



**PRESS RELEASE**

**24 April 2026**

**12 June 2026, 7 pm, Hall 2**

**Talk and Lecture**

**Tickets 16/8 Euro: [humboldtforum.org](https://humboldtforum.org)**

**German Book Premiere: Booker Prize–winning author Kiran Desai presents her new novel *The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny***

**Kiran Desai, one of India’s most important literary voices, presents *The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny*, a sweeping family epic set between India and the United States. The event will be held in English, with readings in German.**

Sonia studies literature in Vermont; Sunny works as a journalist in New York. When they meet on a night train traveling through their native India, they fall in love—unaware that their grandparents once intended to arrange a marriage between them. While Sonia still carries the weight of a difficult past relationship, Sunny struggles with his chaotic family. Drawn into the swirl of their family histories, caught between tradition and modernity, they refuse—even years later—to give up their search for happiness together.

Kiran Desai was awarded the Booker Prize in 2006—the most prestigious literary award in the United Kingdom—for her novel *The Inheritance of Loss*. With *The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny*, Desai has now written a moving love story.

“(…) Desai moves masterfully between her characters (…), a brilliant novel about loneliness in a complicated world where troubles lurk around every corner.” (Antonia Leise, WDR)

At the Humboldt Forum, Kiran Desai talks with Robin Detje, the translator of her book. Selected passages are read in German by him. Afterwards, there is an opportunity to purchase the book and have it signed.

The conversation takes place in English.

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*The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny* was shortlisted for the 2025 Booker Prize and named one of the ten best books of the year by *The New York Times*.

The book was published on March 25, 2026, by S. Fischer.

An event presented by the **International Literature Festival Berlin (ILB)** in cooperation with the **Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss** und dem **Verlag S. Fischer**.

The 25th ILB takes place from September 3 to 12, 2026.

**More information** and **Tickets:** [humboldtforum.org](https://humboldtforum.org)

**Press images:** [humboldtforum.org/en/press](https://humboldtforum.org/en/press)

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