

a very old man with enormous wings summary and analysis

A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings: Summary, Analysis, and Enduring Relevance

Introduction: Gabriel García Márquez's "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings" isn't just a whimsical tale; it's a potent parable exploring themes of faith, miracles, human nature, and the nature of belief itself. This comprehensive guide provides a detailed summary, a thorough analysis of its key elements, and a discussion of its enduring relevance in the modern world. We'll delve into the symbolism, character motivations, and the powerful questions Márquez leaves unanswered, ensuring you gain a profound understanding of this literary masterpiece. Prepare to unravel the complexities of this seemingly simple story and discover its lasting impact.

I. Summary of "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings"

The story centers on the unexpected arrival of a very old man with enormous wings, found entangled in the mud near Pelayo and Elisenda's humble home. Initially, they believe him to be an angel, a notion fueled by the townsfolk's fervent curiosity and their desire for a miracle. However, their initial awe quickly transforms into a pragmatic, almost exploitative, approach. The old man, unable to communicate effectively, becomes a spectacle, generating income for the couple. Meanwhile, a traveling salesman, showcasing a seemingly more authentic "angel" (a spider-woman), further diminishes the old man's significance. The old man, frail and neglected, eventually recovers and attempts to fly away, only to be met with indifference. The story concludes with his departure, leaving the reader to ponder the true nature of miracles and the motivations behind human responses to the extraordinary.

II. Character Analysis: Exploring the Key Players

A. Pelayo and Elisenda: The couple represents the mundane reality that contrasts sharply with the miraculous. Their initial wonder quickly morphs into a cynical pursuit of profit, revealing the inherent selfishness and commercialization of faith. Their actions highlight how easily wonder can be replaced by pragmatism and self-interest.

B. The Old Man: The ambiguous nature of the old man's identity lies at the heart of the story. Is he truly an angel? Or is he merely a frail, misunderstood creature? His inability to communicate and his acceptance of his predicament underscore his vulnerability and the indifference he faces. He embodies the forgotten and neglected, highlighting the limitations of human compassion.

C. The Spider-Woman: This character represents a more palatable form of the miraculous, carefully constructed and commercially viable. Her presence directly undermines the old man's perceived angelic nature, emphasizing the human tendency to prefer curated experiences over the messy realities of life.

III. Symbolism and Allegory in Márquez's Masterpiece

A. The Wings: The enormous wings are the most prominent symbol, representing both the potential for the miraculous and the burden of the extraordinary. They also represent the old man's vulnerability and his inability to fully integrate into human society.

B. The Chicken-Pox: The seemingly insignificant ailment affecting the child, cured by the old man's presence, acts as a microcosm of faith and belief. It underscores how readily people find meaning and miracles in coincidences.

C. The Spider-Woman: She represents the commodified and controlled version of the miraculous, emphasizing the human desire for easily digestible displays of the divine.

IV. Themes Explored in "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings"

A. Faith and Belief: The story questions the nature of faith and the motivations behind belief. Is faith genuine, or is it often driven by self-interest and the desire for personal gain? The differing responses of the townspeople to the old man and the spider-woman highlight this ambiguity.

B. The Nature of Miracles: Márquez subtly challenges the very definition of a miracle. Is a miracle something grand and spectacular, or can it be found in the everyday? The story suggests that the definition is subjective and often influenced by individual expectations and desires.

C. Human Nature and Compassion: The story offers a critical examination of human nature. The initial awe and curiosity quickly give way to exploitation and indifference, showcasing the dark side of human behavior. It questions the extent of human compassion and our capacity for empathy towards the vulnerable and the unusual.

V. The Enduring Relevance of Márquez's Story

"A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings" transcends its time. The themes of faith, miracles, and the exploitation of the vulnerable remain profoundly relevant in today's world. The story continues to resonate because it reflects enduring human tendencies: our fascination with the extraordinary, our tendency toward self-interest, and our capacity for both compassion and cruelty. Its enduring relevance is its ability to provoke critical reflection on these deeply human characteristics.

VI. Outline of "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings" Analysis

Introduction: Briefly introduce García Márquez and the story's enduring appeal.

Chapter 1: Summary of the Plot: Recap the key events of the narrative.

Chapter 2: Character Analysis: In-depth examination of Pelayo, Elisenda, the old man, and the spider-woman.

