

## **Distinguished Author Isabel Allende to appear May 12 at public lecture sponsored by Friends of UCSD Library**

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### **DISTINGUISHED AUTHOR ISABEL ALLENDE TO APPEAR MAY 12 AT PUBLIC LECTURE SPONSORED BY FRIENDS OF UCSD LIBRARY**

Isabel Allende, one of Latin America's most celebrated writers and the author of five international best sellers, will talk about her writing at a May 12 public lecture sponsored by The Friends of the University of California, San Diego, Library.

The 7:30 p.m. lecture in the Mandell Weiss Forum is one in the continuing Great Author series. Proceeds will benefit the UCSD Libraries' collections and services.

In the matter of a few years, Allende has moved from the obscurity of political exile to great popularity and critical acclaim as a novelist. Her five novels include *La casa de los espíritus* (The House of the Spirits), published in 1982; *De amor y de sombra* (Of Love and Shadows), 1984; *Eva Luna*, 1987; *Cuentos de Eva Luna* (The Stories of Eva Luna), 1990, and *The Infinite Plan*, 1991.

In 1981 Allende received word that her beloved grandfather, with whom she had lived while growing up in Santiago, was dying in Chile. She began a long letter to him in which she reassured him that he would always remain in her memories. The letter, which she never sent, slowly grew to become her first novel, *The House of the Spirits*, a saga of three generations of the Trueba family which is interwoven with the history of Chile. It was acclaimed as "a unique achievement, both personal witness and possible allegory of the past, present and future of Latin America." Her second novel, *Of Love and Shadows*, was published in 1984 and praised for its "depths of empathy and compassion rarely found in fiction that embraces a political cause."

In *Eve Luna*, Allende introduced one of her best loved characters, a poor Latin American woman who is a remarkable story-teller. *The Infinite Plan*, Allende's first novel set primarily in the United States, relates stories of a lawyer from a broken home raised in a Chicano community.

In highlighting personal and historical memory in the context of life in Latin America, Allende sees that although "it is impossible to speak of Latin America without mentioning violence," Latin America is, at the same time, "a land of hope and friendship and love." She sees her books, written in such a land, as the means "to touch someone--a bridge extended across a space of loneliness and obscurity, a bridge built on the belief in certain principles and values: love, generosity, justice."

Admission is \$15 for Friends of the UCSD Library, \$20 general, and \$5 for UCSD students. Further information may be obtained by calling 534-2533.

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