

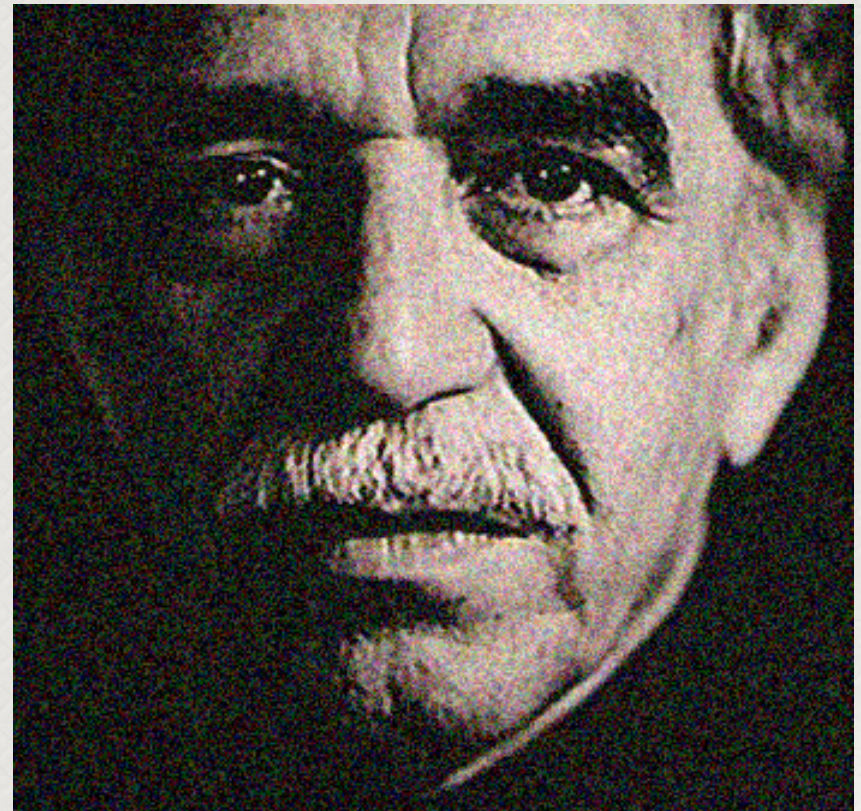
Gabriel Garcia-Marquez  
*Chronicle of a Death Foretold*



# *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

## **Gabriel Garcia Marquez**

- 1st person POV, 27 years later; is he omniscient?
- Memory: Personal & Public
- Magical Realism: does fact + fable + fiction = truth?
- Thematic elements: are they local, or universal? (Yes!)



