

Isabel Allende

19 books

.

translated into 35 languages

.

more than 57 million copies sold

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12 international honorary doctorates

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50 awards in more than 15 countries

.

2 international movies

.

works adapted for movies, plays, musicals,
operas, ballets and radio programs

.

created **The Isabel Allende Foundation**
to empower women and girls worldwide

Biography

ABOUT ISABEL

It is very strange to write one's biography because it is just a list of dates, events, and achievements. In reality, the most important things about my life happened in the secret chambers of my heart and have no place in a biography. My most significant achievements are not my books, but the love I share with a few people, especially my family, and the ways in which I have tried to help others.

When I was young, I often felt desperate: so much pain in the world and so little I could do to alleviate it! But now I look back at my life and feel satisfied because few days went by without me at least trying to make a difference.

In any case, here is my biography.

NAME

Isabel Allende Llona

NATIONALITY

Chilean-American. Born in Perú to Chilean parents; became an American citizen in 2003.

DATE OF BIRTH

August 2, 1942

PROFESSION

Writer

Journalist

Teacher—Creative Writing and Latin American Literature

ADVOCACY AND ACTIVISM

In 1992 I created the Isabel Allende Foundation to support the empowerment of women and girls worldwide (www.isabelallendefoundation.org).

For over 20 years I have lectured internationally about women's rights and the empowerment of women; Latin American and world politics; Chile; writing and the creative process; spirituality; and my own work.

HONORS

Member of the Academy of Language (Chile, 1989)

Honorary Doctorate, University of Chile (1991)

Honorary Doctorate, State University of New York at Stony Brook (USA, 1991)

Honorary Doctorate, Bates College (USA, 1994)

Honorary Doctorate, Dominican College (USA, 1994)

Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (France, 1994)

Gabriela Mistral Inter-American Prize for Culture (Chile, 1994)

Marin Women's Hall of Fame (USA, 1994)

Feminist of the Year, Feminist Majority Foundation (USA, 1994)

Member of Academy of Arts and Sciences (Puerto Rico, 1995)

Honorary Citizen of the City of Austin (USA, 1995)

Honorary Doctorate, Florida Atlantic University (USA, 1996)

Honorary Doctorate, Columbia College (USA, 1996)

Honorary Doctorate, Lawrence University (USA, 2000)

Honorary Doctorate, Mills College (USA, 2000)

Honorary Member of the Academy of Development and Peace (Austria, 2000)

Honorary Doctorate, Illinois Wesleyan University (USA, 2002)

Member of the Academy of Arts and Letters (USA, 2004)

Ambassador to the Hans Christian Andersen Bicentenary (Denmark, 2004)

Distinguished Personality, University of El Pacífico (Chile, 2004)

Flag-bearer representing Latin America at Turin

Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony (Italy, 2006)

Daughter of Fortune selected as the One Book,

One Marin title (USA, 2007)

Honorary Doctorate, Language and Literature, University of Trento (Italy, 2007)

Honorary Doctorate, Whittier College (USA, 2007)

Honorary Doctorate, San Francisco State University (USA, 2008)

Member of the Board of Trustees (Patronato) of the Cervantes Institute (Spain, 2009)

National Literature Prize (Chile, 2010)

Member of the Board of Trustees of the Chile-California Council (USA, 2011)

City of Alcalá Arts and Letters Award 2011 (Spain, 2011)

Hans Christian Andersen Literature Award (Denmark, 2012)

SELECTED AWARDS

Best Novel of the Year (Chile, 1983)
Panorama Literario Award (Chile, 1983)
Author of the Year (Germany, 1984)
Book of the Year (Germany, 1984)
Grand Prix d'Evasion Award (France, 1984)
Point de Mire Award, Radio Television Belge (Belgium, 1985)
Premio Latinoamericano de Narrativa Colima (Mexico, 1986)
XV Premio Internazionale I Migliori Dell'Anno (Italy, 1987)
Mulheres Best Foreign Novel Award (Portugal, 1987)
Quimera Libros Award (Chile, 1987)
Book of the Year (Switzerland, 1987)
Los Angeles Times Book Prize Nomination (USA, 1987)
One of the Year's Best Books, *Library Journal* (USA, 1988)
Before Columbus Foundation's American Book Award (USA, 1988)
Best Novel (Mexico, 1985)
Author of the Year (Germany, 1986)
Freedom to Write Award, PEN Center West (USA, 1991)
XLI Bancarella Literary Award (Italy, 1993)
The Independent Foreign Fiction Award (UK, 1993)
Brandeis University Major Book Collection Award (USA, 1993)
Critics' Choice Award (USA, 1996)
Read About Me Literary Award (USA, 1996)
Books to Remember Award, American Library Association (USA, 1996)
Gift of HOPE Award, HOPE Education & Leadership Fund (USA, 1996)
Harold Washington Literary Award (USA, 1996)
Malaparte Amici di Capri Award (Italy, 1998)
Donna Cita de Roma Award (Italy, 1998)
Dorothy and Lillian Gish Award (USA, 1998)
Sara Lee Frontrunner in the Arts Award (USA, 1998)
Woman of the Year, GEMS [Girls Educational and Mentoring Services] (USA, 1999)
Donna dell'Anno (Italy, 1999)
Books to Remember, The New York Public Library (USA, 2000)
WILLA Literary Award 2000 (USA, 2000)
Excellence in International Literature and Arts (USA, 2000)
The Celebration of Books Ambassador Award (USA, 2002)
International Women's Forum Award, University of Mexico (2002)
Nopal Award, California State Polytechnic University at Pomona (USA, 2003)

