



Of Love and Other Demons (Vintage International)

By Gabriel García Márquez



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On her twelfth birthday, Sierva Maria – the only child of a decaying noble family in an eighteenth-century South American seaport – is bitten by a rabid dog. Believed to be possessed, she is brought to a convent for observation. And into her cell stumbles Father Cayetano Delaura, who has already dreamed about a girl with hair trailing after her like a bridal train. As he tends to her with holy water and sacramental oils, Delaura feels something shocking begin to occur. He has fallen in love – and it is not long until Sierva Maria joins him in his fevered misery. Unsettling and indelible, *Of Love and Other Demons* is an evocative, majestic tale of the most universal experiences known to woman and man.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The incantatory power of Garcia Marquez's prose is as potent as ever in this mesmerizing story inspired by an amazing event he witnessed almost 50 years ago, as a journalist observing the transfer of burial remains from the crypt of an old convent. When one tomb was opened, "a stream of living hair the intense color of copper spilled out." More than 22 meters in length, it was attached to the skull of a young girl whose body had been interred for 200 years. Remembering his grandmother's tales of a 12-year-old marquise who had died of rabies from a dog bite, Garcia Marquez has imagined the girl's life and the circumstances of her death. As usual, the atmosphere is colored by magical realism: dreams and portents, inexplicable, miraculous events. The offspring of a melancholy, ineffectual marquis and a mother yoked to "insatiable vices," Sierva Maria is raised by the family's West Indian slaves, who teach her the Yoruban language and magical practices. She is bitten by a rabid dog but shows no real symptoms; the local bishop, however, decides she is possessed by demons and orders her incarcerated in a convent where she will be exorcised by his gentle librarian, Father Delaura. But Delaura becomes possessed, too?by his love for this suffering child three decades his junior. Garcia Marquez describes the physical tortures inflicted on Sierva Maria as graphically as he does the rapturous?but chaste?love between the innocent, terrified girl and her confessor. A Jewish-Portuguese doctor says that "killing her would have been more Christian than burying her alive." This tragic tale is in essence an outcry against intolerance and bigotry and an indictment of a degraded Church that used its power with narrow-minded cruelty. In the end, the power of love transcends the earthly sphere. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

In this new novel, already available here in Spanish (see review in "En Espa?ol," p. 77), a priest becomes passionately attached to a girl dying of rabies. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

In a South American seaport town, during the colonial era, when the division between the rich and the poor, the church and the state, and the saint and the demon were absolute, and people strutted and fretted about appropriately, 12-year-old Mari{ }a de Todos los Angeles, daughter of the marquis de Casalduero and his wife, the flatulent Bernarda Cabrera, meets with the misfortune of being bitten by an ash gray dog with a white blaze on its forehead. When it is learned that the dog is rabid, Mari{ }a's inevitable destruction begins. Through rumor, superstition, and the ghosts of her family's misbegotten past, it is assumed that Mari{ }a will have rabies. When the problem comes to the attention of the ultimate authority, the bishop, high-born Mari{ }a must be handed over to the Church for exorcism, for rabies in this time of love and demons means inevitable possession. Her only hope is Father Cayetano Delaura, her exorcist, a 36-year-old priest with a streak of white hair at his forehead, who falls in love with her before meeting her. Gabriel (*One Hundred Years of Solitude*) Ma { }rquez's new fantastic novel is farcical, incredible, malicious, and sadistic. Magical unrealism. A timeless artist, an old master, unraveling the mysteries of life, again. *Collette de Sac*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Elvia Wirtz:

As people who live in the particular modest era should be change about what going on or data even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era which can be always change and move forward. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to you is you don't know what one you should start with. This Of Love and Other Demons (Vintage International) is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Lana Spalding:

The feeling that you get from Of Love and Other Demons (Vintage International) could be the more deep you rooting the information that hide within the words the more you get interested in reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to recognise but Of Love and Other Demons (Vintage International) giving you excitement feeling of reading. The article writer conveys their point in particular way that can be understood through anyone who read that because the author of this e-book is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having this particular Of Love and Other Demons (Vintage International) instantly.

Bessie Hall:

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