

Introduction

Дорогой читатель, предлагаю вам окунуться в водоворот нежных чувств и романтики и познакомиться с захватывающими историями любви из жизни великих людей. Они приоткроют завесу тайны над отношениями знаменитых пар и позволят узнать, чем была наполнена их жизнь. Герои книги, которая находится перед вами, доказывают: любовь — это неиссякаемый источник вдохновения. Она наполняет жизнь волшебным светом, а мир — яркими красками и помогает создать шедевры. На страницах этого сборника вас ждут невыдуманные истории о настоящей, безусловной любви и встрече родственных душ. Эдит Пиаф и Марсель Сердан, Антуан и Консуэло де Сент-Экзюпери, Эрих Мария Ремарк и Марлен Дитрих — у каждого из них была своя история, ведь любовь такая разная: нежная, страстная, всепоглощающая, чуткая, сладкая, пленительная. Ее можно одновременно сравнить с вулканом страстей или с тихой гаванью. Со стороны жизнь знаменитостей кажется волшебной сказкой, но так ли это? Даже величайшие личности в истории не были застрахованы от личных трагедий и романтических мук. «Лучше любить и потерять, чем не любить вовсе», — так говорил Альфред Теннисон.

Эта книга поможет не только узнать много нового о легендарных личностях, но и повысит ваш уровень владения английским языком. Все истории сопровождаются актуальной лексикой и упражнениями, направленными на понимание смысла прочитанного, расширение словарного запаса и развитие коммуникативных навыков. Главной изюминкой книги являются творческие задания, которые помогут развить речевую компетенцию, воображение и фантазию. Суть упражнений — прочитать романтические истории из жизни реальных пар, а затем с помощью подсказок предположить дальнейшее развитие событий и придумать окончание со счастливым концом. Немного попрактиковавшись, вы в мгновение ока научитесь генерировать идеи и мыслить креативно. В конце книги есть переводы (не дословные,

но полно передающие смысл) текстов и ключи к упражнениям, которые помогут проверить себя без помощи преподавателя. Вашему вниманию также предлагается подборка самых глубоких, мудрых и вдохновляющих цитат великих людей о любви. С этой книгой не придется монотонно заучивать материал. Напротив, можно совместить приятное с полезным: окунуться в мир романтических грез, а затем, вдохновившись историями любви, с удовольствием приступить к отработке основных навыков владения английским языком.

Книга рассчитана на самый широкий круг читателей, которых вдохновляет идея обучения английскому языку с помощью развлечения и игры. Она также придется по душе всем любителям мотивирующих историй в жанре биографии и даже тем, кто находится только в начале пути изучения английского.



GABRIEL GARCIA MÁRQUEZ AND MERCEDES BARCHA: LOVE OF A LIFETIME

Many of you have probably read the romantic fairy tale *Scarlet Sails* by Alexander Grin about a dreamy, kind-hearted girl named Assol, who believed in miracles and waited for her prince. This is a heart-touching story with happy ending about pure, sublime love and an unshakable belief. “Dreams come true, even the impossible ones” is the motto of the book. No wonder they say, “The one who knows how to wait always gets the best.” When I first

researched the life of Mercedes Barcha, the wife of the iconic writer Gabriel Garcia Márquez, the image of Assol involuntarily popped into my head. And do you know why? The beloved woman and muse of the literary genius patiently waited for her fiancé for 13 long years! She was the personification of wisdom, dedication, patience, faith, and love. Their entire life can be summed up in a few words: “For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love, cherish, and obey, till death do us part.”

Gabriel Garcia Márquez was a Nobel Prize winner and one of the best-known Latin American writers in history who became a classic during his lifetime. His legendary novel *One Hundred Years of Solitude* is rightfully considered a real phenomenon and an unsurpassed masterpiece of world literature. The iconic writer was born on March 6, 1927, in the Colombian river town of Aracataca. Gabo, as he was affectionately known by his family and friends, was the oldest of 12 children born to his parents. The would-be writer spent his early childhood living with his maternal grandparents, who put their heart and soul into raising him and actually replaced his parents. Both were excellent storytellers. The most important person in Gabo’s life was his grandfather, a retired colonel and well-respected veteran of the Thousand Days’ War. He used to tell the young boy about his experiences during the war. Later, Márquez described his grandfather as “his umbilical cord with history and reality.” His grandmother was a superstitious woman with a rich imagination who believed in the supernatural and used to tell her grandson folk tales and ghost stories. It’s not hard to figure out that his grandparents were the main source of his literary inspiration. When Gabo was 7 years old, his beloved grandfather died, and he had to move back in with his parents, who lived in Sucre. Shortly after, he went to college, where he started writing humorous verses. Gabo was an honour student, and in 1940, he earned a scholarship to study at a prestigious Jesuit secondary school. As time passed by, he decided to pursue higher education. At his family’s insistence, Márquez first studied law but soon dropped out of the university to focus on his journalistic career.

