

Through "The White Tiger," Aravind Adiga illustrates the struggles faced in today's Indian society with a scintillating story. The story revolves around Balram Halwai, a bright boy from a remote village, who depicts the bigger picture of poverty, apathy and inequalities ingrained in the nation. Fearlessly and frankly, Adiga puts together a story that has definitely appealed to many readers, hence gaining widespread popularity as a contemporary classic and winning the well-sought-after Man Booker Prize. The depiction of rural India and its ugliness in the novel is unapologetic, which is one of the aspects that makes this novel stand out. There are many instances in Balram's childhood where there are sufferings from poverty, helplessness from the illiteracy, and the constant tension due to the presence of the caste system. We see here that Adiga does not sugar-coat the truth there; the everyday life of the lower class is filled with crime, dishonesty and exploitation. This kind of straightforwardness has resulted in both the good and the bad, with some readers arguing that they found the image that the novel presents of India to be overwhelmingly negative and dreary in nature. Nonetheless, it is this type of brutal honesty that has ever made "The White Tiger" such an exquisite masterpiece of contemporary literature.