Chapter 3: Symbolism and Allegory: Detailed exploration of the story's key symbols and their meaning.

Chapter 4: Themes and Their Significance: Discussion of the central themes: faith, miracles, human nature, and compassion.

Chapter 5: The Story's Enduring Relevance: Analysis of the story's continued impact on readers today.
Conclusion: Summarize the key takeaways and reiterate the story's profound message.

VII. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the main symbol in "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings"? The most prominent symbol is the old man's enormous wings, representing both the miraculous and the burden of the extraordinary.
1. What are the main themes of the story? Key themes include faith, the nature of miracles, human nature (compassion and exploitation), and the subjective nature of belief.
1. Who are the main characters? Pelayo and Elisenda (the couple who find the old man), the old man himself, and the spider-woman are the central characters.
1. What is the setting of the story? The story is set in a small, unnamed coastal village.
1. What is the significance of the spider-woman? The spider-woman represents a more commercially viable and easily digestible version of the miraculous, highlighting human preferences for controlled experiences.
1. Is the old man truly an angel? The story deliberately leaves this ambiguous, forcing the reader to question the nature of miracles and definitions of the divine.
1. What is the story's overall message? The story critiques human nature, questioning our capacity for compassion and our tendency to exploit the vulnerable in pursuit of self-interest.
1. What literary genre does this story belong to? It's considered magical realism, blending fantastical elements with realistic settings and characters.

1. Why is this story still relevant today? The story's exploration of faith, miracles, and human nature remains deeply resonant because these themes are timeless and continue to shape human experience.

VIII. Related Articles

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3. The Role of Symbolism in Márquez's Fiction: A deeper dive into the symbolic language employed in his works.
4. Analyzing the Narrator in "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings": An examination of the narrative voice and its impact.
5. Comparing and Contrasting "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings" with other Márquez stories: A comparative analysis with similar themes and styles.
6. The Impact of Faith on Society in Márquez's Work: A study of how faith shapes the characters and their actions.
7. Human Exploitation in Latin American Literature: An exploration of the theme's prevalence in the region's literary output.
8. The Power of the Unexpected in Narrative: How unexpected events shape the narrative arc and impact the reader.
9. Interpreting the Ending of "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings": Different interpretations of the story's ambiguous conclusion.

a very old man with enormous wings summary and analysis: A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings Gabriel García Márquez, 2014 Strange, wondrous things happen in these two short stories, which are both the perfect introduction to Gabriel García Márquez, and a wonderful read for anyone who loves the magic and marvels of his novels. After days of rain, a couple find an old man with huge wings in their courtyard in 'A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings' - but is he an angel? Accompanying 'A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings' is the short story 'The Sea of Lost Time', in which a seaside town is brought back to life by a curious smell of roses.

a very old man with enormous wings summary and analysis: Story of a Shipwrecked Sailor Gabriel García Márquez, 2014-10-15 AVAILABLE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN eBOOK! In 1955, Garcia Marquez was working for El Espectador, a newspaper in Bogota, when in February of that year eight

up one day to discover that he has metamorphosed into a bug. The book concerns itself with the themes of alienation and existentialism. The author has written many important stories, including "The Judgement", and much of his novels "Amerika", "The Castle", "The Hunger Artist". Many of his stories were published during his lifetime but many were not. Over the course of the 1920s and 30s Kafka's works were published and translated instantly becoming landmarks of twentieth-century literature. Ironically, the story ends on an optimistic note, as the family puts itself back together. The style of the book epitomizes Kafka's writing. Kafka very interestingly, used to present an impossible situation, such as a man's transformation into an insect, and develop the story from there with perfect realism and intense attention to detail. The Metamorphosis is an autobiographical piece of writing, and we find that parts of the story reflect Kafka's own life.

a very old man with enormous wings summary and analysis: Wide Sargasso Sea Jean Rhys, 1992 A considerable tour de force by any standard. ?New York Times Book Review

a very old man with enormous wings summary and analysis: Assimilated Cuban's Guide to Quantum Santeria Carlos Hernandez, 2016-01-01 A quirky collection of short sci-fi stories for fans of Kij Johnson and Kelly Link Assimilation is founded on surrender and being broken; this collection of short stories features people who have assimilated, but are actively trying to reclaim their lives. There is a concert pianist who defies death by uploading his soul into his piano. There is the person who draws his mother's ghost out of the bullet hole in the wall near where she was executed. Another character has a horn growing out of the center of his forehead—punishment for an affair. But he is too weak to end it, too much in love to be moral. Another story recounts a panda breeder looking for tips. And then there's a border patrol agent trying to figure out how to process undocumented visitors from another galaxy. Poignant by way of funny, and philosophical by way of grotesque, Hernandez's stories are prayers for self-sovereignty.

