The Adventures of Isabela
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My name is Isabella Huffman. I am eight and a half years old. I have blonde hair and blue eyes.

My mom’s name is Elizabeth Huffman. She is 29 years old. She is tall. She has dark hair and brown eyes. My mom travels for work. I go with her. She works. She works and I have adventures. I have a camera. I take a lot of pictures. I have a little book of my adventures. I want to be famous. I want to be famous like a pirate. I don’t want to be famous like a normal pirate. I want to be famous like a really famous pirate. Or...I want to be a famous actress. Or...I want to be a famous actress and a veterinarian. Or... I want to be a famous vet and a ballerina. A famous ballerina.

Or I want to be the President. Or I want to be the President and a ballerina. It depends. I’m not famous. But I want to be famous.
I visit Mexico with my mom. We go on a plane and we go on a bus. I prefer the plane. The bus is yucky. On the bus I play with my GameBoy and I draw. I don’t read on the bus. I don’t read on the bus because one time, I threw up in the bathroom on the bus.

We go to the University. It’s a really big university! It’s called the University of Guanajuato. My mom looks at me. She says, “Isabella, sit down please, for ten minutes.”

My mom goes in the University. I don’t go in the University. I sit down on the steps. I sit down for...one minute.

I take pictures of the students. The students run up and down the big stairs. The students run to get exercise. I want to run with the students. I run with the students. It is very difficult. I almost die. I can’t breathe.

My mom comes out of the university. She sees me on the steps. My mom looks at me. She laughs. I’m tired because I run a lot. My mom says to me, “Why can’t you sit down like a normal little girl?”
Chapter Three:
The Statues

We go to the Basilica. My mom says, “Don’t touch anything with your hands.”
I go into the Basilica with my mom. It’s called the Basilica of Our Lady of Guanajuato. It’s a really big and beautiful church. I take pictures of the Basilica. I take pictures of the statues. I take pictures of the statue’s feet.

I also touch the statues. But, I don’t touch the statues with my hands. I touch the statues with my feet. I touch the statues with my head. I touch the statues with my belly button. I do not touch the statues with my hands. I want to touch the statues with my tongue. But my mom looks at me. She is not happy. She says, “Isabella, why can’t you look and touch like a normal little girl?” I am not normal. I am famous. Obviously.
Chapter Four:
The Pony (and Other Adventures)

We go to the market and buy fruit and toys. My favorite fruit is mango. I want a mango. My mom gives me money to buy a mango. I take a picture of the mango. I buy a mango for three pesos. But, I have a problem. I put chili powder on my mango. That’s normal in Mexico. It’s good in Mexico. But, in my opinión, it’s really, really yucky. In my mouth’s opinión it’s also really, really yucky. I yell. I cry. I yell and cry a lot. My mom looks at me. My mom laughs.

“Isabella? Why can’t you eat like a normal little girl?”

I go to the park with my mom. I see a pony. I want to ride the pony. All of the children in the park are riding the pony. But, when I ride the pony, the pony won’t go. The pony goes for all of the other children. But when I sit on it, it won’t go. The pony pees. The pony poops. The pony doesn’t go. My mom takes a picture. She takes a picture with my camera. My mom laughs and laughs.

My mom laughs and says,

“Isabella, that’s normal. It’s not important.”
But I don’t want to ride a pony that pees. I don’t want to ride a pony that poops. This is a problem for famous people. I don’t want to take a picture of the pony. I do not take a picture of the pooping pony.

My mom and I go on another bus. This is my favorite bus. It’s my favorite bus because I don’t throw up on it. It’s my favorite bus because two people with guitars get on the bus. I take pictures of the two people with guitars. Everyone on the bus looks at me because I am taking pictures of the guitar players on the bus. I prefer buses with music. I sing along with the guitar players. In my opinion, I sing very well. Everyone on the bus looks at me. They look at me because I sing so well. I want to be famous. I practice a lot. I practice so that I can be famous.
Chapter Five:

The Shoe Store

One day my mom goes into the shoe store. She wants more shoes. My mom has lots of shoes, but she wants more. It’s an obsession. My mom has a problem. She has an addiction. My mom says, “I want to buy shoes. Do you want to buy shoes, too? You need more shoes.”
In my opinion, shoes are ridiculous. I tell her, “No, thank you. Shoes are ridiculous.”
“Okay, Isabella. Sit down for ten minutes.”
In my opinion, sitting down is ridiculous, too. I sit down… for one minute.
I see a mom on the street. I see a mom and four kids and a baby. I see a big family.
I stand up. I want Howard the family.
The mom says to me, “My baby doesn’t have any shoes. Do you have money so that I can buy shoes for my baby?”
I look at the family’s feet. The mom doesn’t have shoes. The baby doesn’t have shoes. The four kids don’t have any shoes. I take a picture of their feet. I take a picture of the baby’s feet.
I am sad because the family doesn’t have shoes. The children walk in the street, but they don’t have shoes.
Shoes are ridiculous for me. Shoes are ridiculous for me because I have so many shoes. Shoes are not ridiculous for the family without shoes. The family doesn’t have any shoes. The family has a problem. They need shoes. Perfect! I have an idea! I yell at my mom in the shoe store.

“Mom? Does that shoe store have shoes for kids? I want to buy new shoes.”

Chapter Six:

My mom says,

“That’s a great idea, Isabella!”

I go in the store. The family goes into the shoe store, too. My mom looks at the family. My mom looks at me. My mom looks at me with really big eyes. She looks at me for a minute. I take a picture of my mom. I take a picture of the expression on my mom’s face.

