Dear Reader,

You may have noticed that my name, Isabel Allende, is on the front of this book, but the story is told by Perla the mighty dog. That's because Perla is my best friend. We often get together to gossip in Woof (a language I speak, along with Spanish, English, and Meow), go to the park, and share dog treats and human snacks. I translated and transcribed this story for Perla because Perla can't type. If you were wondering how I'm able to do that, it's because I'm related to the wizard who used to live in Perla's house, and I have some of his magical powers. My two favourite ones are: number one, I can make people smile and sometimes weep with a click of my keyboard, and number two, I can turn into a frog – but I don't do it often because I don't like that look too much. Still, if you see a frog hopping by outside, make sure to wave, just in case it's me. I always like to say hi.

Sincerely,



Isabel Allende (or Woof-a-woof A-woof-ay, as Perla calls me)

PERLA

The Mighty Dog



ISABEL ALLENDE

Illustrated by

SANDY RODRÍGUEZ

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To Annie López, who loves me almost as much as Nico – Perla
To my parents, Carlos and María Elena – Sandy Rodríguez

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I am **PERLA**. When I was a puppy, I wanted to be called Gigi. But then I heard that pearls are the favourite ocean jewels of pirates, so now I love my name.

I have two superpowers.

NUMBER 1:
I can make anybody love me.

NUMBER 2:
I can **ROAR** like a lion.

When I was small, I was brought to a shelter. One day, the Rico family chose me from among many other dogs. The little boy, Nico Rico, saw me first.



I USED SUPERPOWER NUMBER 1:
I wagged my tail, whimpered and licked his hand through the cage. He fell in love with me.

The family was looking for a guard dog, but Nico said that I was the one and only. He threatened to stop breathing and die on the spot if they didn't take me home.

I USED SUPERPOWER NUMBER 2:
and ROARED like a lion to show that I am an excellent guardian.



I don't let a good opportunity pass me by.