



## Paula

*By Isabel Allende*

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Presents the story of Allende's ancestors and youth as it was written by her daughter's hospital bedside, reflecting the challenges and achievements of one family during a turbulent time in Chilean history. 100,000 first printing. \$100,000 ad/promo. BOMC Alt. Tour.

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## **Paula By Isabel Allende Bibliography**

- Rank: #573542 in Books
- Brand: Harper Collins
- Published on: 1995-05
- Original language: Spanish
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.75" h x 6.75" w x 1.25" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 330 pages

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

"Listen, Paula. I am going to tell you a story so that when you wake up you will not feel so lost." So says Chilean writer Isabel Allende (*The House of the Spirits*) in the opening lines of the luminous, heart-rending memoir she wrote while her 28-year-old daughter Paula lay in a coma. In its pages, she ushers an assortment of outrageous relatives into the light: her stepfather, an amiable liar and tireless debater; grandmother Meme, blessed with second sight; and delinquent uncles who exultantly torment Allende and her brothers. Irony and marvelous flights of fantasy mix with the icy reality of Paula's deathly illness as Allende sketches childhood scenes in Chile and Lebanon; her uncle Salvatore Allende's reign and ruin as Chilean president; her struggles to shake off or find love; and her metamorphosis into a writer.

### From Publishers Weekly

Allende is a mesmerizing novelist (*The House of the Spirits*; *The Stories of Eva Luna*) who here takes on a double challenge. Writing nonfiction for the first time, she interweaves the story of her own life with the slow dying of her 28-year-old daughter, Paula. A magician with words, Allende makes this grim scenario into a wondrous encounter with the innermost sorrows and joys of another human being. In 1991, while living in Madrid with her husband, Paula was felled by porphyria, a rare blood disease, and, despite endless care by her mother and husband, lapsed into an irreversible coma. Her mother, as she watched by Paula's bedside, began to write this book, driven by a desperation to communicate with her unconscious daughter. She writes of her own Chilean childhood, the violent death of her uncle, Salvador Allende, and the family's flight to Venezuela from the oppressive Pinochet regime. Allende explores her relationship with her own mother, documented in the hundreds of letters they exchanged since she left home. Allende later married—and divorced—an undemanding and loyal man and became a fierce feminist, rebelling against the constraints of traditional Latin American society. Eventually, hope waning, Allende and her son-in-law take the comatose Paula to California, where the author lives with her second husband. The climactic scenes of Paula's death in the rambling old house by the Pacific Ocean seem to take place in another time and space. Only a writer of Allende's passion and skill could share her tragedy with her readers and leave them exhilarated and grateful. QPB selection.

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### From Library Journal

In December 1991, the 28-year-old daughter of noted novelist Allende fell desperately ill and then slid into a coma, struck down by the inherited disease porphyria. As she nursed Paula daily in a hospital in Madrid, Allende kept a journal in which she told her daughter her life story: "I have the whole future ahead of me. I want to give it to you, Paula, because you have lost yours." The result is a deeply affecting tale, written in the rich, luminous prose typical of Allende's novels, that investigates the sources of her writing as it paints a vivid portrait of Chile moving from postcolonial propriety to Socialist experiment to Pinochet's oppression. In Part 2, written after Paula was brought back to California, the tone changes as Allende realizes that her daughter will never revive. In the remainder of the book Allende speaks not to Paula but about Paula, relating the effort it took to let her die peacefully. Pointing out that until the 20th century—and even now in all but the most industrially advanced countries—losing a child was a common experience, she gives some insight into what it takes to bear that loss. Highly recommended.

-?Barbara Hoffert, "Library Journal"

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Michelle Wilson:**

Do you one among people who can't read satisfying if the sentence chained within the straightway, hold on guys this aren't like that. This Paula book is readable simply by you who hate those straight word style. You will find the details here are arrange for enjoyable reading through experience without leaving possibly decrease the knowledge that want to provide to you. The writer involving Paula content conveys objective easily to understand by most people. The printed and e-book are not different in the information but it just different such as it. So , do you nonetheless thinking Paula is not loveable to be your top listing reading book?

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#### **Shane Dagostino:**

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