Mercedes Barcha was born on November 6, 1932, in Magangué, Colombia, in a well-to-do family. She was the oldest of seven children to her parents. Her father, an Egyptian immigrant, owned a pharmacy, and her mother was a homemaker. Mercedes was a mixed-race girl of an extraordinarily charming beauty: her big brown eyes, high cheekbones, and lustrous brown shoulder-length hair were legendary. Her exotic beauty could be compared to Nefertiti’s undeniable beauty.

Gabo and Mercedes met in Sucre, the town where their families lived for several years and where they spent their vacations. Notably, their fathers were childhood friends. Love story of Márquez began when they met on the dance floor. The girl was only 13, and the writer was 18. According to other sources, they met for the first time four years earlier. As a pioneer of magical realism, Márquez always maintained an air of mystery and intrigue. I suppose that's why his personal life was overgrown with legends and speculation, and it was difficult to distinguish reality from fiction. After all, the writer could tell the same story that happened to him differently, and his listener could get lost in the maze of his fantasies.

Now back to the first meeting of the iconic writer and his wife-to-be. When young Gabo saw his Mrs. Right, he was struck by her unearthly beauty and decided to act immediately. "I just found out that all the verses I've written were dedicated to you. Be my wife!" he said. "I agree. But if you allow me, I will finish school first," she replied. That's how their lifetime romance began. Gabo and Mercedes were destined to be together. They found happiness and became two halves of a whole. They were absolutely different but complemented each other perfectly. Mercedes was reasonable, wise, calm, and practical, and Gabriel was temperamental, purposeful, dreamy, and eccentric. Their love was tested by time and distance. After all, it took 13 long years for them to finally get married. No wonder they say, "Absence is to love what wind is to fire; it extinguishes the small, it inflames the great." Their bonding was stronger than steel. Whenever they were separated, the lovebirds constantly exchanged letters exploring each other's inner world. Curiously, when the couple reunited, the writer asked Mercedes to destroy all those love letters, so they wouldn't fall into the wrong hands. All this time, the girl remained faithful to him and waited patiently and quietly, without a shadow of a doubt and strain. She ignored rumors surrounding her would-be husband and rejected her suitors' advances. Many believed Mercedes was unworldly, and she was sometimes ridiculed behind her back. People gossiped that the young girl was wasting the best years of her life waiting for someone who would never marry her. However, Mercedes didn't care what other people said. Somewhere deep inside, she knew that she was destined to spend a lifetime together with Gabo and that their love was mutual. In my view, that's how a strong, confident, and wise woman is supposed to behave. In 1958, the couple finally got married. It's true what they say:

If you love something, let it go. If it comes back to you, it's yours. If it doesn't, it never was.

Márquez and Barcha were poor, but they loved each other and lived in harmony. As the famous saying goes, “With one’s beloved, even a hut is heaven.” Mercedes, accustomed to wealth and comfort, had no idea how to run the household. But there is nothing a woman cannot do. Overtime, she learned how to cook and manage the family budget. In my view, they are examples of selfless, unconditional love. In fact, happy married couples who carry their love throughout their entire lives often start from scratch and achieve success together. Gabo and Mercedes never fought about money. On the contrary, the great woman never stopped believing her husband was a genius. Incidentally, it was she who convinced Gabo that writing was his true calling. No wonder they say that behind every successful man there is a great woman. Later, Márquez would confirm that belief:

Without Mercedes I would not have gotten to write the book. She took charge of the situation.

What did the brilliant writer mean by saying that?

