stunning poems that have come to light only in this century, including his long, highly autobiographical swan song. Featuring a rich body of work that has never before been translated into English, this is the finest introduction available to the stunning breadth of Pessoa’s genius.

**Give Us This Day** Helena Wisniewska Brow 2015-01-01 In June 1944, when 14-year-old Stefan Wisniewski stood by his mother's dusty Tehran grave, he knew his world was about to change again, forever. *Give Us This Day: A Memoir of Family and Exile* explores the story of one of the 732 Polish child survivors of wartime Soviet deportation offered unlikely refuge in New Zealand. Seventy years later, and no closer to a longed-for Polish homecoming, Stefan's New Zealand-born daughter revisits his past. What is the burden her father has carried all these years? And why is he unable—or unwilling—to let it go? With an aging father and the ghost of a namesake aunt as her guides, Helena Wisniewska Brow searches for meaning in the family lives shaped by exile: her father's, her mother's, and her own.

**The Publishers Weekly** 1958

**The Defense** Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov 1980

**Invitation to a Beheading** Vladimir Nabokov 1989-09-19 Like Kafka's *The Castle*, *Invitation to a Beheading* embodies a vision of a bizarre and irrational world. In an unnamed dream country, the young man Cincinnatus C. is condemned to death by beheading for “gnostical turpitude,” an imaginary crime that defies definition. Cincinnatus spends his last days in an absurd jail, where he is visited by chimerical jailers, an executioner who masquerades as a fellow prisoner, and by his in-laws, who lug their furniture with them into his cell. When Cincinnatus is led out to be executed, he simply wills his executioners out of existence: they disappear, along with the whole world they inhabit.

*Despair* Vladimir Nabokov 1981

*The Cure of Poetry in an Age of Prose* Mary Kinzie 1993-07-15 The role of the poet, Mary Kinzie writes, is to engage the most profound subjects with the utmost in expressive clarity. The role of the critic is to follow the poet, word for word, into the arena where the creative struggle occurs. How this mutual

purpose is served, ideally and practically, is the subject of this bracingly polemical collection of essays. A distinguished poet and critic, Kinzie assesses poetry's situation during the past twenty-five years. Ours, she contends, is literally a prosaic age, not only in the popularity of prose genres but in the resultant compromises with truth and elegance in literature. In essays on "the rhapsodic fallacy," confessionalism, and the romance of perceptual response, Kinzie diagnoses some of the trends that diminish the poet's flexibility. Conversely, she also considers individual poets—Randall Jarrell, Elizabeth Bishop, Howard Nemerov, Seamus Heaney, and John Ashbery—who have found ingenious ways of averting the risks of prosaism and preserving the special character of poetry. Focusing on poet Louise Bogan and novelist J. M. Coetzee, Kinzie identifies a crucial and curative overlap between the practices of great prose-writing and great poetry. In conclusion, she suggests a new approach for teaching writers of poetry and fiction. Forcefully argued, these essays will be widely read and debated among critics and poets alike.

*Collected Stories* Vladimir Nabokov 2012-09-06 A man at his desk is interrupted by the appearance of a woodland elf in his room; the piano maestro Bachmann ends his career; a barber shaves the face of a man who once tortured him; a shy dreamer makes a deal with the Devil. In these sixty-five stories of magic and melancholy, Nabokov displays an astonishing range of inventiveness, with dazzling sleight of hand, fantastical fairy tales, intellectual games and enchanting glimpses into lives of ambiguity and loss. This landmark new collection brings together the best of the short stories of Vladimir Nabokov, one of the twentieth century's greatest writers and author of *Lolita* and *Pale Fire*. Part of a major new series of Vladimir Nabokov's work in Penguin Classics.

