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JHUMPA LAHIRI

Pulitzer Prize-winning Author of *Interpreter of Maladies*

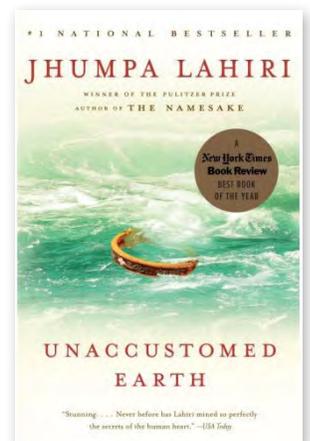


Photo: Elena Selbert

Jhumpa Lahiri received the Pulitzer Prize in 2000 for *Interpreter of Maladies*, her debut story collection that explores issues of love and identity among immigrants and cultural transplants. With a compelling, universal fluency, Lahiri portrays the practical and emotional adversities of her diverse characters in elegant and direct prose. Whether describing hardships of a lonely Indian wife adapting to life in the United States or illuminating the secret pain of a young couple as they discuss their betrayals during a series of electrical blackouts, Lahiri's bittersweet stories avoid sentimentality without abandoning compassion.

"There is nothing accidental about her success; her plots are as elegantly constructed as a fine proof in mathematics."

— The New York Times



Jhumpa Lahiri's novel *The Namesake* was published in the fall of 2003 to great acclaim. *The Namesake* expands on the perplexities of the immigrant experience and the search for identity. The narrative follows the Gangulis, an Indian couple united in an arranged marriage, as they build their lives together in America. Unlike her husband, Mrs. Ganguli defies assimilation, while their son, Gogol, burdened with the seemingly absurd name of the long-dead Russian writer, awkwardly struggles to define himself. A film version of *The Namesake* (directed by Mira Nair) was released in 2007. Lahiri's most recent book of short stories, entitled *Unaccustomed Earth*, received the 2008 Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award (the world's largest prize for a short story collection) and was a finalist for the Story Prize. She contributed the essay on Rhode Island in the 2008 book *State by State: A Panoramic Portrait of America*. Her next book, *The Lowland*, will be published in Fall 2013.

"She has talent—magical, sly, cumulative—that most writers would kill for.."

—The Guardian

Born in London, Lahiri moved to Rhode Island as a young child with her Bengali parents. Although

they have lived in the United States for more than thirty years, Lahiri observes that her parents retain “a sense of emotional exile” and Lahiri herself grew up with “conflicting expectations...to be Indian by Indians and American by Americans.” Lahiri’s abilities to convey the oldest cultural

conflicts in the most immediate fashion and to achieve the voices of many different characters are among the unique qualities that have captured the attention of a wide audience.

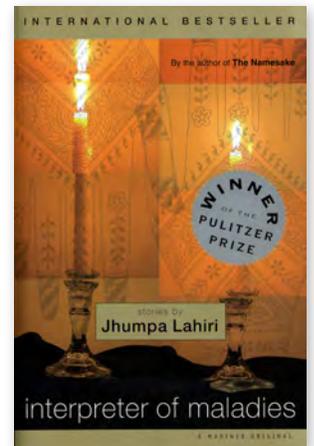
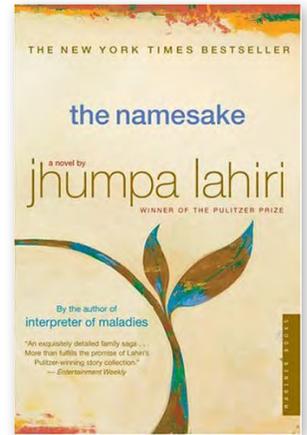
Alongside the Pulitzer Prize, Jhumpa Lahiri also won the PEN/Hemingway Award, an O. Henry Prize (for the short story “Interpreter of Maladies”), the Addison Metcalf Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Vallombrosa Von Rezzori Prize and the Asian American Literary Award. Lahiri was also granted a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2002 and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in 2006.



Photo: Elena Seibert

“Powerful... Lahiri is a genius of the miniature stroke and the great arc.”

—Chicago Tribune



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