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a very old man with enormous wings summary and analysis: *Albion's Seed* David Hackett Fischer, 1991-03-14 This fascinating book is the first volume in a projected cultural history of the United States, from the earliest English settlements to our own time. It is a history of American folkways as they have changed through time, and it argues a thesis about the importance for the United States of having been British in its cultural origins. While most people in the United States today have no British ancestors, they have assimilated regional cultures which were created by British colonists, even while preserving ethnic identities at the same time. In this sense, nearly all Americans are *Albion's Seed*, no matter what their ethnicity may be. The concluding section of this remarkable book explores the ways that regional cultures have continued to dominate national politics from 1789 to 1988, and still help to shape attitudes toward education, government, gender, and violence, on which differences between American regions are greater than between European nations.

a very old man with enormous wings summary and analysis: *James and the Giant Peach* Roald Dahl, 2007-08-16 From the World's No. 1 Storyteller, *James and the Giant Peach* is a children's classic that has captured young reader's imaginations for generations. One of TIME MAGAZINE's 100 Best Fantasy Books of All Time After James Henry Trotter's parents are tragically eaten by a rhinoceros, he goes to live with his two horrible aunts, Spiker and Sponge. Life there is no fun, until James accidentally drops some magic crystals by the old peach tree and strange things start to happen. The peach at the top of the tree begins to grow, and before long it's as big as a house. Inside, James meets a bunch of oversized friends—Grasshopper, Centipede, Ladybug, and more. With a snip of the stem, the peach starts rolling away, and the great adventure begins! Roald Dahl is the author of numerous classic children's stories including *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Matilda*, *The BFG*, and many more! "James and the Giant Peach remains a favorite among kids and parents alike nearly 60 years after it was first published, thanks to its vivid imagery, vibrant characters and forthright exploration of mature themes like death and hope." —TIME Magazine Cover may vary.

a very old man with enormous wings summary and analysis: *The Ancestor's Tale* Richard Dawkins, 2004 A renowned biologist provides a sweeping chronicle of more than four billion years of life on Earth, shedding new light on evolutionary theory and history, sexual selection, speciation, extinction, and genetics.

a very old man with enormous wings summary and analysis: *A & P* John Updike, 1986-06-01

a very old man with enormous wings summary and analysis: *Dr. Heidegger's Experiment* *Illustrated* Nathaniel Hawthorne, 2021-04-03 *Dr. Heidegger's Experiment* a short story by American author Nathaniel Hawthorne, about a doctor who claims to have been sent water from the Fountain of Youth. Originally published anonymously in 1837, it was later published in Hawthorne's collection *Twice-Told Tales*, also in 1837.

a very old man with enormous wings summary and analysis: *In Evil Hour* Gabriel García Márquez, 2022-10-11 *In Evil Hour* is the thrilling story about the smears, defamations, infidelities, and torrential rains that afflict a small Colombian town, and the sacrifice of a boy that brings torment and chaos to an end, from the masterful Gabriel García Márquez, author of *One Hundred Years of Solitude* and *Love in the Time of Cholera*. One morning, slanderous posters start appearing all over the town, revealing family secrets and maligning individuals. Ghosts of the past reappear, along with old feuds and infidelities. Torrential rains then flood the town and chaos is everywhere. Neighbors suspect each other, yet no one knows who is responsible. Finally, a boy is made the scapegoat and tragedy ensues. *In Evil Hour* contains vivid characters who reflect the humor and pathos of everyday life. This brooding novel clearly points the way to the flowering of García Márquez's genius in his later *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.

a very old man with enormous wings summary and analysis: *To Each His Own* Leonardo Sciascia, 1992 This is a short, powerful novel dealing with the complicities and accommodations of power within Italian politics.