Cyril Magnin Lifetime Achievement Award (USA, 2003)
Iberoamericano de Letras José Donoso (Chile, 2003)
Commonwealth Award of Distinguished Service for Literature (USA, 2004)
Latino Literacy Now (USA, 2004)
Best Young Adult Fiction for *Kingdom of the Golden Dragon*, IMPAC (Ireland, 2006)
Best Biography for *My Invented Country* (USA, 2003)
Hubert Howe Bancroft Award, The Bancroft Library, University of California at Berkeley (USA, 2007)
Visionary Marin Award, Marin Interfaith Council (USA, 2008)
Latino Literacy Now (USA, 2006)
Best Young Adult Fiction for *Forest of the Pygmies* (USA, 2008)
The Sum of Our Days named Best Audiobook of the Year by *AudioFile* magazine (USA, 2008)
Momentum Award for Storytelling, Women's Foundation of California (USA, 2009)
The Times (London) names *The House of the Spirits* one of the Best 60 Books in the Past 60 Years (UK, 2009)

JOURNALISM

1967-1974—Co-founder and contributor, *Paula* (women's magazine), Chile
1969-1973—Editor, *Mampato* (children's magazine), Chile
1964-1965—Television correspondent, Channel 13, Chile
1970-1974—Television host (humor and opinion), Channel 13, Chile
1975-1984—Columnist, *El Nacional*, (newspaper), Venezuela

I have also published articles and essays in newspapers and magazines throughout the United States and Europe. (Too many to list.)

TEACHING

Courses in Latin American literature, Montclair College (USA 1985)
University Of Virginia (USA 1988)
Gildersleeve Lecturer, Barnard College (USA, 1988)
Creative writing, long narrative (for undergraduates), University of California at Berkeley (USA, 1989)
Creative writing workshops at Book Passage Book Store [Corte Madera] (USA, 1998 & 2000)

Books

The House of the Spirits

La Gorda de Porcelana

Of Love and Shadows

Eva Luna

The Stories of Eva Luna

The Infinite Plan

Paula

Aphrodite

Daughter of Fortune

Portrait in Sepia

City of the Beasts

My Invented Country

Kingdom of the Golden Dragon

Zorro

Forest of the Pygmies

Inés of My Soul

The Sum of Our Days

Island Beneath the Sea

Maya's Notebook *(to be released in 2012)*

Media

PLAYS

The Ambassador (Chile)

The Ballad of Nobody (Chile)

The Seven Mirrors (Chile)

SUMMARY OF BOOK ADAPTATIONS

The House of the Spirits

Feature film (international production)

Ten plays (Puerto Rico, England, Israel, Chile, and six theater companies in the United States)

Of Love and Shadows

Feature film (United States)

Eva Luna

Two movie options (United States)

Musical (Iceland)

Play (England)

The Stories of Eva Luna (various stories)

Three movie options (Canada, United States)

Three operas (Germany, England, United States)

Radio adaptation (United States)

Fourteen theater presentations (Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Portugal, Switzerland, Uruguay, two in England and Scotland, and three in the United States)

Paula

Television documentary (BBC, England)

Two plays (United States and Denmark)

Aphrodite: A Memoir of the Senses

Two plays (Argentina and Uruguay)

Zorro

Movie rights (United States)

Television series

(Telemundo in Spanish, United States)

Musical (Brazil, England, France, and an international tour)

MOVIES

The House of the Spirits

Of Love and Shadows

MOVIE RIGHTS

Trilogy for Young Readers:

City of the Beasts, Kingdom of the Golden Dragon, Forest of the Pygmies
(Walden, United States)

Zorro

(Sony, United States)

PENDING MOVIE OPTIONS

Eva Luna

Daughter of Fortune

TV

The Stories of Eva Luna

Two stories adapted for television
(Canada, United States)



THE *Isabel Allende* FOUNDATION



MY FOUNDATION is guided by a vision of a world in which women have achieved social and economic justice. This vision includes the empowerment of women and girls, and protecting women and children.

The foundation is small, only a drop of water in the vast desert of human need, so I cannot spread my support too thin. I have found that it is more efficient to concentrate on specific issues in limited areas. I therefore support select nonprofits in the San Francisco Bay Area and Chile whose missions are to provide women and girls with reproductive self-determination, healthcare, and education, as well as protection from violence, exploitation, and discrimination.

www.isabelallendefoundation.org