

SYNOPSIS

Love in the Time of Cholera presumably takes place in an unnamed seaport city, a combination between Baranquilla, Cartagena and Saint Maria. It occurs in some time during the transition period of the nineteenth to twentieth centuries, particularly in 1880-1930. The condition of the place is believed to be devastated by the cholera epidemic.

There happens to be a young teenager named Florentino Ariza who was born from the unmarried parents. He is the only child and instead of being reared by both of his parents Florentino lives only with Transito Ariza, his mother. His father, Don Pius V Loayza, has died when he is only a ten-year-old boy and he learns to know that he has been an illegitimate son of him. From the very early of age, Florentino has left the school and worked as an apprentice in the local postal agency. During his obligation to send some telegrams to several intended addresses, he finds the residence of Lorenzo Daza and therefore encounters his daughter named Fermina Daza. From this first meeting, Florentino believes that he has fallen in love with Fermina. He decides to make some approaches to her and in the end Florentino, in his seventeen, utters the intention to have a further engagement with her through a legal marriage. Fermina, on the other hand, approves Florentino's proposal despite the timidity of her thirteen.

Unfortunately, Lorenzo Daza opposes this sort of attachment. The reason for his reluctance is due to Florentino's recent occupation, which seems to bring no significant wealth and his vagueness in family background. Furthermore,

Lorenzo has another more eligible candidate to be his son-in-law named Dr. Juvenal Urbino.

Dr. Juvenal Urbino is a young doctor who has just come back from Paris in order to accomplish his medical school. Later on, Dr. Juvenal marries Fermina and thus Fermina leaves Florentino in the state of loneliness. Though, Fermina's marriage does not seem to erode Florentino's intention to live with her. Florentino therefore has made many endeavours in order to realize a good achievement in life. From the very average clerk in the local postal agency Florentino begins to settle a better position at his uncle's company, the River Company of the Caribbean. The advancement in career that Florentino has obtained is likely to give no equal impact over his love matters. Furthermore, Florentino has to undergo countless forbidden liaisons with women and their numbers are believed to be more than 622 cases. From these liaisons none of them are truly ended in a legal marriage.

The death of Dr. Juvenal Urbino in the age of eighty-one has somehow evoked Florentino's long dream to live with Fermina. Taking advantage of this occasion, Florentino repeats to her his vow of eternal fidelity and everlasting love. One thing that shall be noted here, Florentino convinces her that he has remained a virgin for her. After all, both of them spend the time as if they were young lovers. Florentino then invites Fermina to have a journey along the Magdalena River with him, at this time Florentino is seventy-six whereas Fermina is seventy-two.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF GARCÍA MÁRQUEZ

The biographical sketch of García Márquez that is about to be revealed in this part is mainly compiled from his official online site supported by some online sites as mentioned in the works cited.

García Márquez was born on 6 March 1928 in Aracataca, Northern Colombia, under the name of Gabriel Jose García Márquez. His father is Gabriel Eligio García and his mother named Luisa Santiaga Márquez. The young García Márquez had to live with his maternal grandparents since his parents cannot afford a decent life for their son. Though, it was believed that from the grandparents, García Márquez learned many valuable things about how to fascinate people with our story. Furthermore, from the grandparents also, especially his grandmother, García Márquez created a new way of thinking about writing an amazing story.

As García Márquez attended the school, his great love of literature as well as his cartoons and stories had helped him acquiring a reputation as a writer. At the age of eighteen, García Márquez enrolled in the Universidad Nacional in Bogota as a law student. As a matter of fact, Garcia Márquez did not have an eager interest over his study. This condition had put García Márquez into another preoccupation, e.g. reading poetry and making a close relationship with any literate socialists. Drawing from his association with some socialists Garcia Márquez started to adopt the thoughts of socialism. Djoko Pitono in *Seabad Para Pemenang Nobel Sastru* regards that García Márquez is known as an outspoken

leftist who politically determines to defend the poor from any oppression and exploitation of the foreign economy (238).

Previously, it has been mentioned that the profound influence upon García Márquez's interest in writing is his grandmother. During the development of his age, this writer invented another inspiration of his writing which came from the work of Franz Kafka entitled *The Metamorphosis*. Through Kafka's work, García Márquez captured its resemblance with his grandmother's style of telling stories. To set off from this stage, García Márquez began to write seriously about fiction. In 1946, the Liberal Bogota newspaper "El Espectador" published his first story under the title of *The Third Resignation*. After the publication, García Márquez was considered as "the new genius of Colombian letters." Some of his subsequent works are to mention *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (1967), *No One Writes to the Colonel and Other Stories* (1968), *Leaf Storm and Other Stories* (1972), *The Autumn of the Patriarch* (1976), *Innocent Erendira and Other Stories* (1978), *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* (1983) and *Love in the Time of Cholera* (1986).

Aside from the above titles, García Márquez seems to be more famous with his phenomenal work entitled *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (1967). This work furthermore has established his existence as the writer who is often identified with the so-called "magic realism". *One Hundred Years of Solitude* or under its original title, *Cien años de soledad*, was translated into over two dozen languages and it won many international prizes. Due to his great contribution in Latin American literature, García Márquez was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1982. The popularity that came at last to García Márquez even

aroused his inspiration in writing. In 1986 his fiction entitled *El amor en los tiempos del cólera* or *Love in the Time of Cholera* was published. The story is believed to be inspired by the courtship of his parents.

In 1999, García Márquez was diagnosed with lymphatic cancer which has caused him to take the treatments from Cartagena or Mexico City to clinics in Los Angeles. Recently, he is working on writing his memoirs. The first volume had been published in 2001 under the title *To Live to Tell It*, whereas the second volume is still in the progress.