a very old man with enormous wings summary and analysis: *Das Urteil* Franz Kafka, 2024-10-06 In *Das Urteil* steht der junge Kaufmann Georg Bendemann im Zentrum, der einen Brief an seinen in Russland lebenden Freund schreibt. Der Freund, erfolglos und vereinsamt, bildet einen Kontrast zu Georgs erfolgreichem Leben in der Heimat. Georg ist dabei, sich zu verloben, was er dem Freund mitteilen möchte, jedoch zögert er. Ein Gespräch mit seinem kranken, tyrannischen Vater eskaliert, als dieser Georg vorwirft, seinen Freund und ihn selbst hintergangen zu haben. Der Vater erhebt sich plötzlich, dominiert das Gespräch und spricht ein Urteil aus: Georg soll sich ertränken. Er gehorcht dieser absurden Anordnung und stürzt sich in den Fluss. Die Erzählung thematisiert Konflikte zwischen Vater und Sohn, Schuldgefühle und die Absurdität menschlicher Existenz. Der innere Kampf Georgs zwischen Freiheit und familiärer Bindung spiegelt Kafkas eigene Konflikte wider und gehört zu den Schlüsselmomenten in seinem Werk. Franz Kafka (1883–1924) war ein bedeutender deutschsprachiger Schriftsteller des 20. Jahrhunderts, geboren in Prag. Er stammte aus einer jüdischen Familie und arbeitete als Jurist. Seine Werke, wie *Der Prozess*, *Das Schloss* und *Die Verwandlung*, thematisieren oft Entfremdung, Existenzängste und bürokratische Absurdität. Kafka veröffentlichte zu Lebzeiten wenig und wünschte die Vernichtung seiner Schriften. Nach seinem Tod wurden seine Werke von Max Brod publiziert und erlangten Weltruhm.

a very old man with enormous wings summary and analysis: *Hell-Heaven* Jhumpa Lahiri, 2015-05-11 A Vintage Shorts "Short Story Month" Selection Pranab Chakraborty was a fellow Bengali from Calcutta who had washed up on the shores of Central Square. Soon he was one of the family. From the winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award, a staggeringly beautiful and precise story about a Bengali family in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the impossibilities of love, and the unanticipated pleasures and complications of life in America. "Hell-Heaven" is Jhumpa Lahiri's ode to the intimate secrets of closest kin, from the acclaimed collection *Unaccustomed Earth*. An eBook short.

a very old man with enormous wings summary and analysis: *An Apprenticeship or The Book of Pleasures* Clarice Lispector, 2022-05-03 Now in paperback, a romantic love story by the great Brazilian writer Lóri, a primary school teacher, is isolated and nervous, comfortable with children but unable to connect to adults. When she meets Ulisses, a professor of philosophy, an opportunity opens: a chance to escape the shipwreck of introspection and embrace the love, including the sexual love, of a man. Her attempt, as Sheila Heti writes in her afterword, is not only "to love and to be loved," but also "to be worthy of life itself." Published in 1968, *An Apprenticeship* is Clarice Lispector's attempt to reinvent herself following the exhausting effort of her metaphysical masterpiece *The Passion According to G. H.* Here, in this unconventional love story, she explores the ways in which people try to bridge the gaps between them, and the result, unusual in her work, surprised many readers and became a bestseller. Some appreciated its accessibility; others denounced it as sexist or superficial. To both admirers and critics, the olympian Clarice gave a typically elliptical answer: "I humanized myself," she said. "The book reflects that."

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a very old man with enormous wings summary and analysis: *Pinocchio, the Tale of a Puppet* Carlo Collodi, 2011-02 *Pinocchio, The Tale of a Puppet* follows the adventures of a talking wooden puppet whose nose grew longer whenever he told a lie and who wanted more than anything else to become a real boy. As carpenter Master Antonio begins to carve a block of pinewood into a leg for his table the log shouts out, Don't strike me too hard! Frightened by the talking log, Master Cherry does not know what to do until his neighbor Geppetto drops by looking for a piece of wood to build a marionette. Antonio gives the block to Geppetto. And thus begins the life of Pinocchio, the puppet that turns into a boy. *Pinocchio, The Tale of a Puppet* is a novel for children by Carlo Collodi is about the mischievous adventures of Pinocchio, an animated marionette, and his poor father and woodcarver Geppetto. It is considered a classic of children's literature and has spawned many derivative works of art. But this is not the story we've seen in film but the original version full of

harrowing adventures faced by Pinnocchio. It includes 40 illustrations.

a very old man with enormous wings summary and analysis: *The Autumn of the Patriarch* Gabriel García Márquez, 1996 No Marketing Blurb

a very old man with enormous wings summary and analysis: *The Satanic Verses* Salman Rushdie, 2000-12 Just before dawn one winter's morning, a hijacked jetliner explodes above the English Channel. Through the falling debris, two figures, Gibreel Farishta, the biggest star in India, and Saladin Chamcha, an expatriate returning from his first visit to Bombay in fifteen years, plummet from the sky, washing up on the snow-covered sands of an English beach, and proceed through a series of metamorphoses, dreams, and revelations.

