



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:

Leonel Burton:

This Of Love and Other Demons (Vintage International) book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is actually information inside this e-book incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. This kind of Of Love and Other Demons (Vintage International) without we realize teach the one who reading through it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Of Love and Other Demons (Vintage International) can bring any time you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even cellphone. This Of Love and Other Demons (Vintage International) having great arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

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