**The Inheritance of loss**

**BY**

**Kiran Desai**

**CHARACTERS**

"The Inheritance of Loss" is a novel by Indian author Kiran Desai, published in 2006. The story is set in the Indian Himalayas and the United States and explores the lives of several characters who are connected in various ways. Some of the key characters in the novel include:

1. **Biju:** Biju is the young Indian cook who goes to the United States to seek a better life. He faces the challenges of being an undocumented immigrant and works in various restaurants. His experiences in the United States are a central part of the novel.
2. **Sai:** Sai is the granddaughter of the judge and is studying at a local school. She falls in love with Gyan, a Nepalese insurgent, and their relationship becomes a significant part of the story.
3. **The Judge:** The judge is Sai's grandfather, a retired and embittered Indian judge who is living out his days in a decaying house in the Himalayas.
4. **Gyan:** Gyan is a Nepalese insurgent and teacher who becomes romantically involved with Sai. His political beliefs and the insurgency play a central role in the novel.
5. **Lola:** Lola is the judge's sister, who lives in the United States. Her life is a contrast to the judge's, as she has achieved success and independence in the West.
6. **Noni:** Noni is the judge's cook and caretaker. She plays a maternal role in Sai's life and is involved in the household's daily affairs.

These characters' stories intersect and intertwine as the novel explores themes of identity, cultural conflict, love, and the impact of globalization on the lives of individuals in a changing world.

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**Summary**

[*The Inheritance of Loss*](https://www.gradesaver.com/the-inheritance-of-loss) is author [Kiran Desai](https://www.gradesaver.com/author/kiran-desai)'s second novel, published in 2006 by Atlantic Monthly Press and Hamish Hamilton. The Inheritance of Loss won numerous accolades, including the 2006 Booker Prize, the 2006 Vodafone Crossword Book Award, and the 2007 National Book Critics Circle Award for fiction.

The novel explores the intergenerational impact of colonialism on a diverse cast of characters against the historical backdrop of the 1986 Gorkhaland Movement in Darjeeling. Told through an omniscient third-person perspective, The Inheritance of Loss follows [Biju](https://www.gradesaver.com/the-inheritance-of-loss/study-guide/character-list#biju), an illegal immigrant attempting to survive in New York City, and [Sai](https://www.gradesaver.com/the-inheritance-of-loss/study-guide/character-list#sai), an orphan living with her Anglicized and abusive grandfather in the isolated Himalayan village of Kalimpong.

Critics praised Desai's artful exploration of complex themes like multiculturalism, intergenerational trauma, and post-colonialism. In 2020, Emma Lee-Potter of The Independent named The Inheritance of Loss one of the 12 best Indian novels "everyone needs to read."