One day, Márquez, his wife, and their two sons went on vacation to Acapulco. While he was driving, he had a sudden flash of insight and came up with a plot for his most famous novel. Without any hesitation, they came back home so that Gabo could entirely devote himself to writing. Initially, he planned to complete his book *One Hundred Years of Solitude* within six months, but it took him a bit longer. The manuscript was ready in only 18 months. Márquez quit his job and isolated himself in his room. He asked not to interrupt him under no circumstances. Mercedes took care of the children and ran the household. The strong woman borrowed money from their friends, pawned home appliances and jewelry, and even persuaded the landlord to forego their rent for seven months. In all that time, they accumulated a large amount of debt and had almost nothing to eat, but they didn’t lose faith in a bright future. When they went to the post office to send the manuscript to be published, they found out that they didn’t have enough money for postage. Then Mercedes decided to sell her hair dryer and a mixer to pay all the postage fees. The novel, which became an overnight sensation, brought Márquez worldwide fame and earned him the Nobel Prize in literature. Ever since, they had everything they could only dream of: wealth, fame, recognition, and, of course, love.

Márquez and Mercedes have been married for more than 55 years, but they never had a serious argument. Gabo simply worshipped his muse. This is how he described his relationship with his wife:

I think the secret is that we have continued to understand things as we understood them before we were married. In other words, marriage, like the whole of life, is something terribly difficult that we have to start over from the beginning every day, and every day of our lives.

Indeed, one can only dream of love like this.

At the age of 85, Márquez was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, which manifested itself after a long battle against lymphatic cancer. The disease progressed, and the great writer didn't recognize anyone around him except his beloved wife and muse. She was there with him till his last breath — till death did them part as they vowed. Gabriel Garcia Márquez died on April 17, 2014. However, I'm sure, the great ones never die. They live in our hearts forever. Mercedes survived him by six years, and the two loving souls were reunited in heaven.

Among Márquez's most famous works are *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, *Love in the Time of Cholera*, *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*, *The General in His Labyrinth*, and others.

VOCABULARY

fairy tale ['feəri teɪl] — сказка

kind-hearted [,kaɪnd 'hɑ:rtɪd] — добрый, добросердечный, добродушный

sublime love [sə'blaɪm lʌv] — возвышенная любовь

involuntary [ɪn'vɒləntəri] — невольно, непроизвольно

muse [mju:z] — муза

literary genius ['lɪtərəri 'dʒi:niəs] — литературный гений

fiancé [fi:'ɑ:nseɪ] — жених, суженый

maternal grandparents [mə'tɜ:nl 'græn,peərənts] — бабушка и дедушка со стороны матери

put heart and soul (into) — [put hɑ:rt ənd səʊl 'ɪntə] — вкладывать душу (во что-то)

colonel ['kɜ:nl] — полковник

superstitious [,su:pə'ʃtɪʃəs] — суеверный

the supernatural [ðə,su:pə'nætʃʳnl] — сверхъестественное

move back in with (somebody) [mu:v bæk ɪn wɪð] — переехать обратно к кому-то

mixed-race girl [ˌmɪkst 'reɪs ɡɜːrl] — девушка-метиска

unearthly beauty [ʌn 'zɜːrθli 'bjuːti] — неземная красота

be overwhelmed [bi ˌəʊvə'welmd] — быть ошеломленным, потрясенным

be destined [bi 'destɪnd] — быть предназначенным судьбой

reasonable ['riːzənəbəl] — разумный, рассудительный

reunite [ˌriːjuː'naɪt] — воссоединяться

remain faithful [rɪ'meɪn'feɪθfʊl] — хранить верность

reject (someone's) advances [rɪ'dʒekt əd'vænsɪz] — отвергать чьи-то ухаживания

suitor ['suːtər] — поклонник, ухажер, жених

mutual love ['mjuːtʃʊəl lʌv] — взаимная любовь

betrothed [bi'trəʊðd] — суженая, нареченная

with (one's) beloved, even a hut is heaven [wɪð bi'lʌvɪd 'iːvən ə hʌt ɪz 'heɪvən] — с милым и рай в шалаше

