



Portrait in Sepia: A Novel

By Isabel Allende

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"*Portrait in Sepia* is the best book Allende has published in the United States since her first novel of nearly two decades ago, *The House of the Spirits*."
—Jonathan Yardley, *Washington Post Book World*

"*Portrait in Sepia* tightens the weave of a multigenerational fantasy as complete and inspiring as the real world it parallels ... Allende's enchanting historical universe keeps expanding and *Portrait in Sepia* is a new galactic jewel."
—*Chicago Tribune*

A richly imagined historical novel about memory and family secrets from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Island Beneath the Sea*, *Inés of My Soul*, *Daughter of Fortune*, *Zorro*, and *House of the Spirits*.

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Portrait in Sepia: A Novel By Isabel Allende Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Isabel Allende has established herself as one of the most consummate of all modern storytellers, a reputation that is confirmed in her novel *Portrait in Sepia*. Allende offers a compelling saga of the turbulent history, lives, and loves of late 19th-century Chile, drawing on characters from her earlier novels, *The House of Spirits* and *Daughter of Fortune*.

In typical Allende fashion, *Portrait in Sepia* is crammed with love, desire, tragedy, and dark family secrets, all played out against the dramatic backdrop of revolutionary Chile. Our heroine Aurora del Valle's mother is a Chilean-Chinese beauty, while her father is a dissolute scion of the wealthy and powerful del Valle family. At the heart of Aurora's slow, painful re-creation of her childhood towers one of Allende's greatest fictional creations, the heroine's grandmother, Paulina del Valle. An "astute, bewigged Amazon with a gluttonous appetite," Paulina holds both the del Valle family and Allende's novel together as she presides over Aurora's adolescence in a haze of pastries, taffeta, and overweening love.

One of the most interesting aspects of the novel is Allende's decision to turn her heroine into a photographer: "through photography and the written word I try desperately to conquer the transitory nature of my existence, to trap moments before they evanesce, to untangle the confusion of my past." There is little confusion in Allende's elegantly crafted and hugely enjoyable novel. --Jerry Brotton, *Amazon.co.uk*

From Publishers Weekly

In this third work concerning the various and intertwining lives of members of a Chilean family, Allende uses the metaphor of photography as memory. "Each of us chooses the tone for telling his or her own story; I would like to choose the durable clarity of a platinum print, but nothing in my destiny possesses that luminosity. I live among diffuse shadings, veiled mysteries, uncertainties; the tone for telling my life is closer to that of a portrait in sepia," declares Aurora del Valle, protagonist of the tale. Here, Allende picks up where 1999's *Daughter of Fortune* left off, and, in the course of her chronicles, mentions personages who were realized in her 1987 masterpiece, *House of the Spirits*. Like her other novels, *Portrait in Sepia* spans nearly 50 years and covers wars, love affairs, births, weddings and funerals. Rich and complex, this international, turn-of-the-century saga does not disappoint. The book opens as 30-year-old Aurora remembers her own birth, in the Chinatown of 1880 San Francisco. She tells of those present: her maternal, Chilean-English grandmother, Eliza; her grandfather Tao (a Chinese medic); and her mother, Lynn, a beloved beauty who dies during Aurora's birth. Realizing she is getting ahead of herself, Aurora backtracks, inviting the reader to be patient and listen to the events surrounding her life, from 1862 to 1910. Through Aurora, Allende exercises her supreme storytelling abilities, of which strong, passionate characters are paramount. Most memorable is Aurora's paternal grandmother, Paulina del Valle, an enormous woman who eats pastries and runs her trading company with equally reckless abandon. Like Paulina, Allende attacks her subject with gusto, making this a grand installment in an already impressive repertoire. Major ad/promo; 7-city author tour.

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From Library Journal

If you liked *The House of the Spirits* and *Daughter of Fortune*, you will no doubt love Allende's new work, which completes the trilogy. Here, young Aurora de Valle strains against her restrictive upbringing.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Matthew Venegas:

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive at this point, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated that for a while is reading. Yeah, by reading a book your ability to survive boost then having chance to endure than other is high. For you who want to start reading some sort of book, we give you that Portrait in Sepia: A Novel book as nice and daily reading reserve. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Alice Smith:

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book especially book entitled Portrait in Sepia: A Novel your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a guide then become one application form conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get before. The Portrait in Sepia: A Novel giving you a different experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful info for your better life with this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

Fred Nelson:

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Patricia Coulter:

What is your hobby? Have you heard this question when you got scholars? We believe that that problem was given by teacher to their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every individual has different hobby. And also you know that little person including reading or as reading become their hobby. You should know that reading is very important and book as to be the thing. Book is important thing to increase you knowledge, except your own personal teacher or lecturer. You find good news or update with regards to something by book. Many kinds of books that can you decide to try be your object. One of them are these claims Portrait in Sepia: A Novel.

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