**Lydia Dmitrievna Zinovieva-Annibal** (Лидия Дмитриевна Зиновьева-Аннибал) (1866–1907).



A Russian prose writer and dramatist, Zinovieva-Annibal (with her second husband, Viacheslav Ivanov) hosted the influential literary salon known as The Tower. Born in St. Petersburg into an aristocratic family, Zinovieva-Annibal was a rebel and nonconformist throughout her life and in her work. She was known for her intensity and eccentricity. Writing in various genres, she produced Symbolist plays, such as *The Rings* [*Koltsa*. 1904] and *The Singing Ass* [*Pevuchii osel*], the novels *Thirty-three Abominations* [*Tridtsat-tri uroda*, 1907] and *The* *Tragic Menagerie* [*Tragicheskii zverinets*, 1907], and other short stories, many of which were published only posthumously in the collection entitled *No!* [*Net!*, 1918]. Zinovieva-Annibal is perhaps best known for *Thirty-three Abominations*, the first work of Russian literature to deal openly with the theme of lesbianism, which is portrayed in a decadent, tragic light. Like the short story “The Head of the Medusa,” *Thirty-three Abominations* critiques the objectifying male gaze. The semi-autobiographical *Tragic Menagerie,* considered by critics to be her strongest work, is a female *Bildungsroman*, which traces the evolution of the heroine, Vera, from childhood to adulthood, when Vera is able ultimately to reconcile nature and culture on the Italian seashore.

**Major Works**

*Kol’tsa.* 1904. Moscow: Skorpion.

*Tragicheskii zverinets.* 1907. St. Petersburg: Ory.

*Tridtsat’-tri uroda.* 1907. St. Petersbrug: Ory.

*Net!* 1918. St. Petersburg: Alkonost.

**References and Further Reading**

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Costlow, Jane. 1997. “The Gallop, the Wolf and the Caress: Eros and Nature in *The Tragic Menagerie.*” *Russian Review* 56 (April): 192-208.

Costlow, Jane. 1999. “Lidii Zinov’eva-Annibal.” In *Russian Women Writers*. Vol. 1. Ed. Christine Tomei, 443-443-457. New York and London: Garland.

Davidson, Pamela. 1996. “Lidiia Zinov’eva-Annibal’s The Singing Ass: A Women’s View of Men and Eros.” In *Gender and Russian Literature: New Perspectives,* 155-183. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Mikhailova, Mariia. 1994. “Strasti po Lidii. Tvorcheskii portret L. Zinov’eva-Annibal.” *Preobrazhenie: russkii feministskii zhurnal* 2: 144-157.

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