# *Aracataca, Colombia SA*



Atlantic Ocean

FRENCH  
GUIANA



# *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

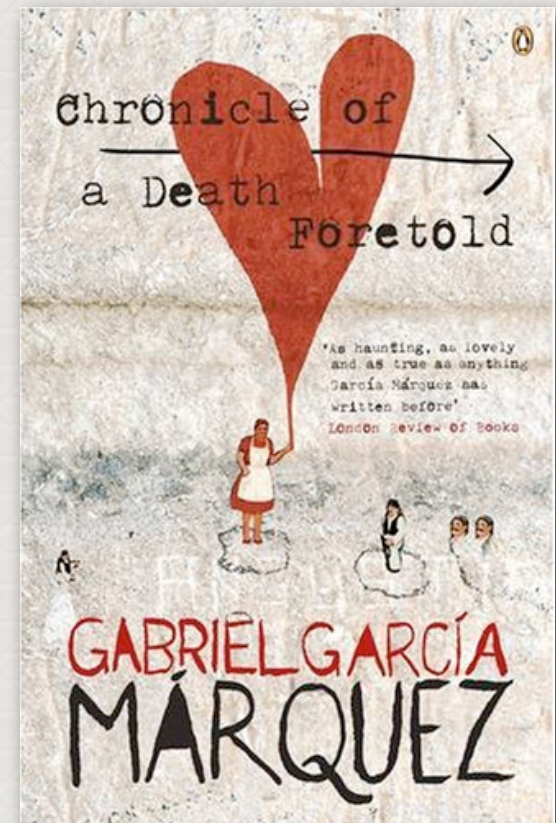
## Intertextuality

- Gabo on reading *The Metamorphosis*:  
"I thought to myself that I didn't know anyone was allowed to write things like that. If I had known, I would have started writing a long time ago."
- Gabo on Kafka's style:  
"That's how my grandmother used to tell stories, the wildest things with a completely natural tone of voice."

# *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

## Literary Peculiarities

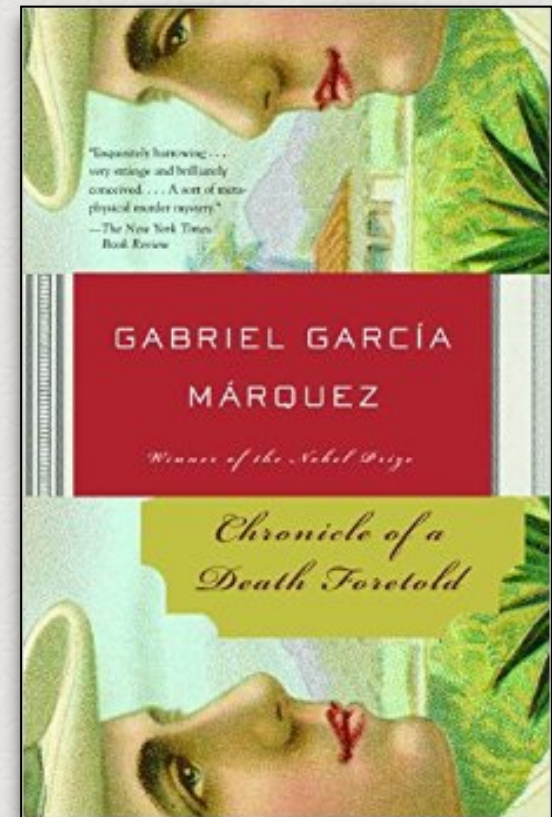
- ❖ Real people: Mercedes (wife); Margot (sister); Luis Enrique (brother); Luisa Santiago (mother); Wenefrida (aunt).
- ❖ Fact or fiction? Cayetano Chimento & Miguel Reyes Palencia; 9 citations from documents; 102 citations from 37 characters (Angela Vicario, 12).
- ❖ Why is the narrator investigating this?
- ❖ “I have managed a perfect integration of journalism and literature. Journalism helps maintain contact with reality, which is essential to literature. And vice-versa: literature teaches you how to write.” (GGM, 1987)



# *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

## Past is Prologue

- ✦ Look up the history of Columbia, specifically at the War of Independence.
- ✦ Who are the *Mestizos*?  
The *Peninsulares*? The *Creoles*?
- ✦ How might the clash of Latin American cultures have a lasting impact on this society?



# *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

## Key Questions for Readers

- ✿ *Where do you see evidence of Magic Realism? What's the purpose of it?*
- ✿ *How is the class structure in this society revealed in the novel?*
- ✿ *What is the role of women in this society?*
- ✿ *What is the impact of law on this society?*
- ✿ *What is the impact of religion in this society?*
- ✿ *What evidence do you see of machismo, or the "Code of Honor"?*
- ✿ *Why is there so much superstition (dreams, fables, folklore, parables, etc.) here?*
- ✿ *How does the author use irony to make his points?*
- ✿ *Do you notice any symbols or motifs? Themes? What central message emerges?*

# *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

- “The pursuit of love is like falconry.”

*Huh?*





# *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

## Opening Shot

- “He’d dreamed he was going through a grove of timber trees where a gentle drizzle was falling, and for an instant he was happy in his dream, but when he awoke he felt completely spattered in bird shit.”
- Would you say Santiago awakened from *troubled dreams*? Hmm...

