

# *Isabel Allende*

23 books

.

translated into 42 languages

.

more than 70 million copies sold

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15 international honorary doctorates

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more than 60 awards in over 15 countries

.

2 international movies

.

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

.

**The Isabel Allende Foundation**  
empowers 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 Llonca

## NATIONALITY

Chilean-American. Born in Perú to Chilean parents; became an American citizen in 1993.

## DATE OF BIRTH

August 2, 1942

## PROFESSION

Writer

Journalist

Teacher—Creative Writing and Latin American Literature

## ADVOCACY AND ACTIVISM

In 1995 I created the Isabel Allende Foundation to support the empowerment of women and girls worldwide ([www.isabelallendefoundation.org](http://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 Letters (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 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)

Excellence in the Arts, The National Museum of Women in the Arts (USA, 2012)

Hans Christian Andersen Literature Award (Denmark, 2012)

San Jose State University and the city of San Jose, Calif., celebrate Isabel Allende Day (USA, 2012)

Honorary Doctorate, Chapman University (USA, 2013)

Honorary Doctorate, Harvard University (USA, 2014)

Presidential Medal of Freedom, The White House, Washington, DC (USA, 2015)

Honorary Doctorate, University of Santiago (Chile, 2015)

Gala Honoree, Center for Reproductive Rights (USA, 2016)

Inducted into California Hall of Fame (USA, 2016)

## 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)  
Lawrence Sanders Award in Fiction, Florida International University (USA, 2012)  
Carl Sandburg Literary Award (USA, 2013)  
Latino Book Award for *Maya's Notebook* (USA, 2014)  
Gabriela Mistral Foundation Humanitarian Award (USA, 2014)  
PEN Center Lifetime Achievement Award (USA, 2016)  
California Hall of Fame Inductee (USA, 2016)  
CA Latino Legislative Caucus, Latino Spirit Award, Achievement in Literature (USA, 2017)  
Premio Sicily (Italy, 2017)

## 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.*

## 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 (USA, 1998, 2000, 2014 & 2017)

# *Books*

The House of the Spirits  
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

Ripper

The Japanese Lover

In the Midst of Winter

# Media

## PLAYS

*The Ambassador* (Chile)

*The Ballad of Nobody* (Chile)

*The Seven Mirrors* (Chile)

## OPERA

*Dulce Rosa* (United States)

## 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)

Four operas (Germany, England, and two in the 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*

BBC television documentary (England)

Two plays (United States and Denmark)

*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)

## TV

*The Stories of Eva Luna*

Two stories adapted for television  
(Canada, United States)



# THE *Isabel Allende* FOUNDATION



THE ISABEL ALLENDE FOUNDATION is guided by a vision of a world in which women have achieved social and economic justice. In service of this vision, the Foundation supports nonprofits located predominantly in Chile and California that provide vulnerable women and girls access to reproductive rights, economic independence and freedom from violence. Through its Espiritu Grants, the Foundation also supports a small number of organizations worldwide whose exemplary work is aligned with its mission.

Founded in 1996 to honor the author's daughter, Paula Frias, who died at age 29, the Foundation has awarded grants to more than 100 nonprofits worldwide delivering life-changing care to hundreds of thousands of women and girls.

[www.isabelallende.org](http://www.isabelallende.org)