

We are pleased to announce that Irfan Master, a former Masters student from the Department of Information Science, has had his first young adult novel published by Bloomsbury. Entitled *A Beautiful Lie*, the book was recently shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and is set in India in 1947 at the time of Partition. The main character is Bilal, a boy determined to protect his dying father from the news of Partition - news that he knows will break his father's heart. With a lot of spirit and determination, and with the help of his good friends, Bilal persuades others to collude with him in this deception, even printing false pages of the local newspaper to hide the ravages of unrest from his father. All that Bilal wants is for his father to die in peace. But that means Bilal has a very complicated relationship with the truth...



Reviews of the book include:

`Powerful and thought-provoking ... This is a stunning debut novel by a new author who deserves all the praise that should now come his way' – *The School Librarian*

`Bilal's love and care for his father is touchingly told in a rich and accessible narrative ... He is a writer with much to offer' – *Books for Keeps*

`It has a strong plot and manages to combine serious themes with moments of humour' – *Welovethisbook.com*

Irfan successfully completed an MA in Information and Library Management in 2004. He has also worked as project manager of Reading the Game at the National Literacy Trust.