**The Spy's Wife** Fiona McIntosh 2021-11-02 Evie, a widow and stationmaster's daughter, can't help but look out for the weekly visit of the handsome man she and her sister call the Southerner on their train platform in the wilds of northern England. When polite salutations shift to friendly conversations, they become captivated by each other. After so much sorrow, the childless Evie can't believe love and the chance for her own family have come into her life again. With rumours coming out of Germany that Hitler may be stirring up war, local English authorities have warned against spies. Even Evie becomes suspicious of her new suitor, Roger. But all is not what it seems. When Roger is arrested, Evie comes up with an audacious plan to prove his innocence that means moving to Germany and working as a British counter-spy. Wearing the disguise of dutiful, naïve wife, Evie must charm the Nazi Party's dangerous officials to bring home hard evidence of war mongering on the Führer's part. But in this game of cat and mouse, it seems everyone has an ulterior motive, and Evie finds it impossible to know who to trust. With lives on the line, ultimate sacrifices will be made as she wrestles between her patriotism and saving the man she loves. From the windswept moors of the Yorkshire dales to the noisy beer halls of Munich and grand country estates in the picture-book Bavarian mountains, this is a lively and high-stakes thriller that will keep you second-guessing until the very end. 'The Spy's Wife is a tense, powerful story with a brave and captivating heroine at its heart. With a suspenseful plot and plenty of intrigue, this is a lively, high-stakes historical thriller that will keep you second-guessing until the very end.'

Better Reading

Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita* Ellen Pifer 2003 Eight reprinted essays, mostly from the 1990s, examine various facets of the Russian exile's 1955 novel that has raised literary, legal, and religious hackles since it was first published. Also included is a 1967 interview with Nabokov by Herbert Gold. There is no index. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR.

**Diary of a Madman, The Government Inspector, & Selected Stories** Nikolay Gogol 2005-12-01 Author, dramatist and satirist, Nikolay Gogol (1809-1852) deeply influenced later Russian literature

with his powerful depictions of a society dominated by petty beurocracy and base corruption. This volume includes both his most admired short fiction and his most famous drama. A biting and frequently hilarious political satire, *The Government Inspector* has been popular since its first performance and was regarded by Nabokov as the greatest Russian play every written. The stories gathered here, meanwhile, range from comic to tragic and describe the isolated lives of low-ranking clerks, lunatics and swindlers. They include *Diary of a Madman*, an amusing but disturbing exploration of insanity; *Nevsky Prospect*, a depiction of an artist besotted with a prostitute; and *The Overcoat*, a moving consideration of poverty that powerfully influenced Dostoevsky and later Russian literature.

*Nabokov's Dozen* Vladimir Vladimirovic Nabokov 1971

**Now Remember** Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov 1996

[The Real Lolita](#) Sarah Weinman 2019-09-10 "The Real Lolita is a tour de force of literary detective work. Not only does it shed new light on the terrifying true saga that influenced Nabokov's masterpiece, it restores the forgotten victim to our consciousness." —David Grann, author of *Killers of the Flower Moon* Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita* is one of the most beloved and notorious novels of all time. And yet, very few of its readers know that the subject of the novel was inspired by a real-life case: the 1948 abduction of eleven-year-old Sally Horner. Weaving together suspenseful crime narrative, cultural and social history, and literary investigation, *The Real Lolita* tells Sally Horner's full story for the very first time. Drawing upon extensive investigations, legal documents, public records, and interviews with remaining relatives, Sarah Weinman uncovers how much Nabokov knew of the Sally Horner case and the efforts he took to disguise that knowledge during the process of writing and publishing *Lolita*. Sally Horner's story echoes the stories of countless girls and women who never had the chance to speak for themselves. By diving deeper in the publication history of *Lolita* and restoring Sally to her rightful place in the lore of the novel's creation, *The Real Lolita* casts a new light on the dark inspiration for a modern classic.

**The Enchanter** Vladimir Nabokov 1991-07-20 *The Enchanter* is the Ur-*Lolita*, the precursor to Nabokov's classic novel. At once hilarious and chilling, it tells the story of an outwardly respectable man and his fatal obsession with certain pubescent girls, whose coltish grace and subconscious coquetry reveal, to his mind, a special bud on the verge of bloom.