# *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

Darts of discussion (pp. 3-21)

- ✿ Placida Linero & the art of dream interpretation
- ✿ The apostolic lap of Maria Alejandrina Cervantes
- ✿ Santiago Nasar: his person, purpose, and preparations
- ✿ The broken mirror of memory
- ✿ Divina Flor, just coming into bloom
- ✿ “Let go of her, white man”
- ✿ The rabbit guts
- ✿ The house, the doors, and the square
- ✿ The hand of a dead man
- ✿ The envelope under the door
- ✿ Clotilde Armenta sees a ghost
- ✿ Brothers in arms: Pedro & Pablo Vicario
- ✿ The Bishop on the boat
- ✿ Margot and the many missed chances...is it fate?
- ✿ The cocks crowing...hmm
- ✿ Angela Vicario has lost something...



# *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

Darts of discussion (pp. 22-47)

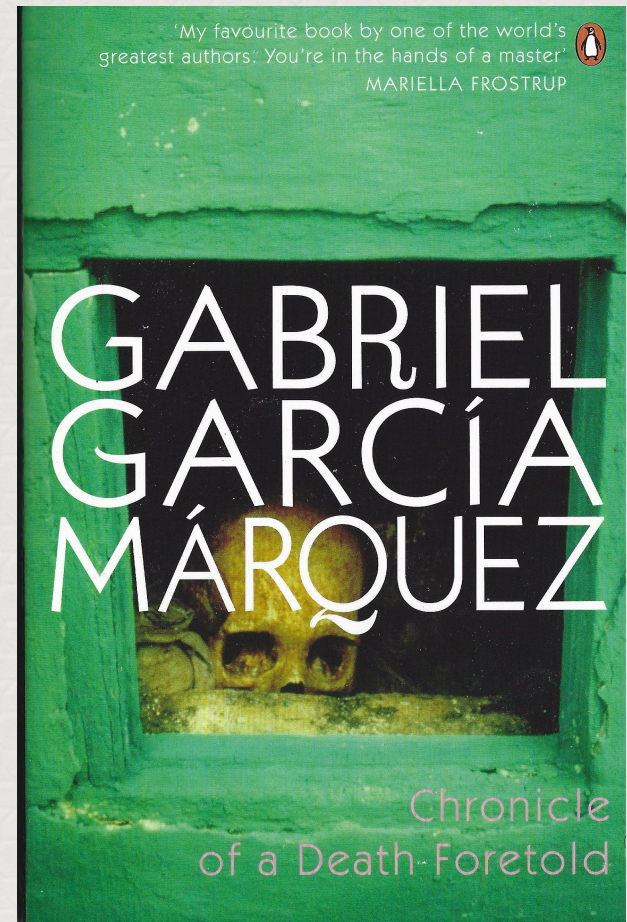
- ✿ Luisa Santiaga's mad dash
- ✿ Bayardo San Roman: man of mystery?
- ✿ Bayardo looks for a bride
- ✿ The raffle
- ✿ Raised to suffer
- ✿ "Your cousin the ninny"
- ✿ The glory of General Petronio
- ✿ That prize of destiny ("love can be learned")
- ✿ The tragic case of the widower Xius
- ✿ The virginity problem
- ✿ The wedding revels
- ✿ Angela's disgrace
- ✿ The interrogation
- ✿ The well-aimed dart



# *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

## Darts of discussion (pp. 48-71)

- ✿ An act of great dignity (“It was a matter of honor”)
- ✿ Public funds to fix the door
- ✿ Someone stop us...please!
- ✿ There had never been a death more foretold
- ✿ Hogs named for flowers
- ✿ Other rich people who deserved dying first
- ✿ Colonel Lazaro Aponte takes the knives
- ✿ People buying milk
- ✿ Vicario family history
- ✿ “It’s as if it had already happened”
- ✿ Is it raining...or not?
- ✿ “He looked like a killer in the movies”
- ✿ “A falcon who chases a warlike crane...”
- ✿ Serenading the newlyweds
- ✿ Clotilde’s message
- ✿ Margo the nun’s eighty-proof hangover



