



Hollins Grad Wins United Kingdom's Top Literary Award

Kiran Desai is the youngest woman ever to receive the prestigious Man Booker Prize

Kiran Desai, a 1994 graduate of Hollins University's master's program in creative writing, has been named the winner of the 2006 Man Booker Prize for Fiction, one of the world's most esteemed and influential awards in literature.

The Indian-born Desai was honored for her second novel, *The Inheritance of Loss*, which she began writing while still a student at Hollins. At age 35, she is the youngest woman ever to win the award and the first since 2000.

"The Man Booker Prize is, second only to the Nobel Prize, the most prestigious international literary prize in the world," said Hollins Professor of English Richard Dillard.

Hermione Lee, who chaired the judging panel for this year's award, called *The Inheritance of Loss* "a magnificent novel of humane breath and wisdom, comic tenderness and powerful political acuteness." Acclaimed author Salman Rushdie, a past winner of the Booker Prize, described Desai as "a terrific writer."

Now in its 38th year, the Man Booker Prize rewards the best novel of the year written by an author who is a citizen of Britain, Ireland, or the Commonwealth group of mostly former British colonies. In addition to Rushdie, other prominent winners include Margaret Atwood, Iris Murdoch, and V.S. Naipaul.

As part of the award, Desai will receive £50,000, or about \$93,000.

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