



isabel allende

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 at least trying.

In any case, here is my biography. We need to have it because students and journalists often request it.

NAME

Isabel Allende

NATIONALITY

Chilean

DATE OF BIRTH

August 2, 1942

JOURNALIST

1964-74 IN CHILE: Women's magazine *Paula*

Children's magazine *Mampato*

Television shows

Movie documentaries

1975-84 IN VENEZUELA: Newspaper *El Nacional*

HONORS

Read About Me Literary Award, USA 1996

Member of the *Academia de Artes y Ciencias*,
Puerto Rico 1995

Honorary Citizen of the City of Austin, USA 1995

Feminist of the Year Award, The Feminist Majority
Foundation, USA 1994

Doctor of Letters, Bates College, USA 1994

Doctor of Letters, Dominican College, USA 1994

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

Condecoración Gabriela Mistral, Chile 1994

Marin Women's Hall of Fame, USA 1994

Professor of Literature *Honoris Causa*, University of Chile,
Chile 1991

Doctor of Letters, New York State University, USA 1991

Member of the *Academia de la Lengua*, Chile 1989

Doctor of Humane Letters, Florida Atlantic University,
USA 1996

Doctor of Letters, Columbia College, USA 1996

Malaparte Award, Amici di Capri, Italy 1998

Donna Citta Di Roma Literary Award, Italy 1998

Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize, USA 1998

Sara Lee Frontrunner Award, USA 1998

GEMS Women of the Year 1999 Award, USA 1999

Donna Dell'Anno 1999 Award, Italy 1999

Honorary Degree, Lawrence University, USA 2000

Honorary Degree, Mills College, USA 2000

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

Excellence in International Literature and Arts Award,
USA 2002

Honorary Degree, Illinois Wesleyan University, USA 2002

The Celebration of Books Ambassador Award, USA 2002

International Women's Forum Award, Mexico 2002

Nopal Award, Cal Poly Pomona, USA 2003

Cyril Magnin Lifetime Achievement Award, USA 2003

Premios Iberoamericano de Letras Jose Donoso 2003,
Chile 2003

Premio Personalidad Distinguida, Universidad del Pacifico,
Chile 2004

CommonWealth Award of Distinguished Service
for Literature, USA 2004

Member, American Academy of Arts and Letters, USA 2004

Daughter of Fortune was selected as the *One Book*,
One Marin title for 2007

Laurea Honoris Causa in Language and Literature,
University of Trento, Italy, May 2007

Honorary Doctorate Degree, Whittier College,
USA, October 2007

Honorary Doctorate Degree, San Francisco State University,
USA, May 2008

Latino Literacy Now, USA 2006

Best Young Adult Fiction for *Forest of the Pygmies*
and *El Bosque de los Pigmeos*

AudioFile Magazine, USA 2008

Best Audiobooks of the Year for *The Sum of Our Days*

AUTHOR

Published articles in newspapers and magazines in

America and Europe

Lecture tours in America and Europe

Speech tours in universities and colleges

Literature workshops

TAUGHT LITERATURE AT:

University of Virginia, Charlottesville

Montclair College, New Jersey

University of California, Berkeley

Short stories for children and humor books, Chile 1972-73

Short story for children, "La Gorda de Porcelana", Venezuela 1983

THEATER PLAYS IN CHILE:

El Embajador, 1971

La Balada del Medio Pelo, 1973

Los Siete Espejors, 1974

BOOKS

My books have been translated to more than 27 languages.

They have been best sellers in Europe, USA, Latin America, and Australia. *Daughter of Fortune* was one of Oprah's Book Club selections.

The House of the Spirits, (novel) Spain 1982

Of Love and Shadows, (novel) Spain 1984

Eva Luna, (novel) Spain 1985

Stories of Eva Luna, (short stories) Spain 1989

The Infinite Plan, (novel) Spain 1991

Paula, (non-fiction) Spain 1994

Aphrodite (recipes, stories and other aphrodisiacs) Spain 1997

Daughter of Fortune, (novel) Spain 1999

Portrait in Sepia, (novel) Spain 2000

City of the Beasts, (young adult novel) Spain 2002

My Invented Country, (novel) Spain 2003

Kingdom of the Golden Dragon, (young adult novel) Spain 2003

Forest of the Pygmies, (young adult novel) 2005

Zorro, (novel) Spain 2005

Inés of My Soul, (novel) Spain 2006

The Sum of Our Days, (novel) Spain 2007

The Island Beneath the Sea, (novel) Spain 2009

BOOKS ADAPTED INTO MOVIES:

The House of the Spirits and *Of Love and Shadows*

MOVIES IN PRODUCTION:

Aphrodite, *Eva Luna* and *Gift for a Sweetheart*

BOOKS ADAPTED INTO THEATRE:

The House of the Spirits, *Eva Luna*, *Stories of Eva Luna*
and *Paula*

Zorro

BOOKS ADAPTED INTO OPERA:

From *Stories of Eva Luna*:

"If you would touch my heart"

and "Two Words"

BOOKS ADAPTED INTO BALLET:

From *Stories of Eva Luna*:

"Wicked Girl" and others

Selected AWARDS

In every bio one is supposed to list one's awards and honors. Here are some that I have received. The most significant awards that I have, however, are the moving letters that my readers have sent me.

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

Radio Television Belge: Point de Mire Award, Belgica 1985

Quality Paperback Book Club New Voice, USA 1986

Premio Literario Colima Award, Mexico 1986

XV Premio Internazionale I Migliori Dell'Anno, Italy 1987

Mulheres Best Foreign Novel Award, Portugal 1987

Quimera Libros, Chile 1987

Book of the Year, Switzerland 1987

Los Angeles Times Book Prize Nomination, USA 1987

Library Journal's Best Book, USA 1988

Before Columbus Foundation Award, USA 1988

Best Novel, Mexico 1985

Author of the Year, Germany 1986

Freedom to Write Pen Club, USA 1991

XLI Bancarella Literary Award, Italy 1993

Independent Foreign Fiction Award, England 1993

Brandeis University Major Book Collection Award, USA 1993

Critics' Choice 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, City of Chicago, USA 1996

Books to Remember, The New York Public Library

WILLA Literary Award 2000, USA 2000

Appointed as Ambassador to the Hans Christian Andersen
Bicentenary, Copenhagen 2004

Latino Literacy Now, USA 2004

Best Young Adult Fiction for *El Reino del Drágon de Oro*

Best Biography for *Mi País Inventado*

Winter Olympics Flag-Bearer representing Latin America
Torino, Italy 2006

Hubert Howe Bancroft Award, The Bancroft Library, April 2007

Visionary Marin Award, Marin Interfaith Council, November 2008

Momentum Award for Storytelling, The Women's Foundation
of California, May, 2009

London Times, The Best 60 Books in the Past 60 Years, 2009,

The House of the Spirits

Seven *Hola* Awards for *The House of the Spirits/*

La Casa de los Espiritus.

The Hispanic Organization of Latin Actors, October 2009