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a very old man with enormous wings summary and analysis: *Love Lives Here* Maria Goff, 2017-03-07 This is a book about discovering what we really need. There are a lot of second-best options, but we weren't made to live a second-best life. Finding what we actually need is different than what we are often offered. There are many books full of opinions, steps and programs. This isn't one of them. This is about craving the things that matter. Things that don't just work, but last. In a life that may seem to be all fun and games with an endless supply of balloons, author Maria Goff shows how this life is also lived with intentionality, passionate purpose, and a little planning—all of which make a life rich in legacy. But she had to figure out the help she needed first in order to live the beautiful life God wanted for her and wants for us. *Love Lives Here* is a collection of stories that include the ways Maria and her husband, Bob, navigated family their way, without clear instructions or a road map. It's about what they learned to make their lives meaningful and whimsical and how they created a space for their family to grow together while they reached outward. What a gift to read *Love Lives Here* and find within it a friend who is as authentic and inviting as Maria Goff. Through her earnest telling of the stories of her life, she provides greater meaning to all our lives. We were thrilled to read this book. Donald Miller (bestselling author of *Blue Like Jazz* and *Scary Close*) with Betsy Miller Grace is a contagious force we all crave and Maria contains so much grace it floods you from just a short time with her. May these pages overwhelm you with God's love, and hope that Maria knows so well. Jennie Allen, Founder of IF: Gathering and Author of *Nothing to Prove*

a very old man with enormous wings summary and analysis: *Thanatopsis* William Cullen Bryant, 2024-02-29 *Thanatopsis* is a renowned poem written by William Cullen Bryant, an American poet and editor of the 19th century. First published in 1817 when Bryant was just 17 years old, the poem is considered one of the early masterpieces of American literature. In *Thanatopsis*, Bryant explores themes related to death and nature, contemplating the idea of mortality and the interconnectedness of life and death. The title, derived from the Greek words *thanatos* (death) and *opsis* (view), suggests a meditation on the contemplation of death. The poem begins with an invocation to nature, portraying it as a grand and eternal force. Bryant expresses the idea that death is a natural part of the cycle of life, and all living things ultimately return to the earth. He emphasizes the consoling and unifying aspects of death, encouraging readers to view it as a peaceful and harmonious process. *Thanatopsis* reflects the Romantic literary movement's appreciation for nature and its role in shaping human perspectives. Bryant's eloquent language and profound reflections on mortality contribute to the enduring appeal of the poem.

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Billy Collins, 2003-04-06 Billy Collins has emerged as the most beloved American poet since Robert Frost, garnering critical acclaim and broad popular appeal. Annie Proulx admits, I have never before felt possessive about a poet, but I am fiercely glad that Billy Collins is ours. This special, limited edition celebrates Billy Collins's years as U.S. Poet Laureate. *Questions About Angels*--one of the books that helped establish and secure his reputation and popularity during the 1990s--is remarkable for its wry, inquisitive voice and its sheer imaginative range. Edward Hirsch selected this classic book for the National Poetry Series, and each of Collins's poems--from his meditation on forgetfulness to his musings on the behavior of angels--is an exploration of imaginative possibilities. Whether reading him for the first time or the fiftieth, this collector's edition is a must-have for anyone interested in the poet the New York Times calls simply the real thing.

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Annie Dillard, 2009-10-13 *An American Childhood* more than takes the reader's breath away. It consumes you as you consume it, so that, when you have put down this book, you're a different person, one who has virtually experienced another childhood. — Chicago Tribune A book that instantly captured the hearts of readers across the country, *An American Childhood* is Pulitzer Prize-winning author Annie Dillard's poignant, vivid memoir of growing up in Pittsburgh in the 1950s and 60s. Dedicated to her parents—from whom she learned a love of language and the importance of following your deepest passions—Dillard's brilliant memoir will resonate with anyone who has ever recalled with longing playing baseball on an endless summer afternoon, caring for a pristine rock collection, or knowing in your heart that a book was written just for you.