[Lance](#) Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov 2018-02 The illegible signature of teetering disaster' Three great stories - *The Aurelian*, *Signs and Symbols* and *Lance* - the last both a derisive attack on science-fiction and an attempt to imagine the real pain and horror that would accompany space travel.

[A Hero of Our Time](#) Mikhail ĪŪr'evich Lermontov 1966 In its adventurous happenings-its abductions, duels, and sexual intrigues-"A Hero of Our Time" looks backward to the tales of Sir Walter Scott and Lord Byron, so beloved by Russian society in the 1820s and '30s. In the character of its protagonist, Pechorin-the archetypal Russian antihero-Lermontov's novel looks forward to the subsequent glories of a Russian literature that it helped, in great measure, to make possible. This edition includes a Translator's Foreword by Vladimir Nabokov, who translated the novel in collaboration with his son, Dmitri Nabokov.

**The Penguin Book of Russian Poetry** Robert Chandler 2015-02-26 An enchanting collection of the very best of Russian poetry, edited by acclaimed translator Robert Chandler together with poets Boris Dralyuk and Irina Mashinski. In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, poetry's pre-

eminence in Russia was unchallenged, with Pushkin and his contemporaries ushering in the 'Golden Age' of Russian literature. Prose briefly gained the high ground in the second half of the nineteenth century, but poetry again became dominant in the 'Silver Age' (the early twentieth century), when belief in reason and progress yielded once more to a more magical view of the world. During the Soviet era, poetry became a dangerous, subversive activity; nevertheless, poets such as Osip Mandelstam and Anna Akhmatova continued to defy the censors. This anthology traces Russian poetry from its Golden Age to the modern era, including work by several great poets - Georgy Ivanov and Varlam Shalamov among them - in captivating modern translations by Robert Chandler and others. The volume also includes a general introduction, chronology and individual introductions to each poet. Robert Chandler is an acclaimed poet and translator. His many translations from Russian include works by Aleksandr Pushkin, Nikolay Leskov, Vasily Grossman and Andrey Platonov, while his anthologies of Russian Short Stories from Pushkin to Buida and Russian Magic Tales are both published in Penguin Classics. Irina Mashinski is a bilingual poet and co-founder of the StoSvet literary project. Her most recent collection is 2013's *Ophelia i masterok* [Ophelia and the Trowel]. Boris Dralyuk is a Lecturer in Russian at the University of St Andrews and translator of many books from Russian, including, most recently, Isaac Babel's *Red Cavalry* (2014).

*Insomniac Dreams* Vladimir Nabokov 2019-11-19 First publication of an index-card diary in which Nabokov recorded sixty-four dreams and subsequent daytime episodes, allowing the reader a glimpse of his innermost life.

**Reading Old Friends** John Matthias Reading Old Friends includes essays, reviews, and poems on poetics. Matthias, who has spent much time in England, concentrates on British poetry ranging from late modernist figures such as David Jones and Hugh MacDiarmid to contemporaries such as Geoffrey Hill, Seamus Heaney, Michael Hamburger, and John Fuller. He also seeks to establish, or re-establish, meaningful trans-Atlantic connections between Wendell Berry and Jeremy Hooker, for example, or between Robert Duncan and David Jones. Other, more generally acknowledged figures, are also discussed, including Wordsworth, Pope, Crabbe, Constable, Turner, Britten, Tippet, Lowell, Auden, and Berryman. The book also contains three poems on poetics that engage many of the theoretical issues left implicit in most of the essays.

**Paraphernalia** Steven Connor 2011-06-09 From keys and handkerchiefs to sweets and rubber bands, the curious objects we surround ourselves with, though often seemingly mundane, have a magical quality. Their surprising power to disturb, soothe, seduce or absorb give these quirky objects histories and meanings we rarely ponder. Yet we would be lost without them. Take bags, for example. Why do most women carry handbags, while men rely on pockets? Why do so many houses have bags of bags? And why do we 'let the cat out the bag' or 'give someone the sack'? What significance do our bags hold for us? In this highly imaginative and entertaining book, Steven Connor embarks on a historical, philosophical and linguistic journey that explores our relationships with the curious things with which we have a forgotten but daily intimacy.

