

Isabel Allende

26 books

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translated into more than 42 languages

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more than 77 million copies sold

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15 international honorary doctorates

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more than 60 awards in over 15 countries

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2 feature-length movies

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

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Founder of **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 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.

WEBSITE / SOCIAL MEDIA

isabelallende.com

isabelallende.org

facebook.com/isabelallende/

instagram.com/allendeisabel

twitter.com/isabelallende

ADVOCACY AND ACTIVISM

In 1995 Isabel created the Isabel Allende Foundation to support the empowerment of women and girls worldwide (isabelallende.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 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-Città di Roma 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)
- Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters, National Book Foundation (USA, 2018)
- Premi Internacional de Novel·la Històrica Barcino (Spain, 2019)

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

Amor

The Japanese Lover

In the Midst of Winter

A Long Petal of the Sea

The Soul of a Woman

Violeta



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. We invest in the power of women and girls to secure 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.

Most grants awarded by our foundation are made to organizations headquartered in Chile and California.

isabelallende.org