

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
Stuart Blackburn, Ph.D.

KIRAN DESAI

Born September 3, 1971, Chandigarh, India

Biography

Kiran Desai is the daughter of the well-known novelist Anita Desai. She was born in India and was educated there, in Poona and Bombay, until her family moved to England when she was a teenager. From England, they moved again to the US, where she graduated from a prestigious women's college in 1993. She went on to earn a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) from Columbia University in New York. She then withdrew from graduate studies to devote herself to full-time writing. Her first novel, *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard* (1998), is written in the style of other Indian novelists, particularly the magical realism of Salman Rushdie and the small-town melodramas of R K Narayan. She took several years, living in various places in the US and India, to complete her second novel, *The Inheritance of Loss*, which won the Booker Prize in 2006.

Achievements Kiran Desai won the Betty Trask Award in 1998 for her first book, followed by the Booker Prize in 2006 for her second novel. At 35, she was the youngest ever winner of the Booker Prize. *The Inheritance of Loss* also won the Orange Prize and the National Book Critics' Award (US).

Works

Novels

Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard, 1998
The Inheritance of Loss, 2006