*Naming the Unnamable* Tom Dobson 2014-05-05 Reflecting upon his own prior experiences as Writer, PhD Student embarks on an ethnographic research project which seeks to explain the relationship between Boys' creative writing and identity. A view of identity as performance is adopted, a main cast of year 6 Boys is assembled, and the stage of the year 6 primary classroom and the secondary school is set. Undertaking participant observation, PhD Student sends his reflections as emails to PhD Supervisor but as their dialogue takes hold, questions relating to the problematic nature of research and representation proliferate. Which identity is PhD Student performing in the classroom: himself, Mr

Dobson, Writer or Tom? Is self-reflexivity enough? To what extent can the Boys' identities ever be known? Rather than silencing these problems, PhD Student looks for a form of writing which lays bare the messiness of research. He rejects the linearity of the traditional form and writes his thesis as a self-conscious fiction: a dialogue on a train between himself, a post/structuralist academic, and You, a humanist non-academic. As PhD Student's data is analysed, critiqued and deconstructed from both essentialist and interpretivist perspectives, the impossibility of objective representation is explored. Within its own frame of reference, PhD Student's analysis of the Boys' writing offers a theoretical framework for thinking about creative writing in terms of identity and agency. However, the thesis-script itself is primarily a methodological critique: one that shows that no matter what is written on pages, between the words, between the letters, there will always be the Unnamable.

*Collected Poems Vladimir Nabokov* 2012-07-05 This landmark new collection brings together the best of the poetry of Vladimir Nabokov, one of the twentieth century's greatest writers and author of *Lolita* and *Pale Fire*. It includes an extensive number of poems that have never appeared in English before, newly translated from the Russian by his son Dmitri Nabokov. These masterly poems span the decades of Nabokov's career, from 'Music', written in 1914 and probably Nabokov's first recorded poem, to the short, playful 'To Vera', composed in 1974. 'The University Poem', one of Nabokov's major poetic works, is here in English for the first time: an extraordinary autobiographical poem looking back at his time at Cambridge, with its dinners, games, girls and memories, it is suffused with rich description, wit and verbal dexterity. Included too are the surreally comic 'A Literary Dinner', the enchanting, lyrical 'Eve', the wryly humorous 'An Evening of Russian Poetry' and a meditation on the act of creation, 'Tolstoy', as well as verse written on America, lepidoptery, sport, love and Nabokov's Russian homeland.

**Lolita** Vladimir Nabokov 2011-08-25 'You can always count on a murderer for a fancy prose style.' Humbert Humbert, a European intellectual adrift in America, is a middle-aged college professor. Haunted by memories of a lost adolescent love, he falls outrageously (and illegally) in lust with his landlady's twelve-year-old daughter Dolores Haze. Obsessed, he'll do anything, will commit any crime, to possess his Lolita. But once Lolita belongs to Humbert, once he has got what he wants, what next? And what of Lolita? How long is she willing to be possessed? 'You read Lolita sprawling limply in your chair, ravished, overcome, nodding scandalized assent' Martin Amis, OBSERVER 'Nabokov's command of words, his joy in them, his comic and ecstatic use of them, wrapped around his particular vision of life, is the Nabokivan finishing touch which makes reading his work such an intense joy' DAILY TELEGRAPH 'Lolita is more the shocking because it is both intensely lyrical and wildly funny . . . a Medusa's head with trick paper snakes' TIME

