

Abstract research project

” Lolita, light of my life, fire of my loins.” With these famous lines Nabokov opens the book *Lolita*, published in 1955, that has been both celebrated as a literary classic and criticized for portraying a middle-aged man obsessed with a young girl.

In this study, the focus is on the novel’s influence on romanticising age gap relationships. This is done by analysing the ways in which the book has been re-imagined in film and music or criticised in social media and literature. Therefore, it also looks at issues such as consent and stories that normalize or fetishize stereotypes and tropes surrounding age and desire. Film adaptations like that of Adrian Lynne or the more recent film *Miller’s Girl* have a major influence, but so does Lana Del Rey’s music. All three have gained widespread attention on social media platforms like Tik Tok, known for their rapid spread of trends.

In recent years, however, there has been a growing counter-reaction to this romanticising idea, as can be seen in works such as *Solipsized or Sodomized* by Peter Rabinowitz. It all contributes to a better understanding of the ways in which literature and media influence society’s attitudes towards age-gap relationships.