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Chris Wraight, 2020-03-31 Explore the history of one of the most well known heroes of the Imperium in this awesome new novel from Chris Wraight. Constantin Valdor. It is a name that brings forth images of heroism, honour and peerless duty. For it is he who commands the will of the Legio Custodes that most esteemed and dedicated cadre of elite warriors. He is the Emperor's sword, His shield, His banner and he knows no equal. Clad in shining auramite, his fist clenched around the haft of his Guardian Spear, he is the bulwark against all enemies of the throne, within or without. Nearing the end of the wars of Unity, Valdor's courage and purpose is put to the test as never before. The petty warlords and tyrants of Old Earth have been all but vanquished, and the Emperor's armies are triumphant. What now for the nascent Imperium and what fate its forgotten soldiers, its Thunder Warriors and armies of Unity? A new force is rising, one which shall eclipse all others and open the way to the stars. But change on Terra is seldom bloodless and for progress to be ensured darker deeds are necessary.

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Ray Bradbury, 1968 A fireman in charge of burning books meets a revolutionary school teacher who dares to read. Depicts a future world in which all printed reading material is burned.

a very old man with enormous wings summary and analysis: *A Madman's Diary*

Lu Xun, 2014-08-26 This English and Chinese bilingual edition of *A Madman's Diary* was first published in 1918 by Lu Xun, one of the greatest writers in 20th-century Chinese literature. This short story is one of the first and most influential modern works written in vernacular Chinese and would become a cornerstone of the New Culture Movement. The story was often referred to as China's first modern short story. This book is selected as one of The 100 Best Books of All Time. The diary form was inspired by Nikolai Gogol's short story *Diary of a Madman*, as was the idea of the madman who sees reality more clearly than those around him. The madman sees cannibalism both in his family and the village around him, and he then finds cannibalism in the Confucian classics which had long been credited with a humanistic concern for the mutual obligations of society, and thus for the superiority of Confucian civilization. The story was read as an ironic attack on traditional Chinese culture and a call for a New Culture.

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Gene Wolfe, 2011-09-29 So begins one of the most celebrated stories in fantasy literature . . . packed full of mystery, deep themes and incredible prose, meet Severian the Torturer and follow him on his

journey across the great world of Urth Severian is a torturer, born to the guild and with an exceptionally promising career ahead of him . . . until he falls in love with one of his victims, a beautiful young noblewoman. Her excruciations are delayed for some months and, out of love, Severian helps her commit suicide and escape her fate. For a torturer, there is no more unforgivable act. In punishment he is exiled from the guild and his home city to the distant metropolis of Thrax with little more than Terminus Est, a fabled sword, to his name. Along the way he has to learn to survive in a wider world without the guild - a world in which he has already made both allies and enemies. And a strange gem is about to fall into his possession, which will only make his enemies pursue him with ever-more determination . . . Winner of the World Fantasy Award for best novel, 1981 Winner of the BSFA Award for best novel, 1982 Readers can't stop reading *The Shadow of the Torturer*: 'Full of rich characters and great imagination' Mark Lawrence, author of *Red Sister* 'A dark jewel . . . He has a mastery of language not often seen in fantasy writing . . . Couple this with an original and unique, highly imaginative and complex worldbuilding and the high praise is warranted' Goodreads reviewer, [] [] [] [] 'This is a picaresque fantasy with a difference, for our hero Severian is no wide-eyed country boy from the shire, but an apprentice torturer, thoroughly schooled in his trade' Goodreads reviewer, [] [] [] [] 'There are certain books that can be considered life-changing experiences. Gene Wolfe is an author who has written one of those for me' Goodreads reviewer, [] [] [] [] 'The Book of the New Sun Tetralogy is one of the great achievements in science fiction and is a MUST READ for fans of the genre. HIGHEST POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION!!!' Goodreads reviewer, [] [] [] [] 'In addition to being unique in style, *The Shadow of the Torturer* is a gorgeous piece of work: passionate storytelling (heart-wrenching in places), fascinating insights into nature and the human condition, beautiful prose' Goodreads reviewer, [] [] [] [] 'Genre fiction at its finest. Original, difficult and well-crafted, it is easy to see how Wolfe is regarded as a writer's writer' Goodreads reviewer, [] [] [] []

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