be accustomed [bi ə'kʌstəmd] — привыкнуть

run the household [rʌn ðə'haʊshoʊld] — вести домашнее хозяйство

selfless love ['selfləs lʌv] — бескорыстная любовь

unconditional love [ˌʌnkən'dɪʃnəl lʌv] — безусловная любовь

start from scratch [stɑːt frəm skrætʃ] — начинать с нуля, с чистого листа

convince [kən'vɪns] — убедить, уговорить

true calling [truː'kɔːlɪŋ] — истинное призвание

creative insight [kri'eɪtɪv 'ɪnsaɪt] — творческое озарение

come up with [kʌm ʌp wɪð] — придумать, сочинить

pawn [pɔːn] — закладывать в ломбард

persuade [pə'sweɪd] — переубедить, уговорить

take charge (of) [teɪk ʃɑːdʒ əv] — взять на себя ответственность

lose faith [luːz feɪθ] — потерять веру

manuscript ['mænjəskrɪpt] — рукопись

postage fees ['pəʊstɪdʒ fiːz] — почтовые расходы

become an overnight sensation [bi'kʌm ən ˌəʊvər'naɪt sen'seɪʃn] — мгновенно стать сенсацией; неожиданно обрести знаменитость

recognition [ˌrekəg'nɪʃn] — признание

fame [feɪm] — слава, известность

EXERCISES

Exercise 1. Answer the following questions:

- 1) When and where was Gabriel Garcia Márquez born?
- 2) What was his nickname?
- 3) Where did Gabo spend his early childhood?
- 4) Who was the most important person in Gabo's life?
- 5) What was Gabo's relationship with his grandparents?
- 6) Why did Gabo move back in with his parents?
- 7) When and where was Mercedes Barcha born?
- 8) How would you characterize Mercedes Barcha?
- 9) What did Mercedes look like?
- 10) Where did the couple meet?
- 11) How old were they when they first met?
- 12) What was Gabo like? And what was Mercedes like?
- 13) How long had Gabo and Mercedes known each other before they finally got married?
- 14) When did Gabo and Mercedes finally get married?
- 15) How would you comment on the following statement: "Absence is to love what wind is to fire; it extinguishes the small, it inflames the great"?
- 16) Why did Gabo ask his wife to destroy all their love letters?
- 17) How long did it take Márquez to write his most famous novel *One Hundred Years of Solitude*?
- 18) How long were they married?
- 19) When did Márquez die?
- 20) What were Gabriel Garcia Márquez's most famous works?

Exercise 2. Find the equivalents of the following words and phrases in the text:

роман, в одночасье ставший сенсацией; отвергать ухаживания поклонников; в глубине души; вести домашнее хозяйство; первоначально; стать двумя половинками одного целого; он был поражен ее неземной красотой; сохранить ауру загадочности и интриги; по настоянию его семьи; вложить всю душу в его воспитание; недаром говорят; верить в сверхъестественное; переехать к родителям; бросить учебу в университете; отличить реальность от вымысла

Exercise 3. Give the Russian equivalents of the following words and phrases:

a heart-touching story; to act immediately; to get lost in the maze of fantasies; without a shadow of a doubt; to spend a lifetime together; with one's beloved, even a hut is heaven; under no circumstances; to borrow money from friends; to pawn home appliances; to pay all the postage fees; they complemented each other; a girl of an extraordinarily charming beauty; a retired colonel; an unsurpassed masterpiece; pure, sublime love

Exercise 4. Match each word with its antonym:

1) kind-hearted	a) later
2) earlier	b) to forbid
3) different	c) heartless
4) to allow	d) similar
5) to reunite	e) to despise
6) to worship	f) obscurity
7) fame	g) to go separate ways
8) involuntary	h) questionable
9) undeniable	i) to extinguish
10) to inflame	j) deliberate

LOVE STORY No. 1

Romantic stories with happy endings cure our hearts and souls. They make us believe in miracles and give us hope for a bright future. Have you ever tried creating your own perfect story? Let's check if you have a talent for writing. Read the passage carefully and then write your own happy ending:

Jessica and James were meant to be together. They fell in love with each other at the first sight. The couple quickly got close for they had much in common and looked at the world in the same way. They started dating and were really happy. They enjoyed going to the gym and spending time together. James

nicely cared for Jessica. He arranged weekends by the river, made amazing surprises, gave beautiful flowers, and set up romantic dinners. Jessica cooked delicious meals and helped him prepare for his final exams. They dreamed of a wedding in Greece and a big family. But things were not so simple.