# *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

## Darts of discussion (pp. 72-95)

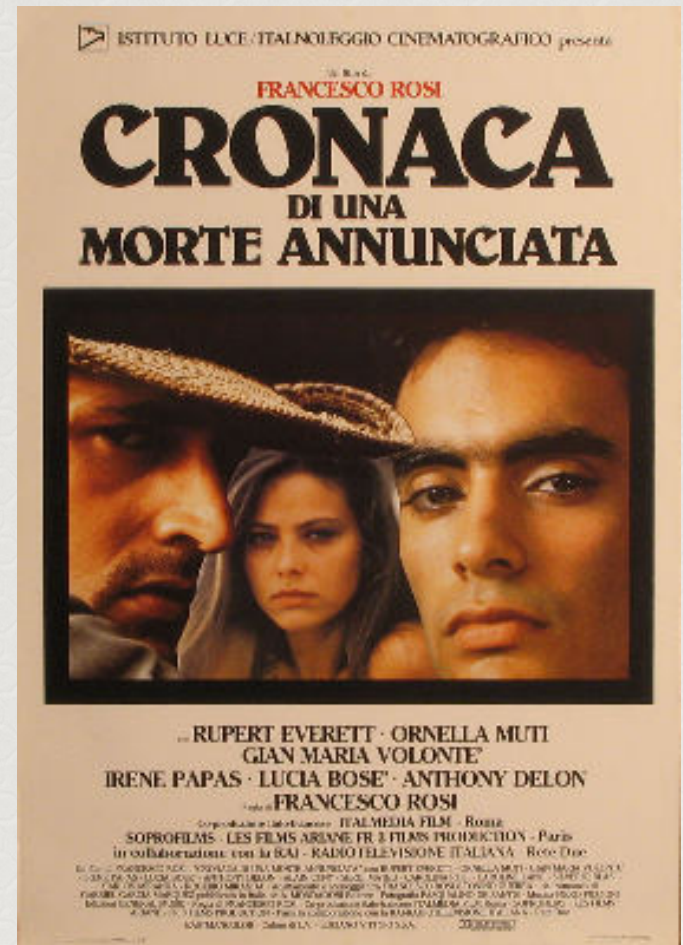
- ✿ The autopsy massacre
- ✿ The dogs and the guts
- ✿ Father Amador's report
- ✿ The hurried burial before dawn
- ✿ The smell
- ✿ The Arabs
- ✿ Pablo's pestilential diarrhea
- ✿ The brothers after Riohacha
- ✿ The only victim?
- ✿ Bayardo leaves town
- ✿ The seance
- ✿ Angela: twenty-three years later
- ✿ "He was the one"
- ✿ What really happened that night
- ✿ Mistress of her fate
- ✿ The letters
- ✿ The return



# *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

Darts of discussion (pp. 96-120)

- ✳ The mission assigned to us by fate
- ✳ Affairs of honor are sacred monopolies
- ✳ The Palace of Justice in Riohacha
- ✳ Give me a prejudice and I will move the world
- ✳ The paper on the floor
- ✳ The choreography of a tragedy
- ✳ Fatality makes us invisible
- ✳ “I hope they kill you!”
- ✳ “I don’t understand a God-damned thing”
- ✳ Divina’s vision
- ✳ A town frightened by its own crime
- ✳ Poncho and Argenida see it differently



# *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

## The many scattered shards of memory



- If law and religion don't influence this society's behavior, what does? Find some clues on these pages: 4, 13, 15, 32, etc.
- What role does irony play in the story? Consider pp. 6, 10, 49, 66, 76, etc.
- What was the weather like on the day of the killing? See pp. 8, 56, 105...
- Do our answers to the above questions have anything in common?

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*Final Thoughts?*