My mom looks at the kids. My mom says to the mom of the family,

“Hi. My name is Elizabeth Huffman. It’s nice to meet you.”
I look at the little girl and say,  
“My name is Isabella. Would you like new shoes?”  
The girl says,  
“Yes.”  
The boys don’t say anything at all.  
The show salesman gives new shoes to everyone in the family. I take pictures of the shoes. The shoes don’t cost a lot. My mom only has to pay forty pesos!  
My mom laughs. She says to me,  
“Isabella, you are a special little girl. Do you want some shoes, too?”  
I tell her,  
“That’s ridiculous, mom. I have a lot of shoes. I have red shoes. I have blue shoes. I have shoes for school. I have party shoes. I don’t need shoes. Shoes are ridiculous. But that family doesn’t have any shoes. So shoes aren’t ridiculous for them.”
My mom and the family and I walk to the market. We all eat tostadas in the market. The food in the market is really good. They prepare it in the middle of the market. The tortillas are really good. I eat two tostadas. The other kids also eat two. The tostadas are good, but I like ice cream better. We go to the ice cream shop and we buy ice cream for everyone. I take pictures. I take pictures of the ice cream. The kids and I wash our hands in the bathroom at the ice cream shop and we eat a lot of ice cream. Ice cream in Mexico is really good. All the kids have chocolate ice cream, but I have mango ice cream.

I think about the family a lot. The kids didn’t talk a lot. The mom didn’t talk a lot. The family didn’t have a lot of money. Normally, the family doesn’t eat ice cream. Normally, the family doesn’t eat beans and tortillas in the market. Normally, the family doesn’t eat very much at all, I don’t think.
Chapter Eight:

The Bakery

One day, I walk with my mom. We walk down the street. I see a bakery. Mmmmm! Sweet bread is so good. My mom and I go into the bakery. I take pictures of the “pan dulce.”

My mom says, “Isabella, sit down for a minute.”

My mom buys sweet bread. She talks to the person in the bakery. My mom buys sweet bread and talks and talks and talks. The woman in the bakery says, “There are new puppies at the vet’s office.” My mom buys sweet bread, but I don’t sit down. I run to the vet’s office as fast as I can.
Chapter Nine:
The Vet’s Office

I run to the vet’s office. I see a piece of paper in the window. I read, “Puppies need a new home.” I go into the office. I see three little puppies on the ground. The puppies are playing with two little boys. “Hi. My name is Isabella. What’s your name?” One of the boys says, I’m Carlos. Carlos is nine and a half years old. He has dark hair and brown eyes. The other boy is named Jorge. Jorge is five years old. He has dark hair and brown eyes, too. I look at the puppies and ask, What are the puppy’s names? Jorge tells me, They are named Fleas, Gaby and Sam. I take pictures of Fleas, Gaby and Sam.
Chapter Ten
Sam

I sit down on the floor with the puppies. I play with the puppies with Carlos and Jorge. The puppies run around. One little puppy jumps on my belly. I laugh. I want one of the puppies. I sit and play with the puppies. The vet tells me that there are a lot of puppies in Guanajuato. The puppy’s mom abandoned them. The puppies need a new home. Carlos says to Gaby, “Sit.” Gaby sits. I take a picture of Gaby. Jorge says to Fleas, “Sit.” Fleas sits. I take a picture of Fleas. I tell Sam, “Sit, Sam.” Sam does not sit. Sam runs. My mom comes into the vet’s office. My mom is not happy. She looks at me. I am sitting on the floor with the puppies. “I want a puppy, Mom!
All of the puppies are fabulous, but I prefer Sam. I want to adopt Sam. Sam runs to my mom. Sam jumps on my mom. He is the perfect puppy. He’s a perfect puppy, but he doesn’t sit. Fleas sits. Gaby sits. Sam does not sit. My mom looks at me. She looks at the puppy. I am sitting on the floor of the vet’s office. “What a surprise!” my mom says. “The puppy doesn’t sit. The Puppy doesn’t sit, but Isabella is sitting like a normal little girl.” The vet laughs. Carlos laughs. Jorge laughs. I sit on the floor of the vet’s office and play with my new little puppy. I take pictures of Sam and Sam runs. Right then a photographer comes into the vet’s office. The photographer is from the Guanajuato newspaper. The photographer has a camera. He has a big camera. He is a famous photographer from the Guanajuato newspaper. He takes pictures
of Carlos and Jorge and the three puppies and me. The photographer takes a picture for the Guanajuato newspaper. He takes a picture with his big camera.

I am famous. My picture is in the Guanajuato newspaper. I am more famous than the President. I am more famous than an actress. I am more famous than a pirate.

I am Isabella, the famous.

I have an idea. I don’t want to be the President. I don’t want to be an actress. I don’t want to be a pirate.

I want to be a famous photographer.

I want to be the famous photographer, Isabella.

Isabella, the really famous photographer.

Isabella and Sam.

My new puppy Sam is the perfect adventure for a really famous photographer like me.

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Go to www.fluencyfast.com/Isabela for information on future Isabela adventures, pictures or to contribute suggestions or ideas.

Las aventuras de Isabela is set in Guanajuato, Guanajuato, Mexico. Amigos de los Animales is a local organization that rescues stray dogs in the city. To see pictures of other rescued dogs, go to http://www.amigosanimalesgto.org/.

English copies of this book are available for free to teachers of English as a foreign language in countries other than the U.S. and to ELA teachers in the U.S. for classroom use. To download copies, go to www.fluencyfast.com/isabela.cfm.