



One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel García Márquez
Reviewed by Miranda



Literary Fiction

Give a summary without spoilers!

One Hundred Years of Solitude follows the Buendía family through six generations, spanning one hundred years, in the fictional town of Macondo. Macondo was allegedly inspired by the hometown of Márquez himself, who grew up in Aracataca, Colombia. The founder of Macondo, José Arcadio Buendía, starts a family with Ursula Iguarán, planting his roots in the town and vowing to never leave. The novel utilizes comedy, tragedy, magical realism, lush imagery, and symbolism in following the sprawling history of Macondo and its people through their relations with the Buendía family. Themes include elitism, love, the cyclical nature of time, war, and solitude, a theme recurring throughout each generation and which the novel is named for.

What drew you to this book?

Aside from the cover on my edition of the novel, which caught my eye and refused to let go, I was drawn to *One Hundred Years of Solitude* for its element of magical realism, a genre that I had never thought to explore. I had heard that this novel was one of the all-time greats in magical realism, and I was intrigued by the coexistence of magic and reality, particularly in their relation to politics in history, as told in this story. The novel subverted my expectations of what magical realism should be, as it seemed to treat the impossible as ordinary and the ordinary as miracles, and drew me into the world of the Buendías as a world detached from reality and rooted in alchemy.

Did it remind you of something that you've previously read?

While parts seemed to me reminiscent of *Don Quixote*, not in style of writing but rather in themes of war, chivalry, and exploration, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* was unlike any other media I have ever consumed. My level of familiarity with Hispanic film does not go far beyond a few children's films, or an occasional Cuarón or Almodóvar film, and as such I feel unqualified to speak on films' similarities to the novel. Aside from *Don Quixote*, however, this novel was my first experience with a novel translated from Spanish, and as previously mentioned, with the genre of magical realism as a whole.

To whom would you recommend this book?

I would recommend *One Hundred Years of Solitude* to dreamers, those with an affinity for character study, and those who are relatively unfazed by heavy themes, such as incest, violence, and death. I highly recommend researching content warnings before picking up this book. However, if you are someone looking to get lost in a complex family tree and a fascinating fictional history, this is the story for you.

Overall, did you like it and would you recommend it to others?

I thoroughly enjoyed this novel, and would absolutely recommend it to others, given they understand beforehand what they're getting into with the content of the novel. This novel is incredibly engrossing, and if you're anything like me and love a healthy dose of escapism every now and again, you will certainly find it here. If you are willing to continually flip back to the first page explaining the family tree, as there are a lot of repetitive names appearing in different members of the family, you will find it to be worth your time.

Anything else that you would like to add to this review? What made you choose it? Did you like the cover? Was it recommended to you? Did you find it at the library?

If you end up hating it, it isn't for everyone, and I understand. However, if you love it, Netflix is soon releasing a limited series adapting the novel. Release dates are still to be determined, but it should be premiering sometime in 2024. I will be checking it out for sure. Check out *One Hundred Years of Solitude* from the library as soon as possible!