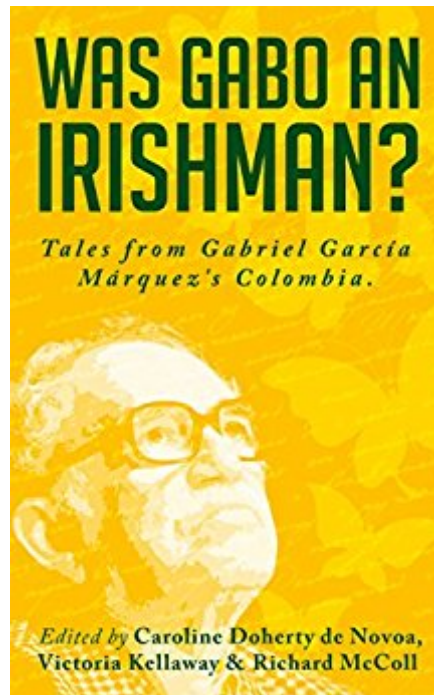




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Was Gabo An Irishman?: Tales From Gabriel García Márquez's Colombia



Synopsis

In Bogotá, a Spanish humanitarian worker attends a funeral without a body, as a storm of yellow butterflies swirls outside. In the jungle, an English anthropologist finds a tiny peace community fighting to preserve their way of life. And, somewhere in the Andes, an Australian coffee farmer confronts a guava-throwing witch in his tree. This collection brings together 26 personal essays by writers from across the world, all of whom have lived in Gabriel García Márquez's homeland. For some, his words are the key to unlocking the enigma of Colombia. For others, living in the land of magic realism brings them a new understanding of his works. With magical rain, young lovers, grumpy old men, ghosts, conflict, politics, heartache, music, madness and more, these non-fiction stories are at once both singularly Colombian and universal in theme.

Book Information

File Size: 666 KB

Print Length: 252 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Papen Press (April 17, 2015)

Publication Date: April 17, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00VPL511O

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #529,245 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #55

in Books > Travel > South America > Colombia #210 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks >

Nonfiction > Travel > Central & South America > South America #344 in Books > Travel > South America > General

Customer Reviews

This is a book for every expat who lives in or has lived in Colombia and those who think they might. I'd include all Colombians in this recommendation as well but I think that while they'd find it

interesting, they've long since understood the message. I initially started this book only for the subject matter and really didn't expect to like it, as I usually don't appreciate essays or short stories, they always seem to leave me wanting. But it has been only 6 months since my exodus from Bogota and this brought back so many memories and added an extra Gabo shine to them that I found myself wanting to go back immediately! I only wish I'd had this to read before living in Colombia. The accounts in this book really show the influence of magic realism in the everyday mundane. Sadly, though I'd read all of Gabo's works I suffer from a North American pragmatism that usually means I see things in the context of us versus them. In my "us" category we don't see magic, we see reasons, absurdity, and superstition. Magic belongs to "them." Alas, after reading this book, I don't want to be a pragmatic North American anymore, I want to be Colombian!

I really liked this book, great short stories written by foreigners who have lived or visited Colombia, and their relationship with Gabo's writings. I enjoyed it very much.

Excellent book.

A fascinating and very readable collection of essays about Colombia and Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Some of the essays here are really top-notch writing, others less so, but all of them contribute in some way, creating a wealth of different perspectives on the country and its celebrated author. Recommended not just for fans of Gabo, but also for those who want a deeper insight into Colombia.

I enjoyed reading this book as I had visited Colombia, and reading the essays brought all the magic of the country back to me. I would highly recommend this book to anyone thinking of visiting Colombia. All the writers brought something different of the country to the reader.

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