James was an orphan. He was raised by his grandparents who taught him to love and respect people regardless of their social status. His family was not rich, and he was dreaming of a successful career. He wanted to make a better life for his grandparents and worked tirelessly after school. James was a very purposeful and responsible young man who knew what he wanted.

Jessica was born into a wealthy family. Her father built a successful career in real estate, and her mother was a highly reputed criminal lawyer. Both were money-oriented, ambitious, and pragmatic. They strongly opposed the marriage between their daughter and a young man who came from a poor background. They finally got their way and separated the two lovers. Jessica was forced to marry a man she didn't love to clear her family's debts. Her father allegedly owed a large sum of money to his business partners, and her potential husband was the only one who could help him out. He was rich and influential. As you might have guessed, this was all part of her parents' cunning plan. Jessica was devastated but obeyed the will of her family.

Time passed, and Jessica was resigned to her fate, trying to forget the past. Her lovely daughter was her only joy in life. The girl was obedient, loving, and caring. But overall, Jessica was unhappy. She wanted to change her life but didn't know how. She had nowhere to go, and it was almost impossible to get a job while caring for a small child. But one day after so many years of despair, fortune smiled upon her. While walking in the park with her little daughter, she accidentally met James...

Use these prompts as a springboard. They'll help you think deeper and take your writing to a whole new level:

- How did James' life turn out? Did he achieve success in life and build a career?
- Is James married or single?
- Will Jessica and James find a way to be together?
- Will their feelings become even stronger after a long time apart?



MARIE AND PIERRE CURIE: ROMANCE WITH SCIENCE

Love is the most beautiful feeling in the world. It gives us wings to fly and inspires us to greatness. Everyone wants to find their soulmate and create a strong family, but that's not always easy. After all, not everyone is lucky enough to experience true and mutual feelings. Personally, I think that marriages are made in heaven, and love is a great blessing. And even if you don't believe my words, this touching story won't leave you indifferent and melt your heart. You have probably heard about Marie and Pierre Curie, the brilliant scientists whose discovery changed the world forever. Their marriage was the union of two kindred spirits, passionate about science. This is an inspiring story about

enduring love and faithfulness, true dedication, and commitment. Let's take a closer look at the lives of these genius scientists.

Marie Curie was a strong person of a complicated fate who proved that willpower, hard work, and persistence always help overcome obstacles and achieve success. "The mother of Modern Physics" was the first woman to win the Nobel Prize and the only woman in history who received this award twice in two different fields. Her remarkable discoveries save millions of lives throughout the world to this day. Maria Skłodowska (later known as Marie Curie) was born on November 7, 1867, into a big poor family in Warsaw. Her parents, Władysław and Bronisława, worked as educators. From an early age, the girl had to go through lots of hardships. As a little girl, she lost her mother and elder sister. Marie grew up in really tough circumstances. The family had barely enough money to pay for their basic needs. This experience probably shaped her worldview, which resulted in her lack of interest in wealth, fame, and comforts of life. She learned to be content with little and was a person of science: self-sacrificing, purposeful, and enthusiastic about her ideas. Early in life, the girl discovered one simple truth: it is always better to rely on yourself. So, one day she worked out a deal with her sister: Marie would work and pay for Bronya's medical school, and once her education was complete, they would reverse their roles. For five years, Marie worked as a tutor and governess but still managed to find time for science. Her first love broke her heart. Marie fell in love with the son of her employers. The young man returned her feelings, but his parents strongly opposed their marriage because she came from a poor family and was not a match for their son. So, after being persuaded by his parents, he decided to break up with his sweetheart. It was at that point that she decided to never get involved in a relationship again but dedicate herself entirely to science. In 1891, it was time for her to pursue higher education at the Sorbonne in Paris. Marie had an insatiable thirst for knowledge and dived into studies. Because of lack of money to buy proper food, the girl even used to faint from hunger.

Pierre Curie was one of the founding fathers of modern physics and a co-winner of the Nobel Prize in physics, which he shared with Marie Curie and Henri Becquerel. The scientist was born on May 15, 1859, into an intellectual family in Paris. His father was a talented doctor, and his mother was a homemaker who knew how to create a special atmosphere

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