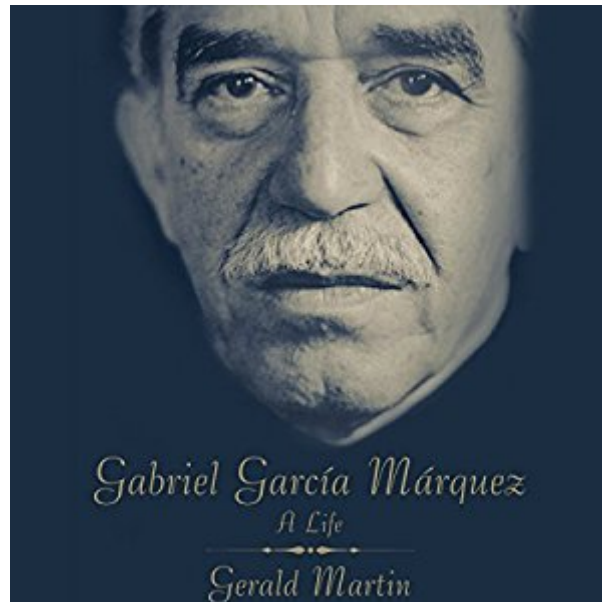


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Gabriel Garcia Marquez: A Life



Synopsis

In his novels and short stories, Gabriel García Márquez has transformed the particulars of his own life and the lives of his fellow Colombians into wondrous fiction. Now, we are given the chance to see the reality behind the "magical realism". While telling the story of the sloppily dressed, skinny young man who rose from obscurity as a provincial journalist to international fame as the progenitor of a new literature, Gerald Martin also considers the tensions in García Márquez's life between celebrity and the personal quest for literary quality, between politics and writing, and between the seductions of power, solitude, and love. He explores the contrast between the writer's Caribbean background and the authoritarianism of Colombia, and in the 1980s, his extraordinary turning away from magical realism toward the greater simplicity that would mark his work, beginning with *Love in the Time of Cholera*. Over the course of 15 years, Gerald Martin interviewed not only "Gabo" himself, but also more than 300 other men and women, including Fidel Castro, Felipe González - the former prime minister of Spain - and several former presidents of Colombia; the writers Carlos Fuentes, Mario Vargas Llosa, and Álvaro Mutis, among others; García Márquez's wife and sons; his mother and siblings; his literary agent and translators; the people he considers his closest friends; as well as those who count themselves among his detractors. The result is a revelation of a life that is as gripping as any of the writer's powerful journalism and as enthralling as any of his fiction.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 22 hours and 54 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios

Audible.com Release Date: November 23, 2011

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B006CC1U7W

Best Sellers Rank: #57 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Latin America #131

in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > Caribbean & Latin

American #309 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Latin America

Customer Reviews

I had bought "One Hundred years of Solitude" several years ago, but did not really get started with it. I am Scandinavian, but living in Latin America, thus have felt that it might be good to read GGM and to that extend Gerald Martin's excellent written biography of GGM has been the catalyst for me getting back to the GGM book. Gerald Martin writes in a way which keeps you interested and obviously has done a lot of research on GGM and so many aspects of Latin American politics, economy and mindset. I highly recommend this biography.

Written with exceptional insight into the complex mind and life of the most gifted storyteller of all time. Martin's work is a remarkable achievement and a generous gift to those of us who could never get enough of Gabo and the worlds he inhabited. Martin's work brings to light Marquez's real life experiences and his relationships with his contemporaries, making this book also a valuable contribution to our understanding of social and cultural history.

I was fascinated by the beginning of the book because Martin seemed to capture the spirit of magic realism in the retelling of Garcia Marquez's childhood, but as he grows up the narrative becomes much more factual. It doesn't delve into the dynamics of his closest relationships, nor does it characterize background figures in his life, making recurring "characters" almost impossible to tell apart. It's perfectly possible that, as Martin has a personal relationship with the still-living Garcia Marquez, that he didn't feel at liberty to speculate about these relationships, but those biographers who do tend to write the most powerful and resonating books. It's still a great story though and it's well written!

A wonderful biography of a fascinating man by an inspired brilliant writer. It is an intimate look into Gabriel Garcia Marquez and his life set in the context of key turning points in Latin American history. Amazingly researched.

I have long been an avid reader of Latin American literature, but this biography sent me running to the Internet to find out more details about people and places mentioned in Gabriel Garcia Marquez' life. Gerald Martin does a superb job of letting the reader penetrate the background and the events that produced what many consider to be the world's masterpieces in Spanish. I read the entire book in two days, and I will read it yet again...well worth your time. Extremely well done. I especially loved the last paragraph!

excellent....amazing man, the friends that he has made. this book explains his assoc with his writings, the family, cultural, political influences in his fabulous life. not just a biography, but a sociological, political, historical study of the 20th, 21st century. i was priviledged to have known him a bit in Cartagena and to know his brother Cuqui.i am soo sorry that more of his books are not available on Amazon

An extremely well researched biography of one of the great writers of our time. Made me want to read "One Hundred Years of Solitude" again, for probably the 7th time. Has great insights into One Hundred Years of Solitude (P.S.) Colombian history and culture. Latin countries consider him a modern Cervantes. A must read for those of us who have been enthralled by each publication by this giant. Many thanks to Gerald Martin for his 17 years of effort.

A very important document about the history of Colombian in the 20th century !!A profile of important issues that shape Colombia as a nation; Gabo's life is in the context of a society in the middle of deep changes.

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