



NEW NOVEL ABOUT ARRANGED MARRIAGE CONTINUES TO COLLECT AWARDS

- Richard and Judy short-listed 2006
- The Big Red Read 2008
- National Reading Hero 2008 (see photograph)
- Nominated for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize 2009

Sarah Brown with author Hema Macherla at Downing Street

THE NOVEL

Breeze from the River Manjeera tells the story of the engaging Neela who arrives in England as a bride for the brutal Ajay. The life that awaits Neela is a far cry from her hopes and expectations. Treated worse than a servant by her in-laws, and unwanted by her husband, she finally escapes in search of independence and freedom. The novel explores in a personal, moving way the issues around the deep-rooted traditions of arranged marriages and the struggle for young women like Neela to find love and happiness.

THE AUTHOR

Hema Macherla was born in the rural village of Atmakur, Andhrapradesh, India. She came to the UK in 1977 speaking very little English. She lives with her husband in London and has two grown up children. She has published 25 short stories and a number of articles in Indian magazines. This is her first novel.

Reviews

Very vivid and evocative...Neela's story is heartfelt and intriguing.

Sara Turner, Commissioning Editor, Pan Macmillan.

A beautiful love story with a strong theme...

Lesley Horton, Crime Novelist.

Plenty of twists and turns to keep the reader hooked.

Maggie Hamand, Novelist and Publisher.

It's refreshing to see a writer tackling challenging, and indeed often distressing themes; female disempowerment, the dangers of ignorance, and the clash of cultures and expectations.

Anna South, TLC, The Literary Consultancy.

