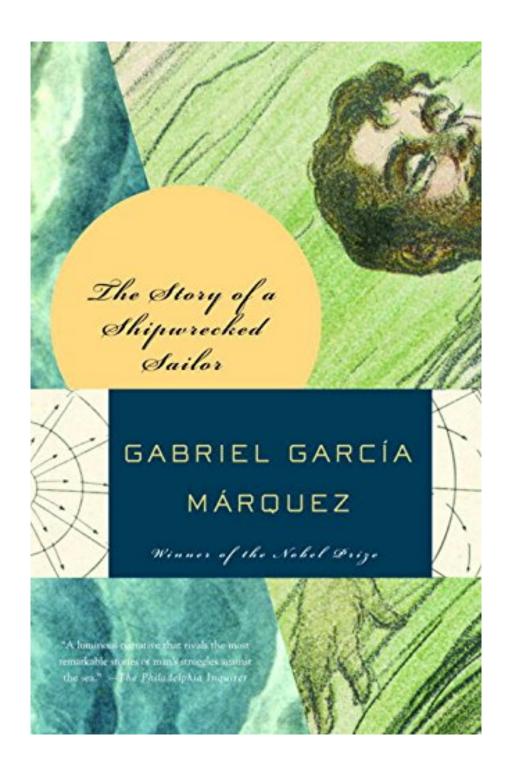


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Review

"A luminous narrative that rivals the most remarkable stories of man's struggles against the sea."--Philadelphia Inquirer

From the Inside Flap

Translated by Randolf Hogan. In 1955, Garcia Marquez was working for "El Espectador, a newspaper in Bogota, when in February of that year eight crew members of the Caldas, a Colombian destroyer, were washed overboard and disappeared. Ten days later one of them turned up, barely alive, on a deserted beach in northern Colombia. This book, which originally appeared as a series of newspaper articles, is Garcia Marquez's account of that sailor's ordeal.

About the Author

Gabriel García Márquez was born in Colombia in 1927. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1982. He is the author of many works of fiction and nonfiction, including One Hundred Years of Solitude, Love In The Time Cholera, The Autumn Of The Patriarch, The General In His Labyrinth, and News Of A Kidnapping. He died in 2014.

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This is probably my least favorite GGM book

By Leo Nöel

This is probably my least favorite GGM book. It lacks the rich and raw descriptors that his works normally

have. I do realize that this book is a somewhat fictionalized retelling of a soldier's real experiences, and as such, naturally reads differently. However this book this not grip me the way GGM's works normally do, I was not held captive by curiosity until the final pages. It was simply something I read.

29 of 30 people found the following review helpful.

A remarkable story of survival

By Michael J. Mazza

"The Story of a Shipwrecked Sailor," by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, has an interesting history (which is described in a short introduction by the author). In 1955, 8 crew members of a Colombian naval vessel were washed overboard. One of them, Luis Alejandro Velasco, survived 10 harrowing days on a drifting life raft before reaching land. The sailor collaborated with Garcia Marquez to produce a series of newspaper articles about the ordeal; those articles eventually became this book, which has been translated into a very readable English by Randolph Hogan.

The book is written as the sailor's own first-person narrative. This is truly an amazing tale of endurance under some horrible conditions. Velasco describes his experiences in graphic detail: the harsh weather elements, the disorienting hallucinations, the times of despair. Particularly interesting are his encounters with a variety of marine animals. But it's not all suffering; there are moments of poetic beauty.

I've never experienced anything as harrowing as this. But as a U.S. Navy veteran, I can say that Garcia Marquez skillfully captures the wonder that can only be encountered at sea, far from land. An excellent book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

A good introduction to Marquez for youth

By CCRider

Marquez's breakthrough book that made his career. Written in a clear, journalistic style, the book is a quick, riveting read about a sailor surviving a shipwreck in the Caribbean Sea. A good introduction to Marquez for youth. As a surfer, I loved the story of life on the open sea.

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