

GRANTA

For more than ten years *Granta* has published the winners of the Commonwealth Prize on our website. *Granta* editors have no control over the selection of the Commonwealth Prize stories, and nor are they involved in choosing the jury. This year, there has been speculation that Jamir Nazir's winning story, 'The Serpent in the Grove', may have been at least partially AI-generated.

We showed Claude.ai the story and asked whether it was AI-generated. The response was long, concluding that it was 'almost certainly not produced unaided by a human'. It ended, however, on a cautious note:

'The strongest evidence against pure AI authorship is the small number of passages that *don't* fit the pattern – particularly the Zoongie morning-greeting and the agricultural paragraph about the acre. Those passages carry the kind of off-shape specificity that models still struggle to produce unprompted. If the story has a human core, it is concentrated there, and the AI has been used to elaborate around it . . .'

The intention of the Commonwealth Short Story Prize is to find writers from around the Commonwealth and bring them to global attention. It may be that the judges have now awarded a prize to an instance of AI plagiarism – we don't yet know, and perhaps we never will know. There is, however, a certain irony in the fact that beyond human hunches AI itself is the most efficient tool we have for revealing what is AI generated. But the AI-generated critique of these Commonwealth writers – more than one has been accused of basing their story on AI material – may conceivably itself reflect AI bias. Time will tell. The suggestion that writers have submitted material not authentically their own is a charge we take seriously, but until the Commonwealth Foundation comes to a definite conclusion, we will keep these stories on our website.

Sigrid Rausing
Publisher of *Granta*

12 Addison Avenue, Holland Park, London W11 4QR
Tel + 44 (0)20 76051360 / Fax +44 (0)20 7605 1361
www.granta.com

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