



# Nabokov, Rushdie, and the Transnational Imagination

## Novels of Exile and Alternate Worlds

### Rachel Trousdale

*Nabokov, Rushdie, and the Transnational Imagination* argues that exiled and migrant novelists create alternate worlds which teach their readers to construct new, nation-like communities. Taking Vladimir Nabokov and Salman Rushdie as model practitioners, this book shows how such writers are remaking national literary traditions. These playful, puzzle-filled texts transcend classification as postcolonial or postmodern; instead, they help identify and create a lineage of boundary-crossing, and test how far the real world can be changed by fiction.

"What a refreshing book! Trousdale is an imaginative scholar who is able to translate her learning and insight into crisp, lively prose . . . In a lucidly prosecuted dialog with major figures in the field, Trousdale explores the strengths and weaknesses of postmodernist and postcolonial theory . . . Her book is well researched, well thought, and beautifully written."—Michael Holquist, Professor Emeritus, Comparative and Slavic Literature, Yale University

"[Trousdale] makes a strong case for loosening the two hundred year old grip of nationalism on literary study and shows Nabokov and Rushdie's decisive relevance to this major, ongoing, scholarly conversation."—John Burt Foster, Jr., George Mason University and editor of *Recherche Littéraire/Literary Research*

"Deftly navigating among tempting simplifications of her subtle subject, and swiftly evoking a rich context of contemporary writing, Rachel Trousdale shows us how Nabokov and Rushdie, through their elaborate fictions of migration, alter the very notion of home. She suggests that nothing can be quite the same for any attentive reader of these novelists, whether that reader is one of the modern world's many exiles or someone who has never left his or her village except in the mind. A remarkable achievement."—Michael Wood, Charles Barnwell Straut Professor of English and Professor of Comparative Literature, Princeton University

Rachel Trousdale is Associate Professor of English at Agnes Scott College.

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