**Year on the Wing** Tim Dee 2009-10-20 Birds -- those "upgiven ghosts" who shape our skies -- and their many styles of flying have inspired us for centuries. Tim Dee became enthralled with birds as a young boy, and their allure has informed how he perceives time as well as how he sees the world and his place in it. Compelling and poetic, *A Year on the Wing* is a month-by-month account of following these magnificent creatures, on land, at sea, and in the air, over the course of one "dew-dipped year." A memoir of the author's life as well as of the birds' migrations, the book draws on memories of forty years of observing birds as Dee explores the ideas and feelings that birds awaken in their flying, breeding, and dying. *A Year on the Wing* is also a significant chronicle of Dee's rich reading of a gorgeous literary tradition about birds -- from Aristotle to Thomas Hardy, Dante to Pound, Wordsworth to Ted Hughes -- as well as naturalists' writings that train a scientific eye on these elusive creatures. With a poet's marvelous commingling of nature and language, Dee finds meaning and a fascinating beauty in the quiver of a redstart's tail, elegizes the thrilling skydiving stoop of the once-endangered, now resurgent peregrine falcon, and reflects on the nocturnal restlessness of migrant woodcocks that is

suggestive of how nature encodes us all. *A Year on the Wing* brings us as close as possible to birds, as we seek to understand the unique connection between us and them as well as our separation from them and, by extension, our estrangement from all of nature. Watching birds instills a renewed sense of wonder, getting us airborne and expanding our horizons. This vicarious liftoff does us good in a way hard to define but incontestably felt. It also makes us ever aware of our place on the ground. Dee homes in on those moments when the gap narrows between humans and birds, when birds' freedom gives us our own, making our lives more vibrant and alive. The first book from an exciting new literary voice, this beautifully written memoir celebrates birds and the inspiration they provide through their twice-yearly winged migrations.

**Vladimir Nabokov** Vladimir Nabokov 2012-09-06 “Wonderful, compulsively readable, delicious” personal correspondences, spanning decades in the life and literary career of the author of *Lolita* (The Washington Post Book World). An icon of twentieth-century literature, Vladimir Nabokov was a novelist, poet, and playwright, whose personal life was a fascinating story in itself. This collection of more than four hundred letters chronicles the author’s career, recording his struggles in the publishing world, the battles over *Lolita*, and his relationship with his wife, among other subjects, and gives a surprising look at the personality behind the creator of such classics as *Pale Fire* and *Pnin*. “Dip in anywhere, and delight follows.” —John Updike

**Literature and the Taste of Knowledge** Michael Wood 2005-09-29 What does literature know? Does it offer us knowledge of its own or does it only interrupt and question other forms of knowledge? This 2005 book seeks to answer and to prolong these questions through the close examination of individual works and the exploration of a broad array of examples. Chapters on Henry James, Kafka, and the form of the villanelle are interspersed with wider-ranging inquiries into forms of irony, indirection and the uses of fiction, with examples ranging from Auden to Proust and Rilke, and from Calvino to Jean Rhys and Yeats. Literature is a form of pretence. But every pretence could tilt us into the real, and many of them do. There is no safe place for the reader: no literalist's haven where fact is always fact; and no paradise of metaphor, where our poems, plays and novels have no truck at all with the harsh and shifting world.

Reading for Life Philip Davis 2020-02-12 *Reading for Life* is an anthology of poems and of extracts from prose fiction, related to a series of case-histories of individuals carefully reading, discussing their reading lives, and thinking about the relation of literature to their existence. It enables readers to gain increased imaginative access to the works in question through seeing how they have intensely affected equivalent readers—a novelist, a poet, a doctor, a teacher, an anthologist, but also non-specialists, ordinary people within shared reading groups in many different settings, finding help from literary texts in times of often painful personal need. It is the story of the work done by Philip Davis' research unit, the Centre for Research into Reading, Literature and Society (CRILS), at the University of Liverpool, in a ten-year partnership with the outreach charity The Reader, taking serious literature to often neglected communities and struggling individuals through the shared reading—alive and aloud—of literature from all ages. *Reading for Life* is a detailed account of what reading literature can do for a wide variety of individuals in relation to a wide variety of texts: it will be of interest to serious readers in the wider world as much as to scholars working within literary studies, and to all those involved in thinking about the therapeutic interactions of literature and life in psychology, medicine, and mental health support settings.