

Esi Edugyan



Photo courtesy of [BBC News](#)

At the age of thirty-four, quite young for a famous novelist, she's just won the Scotia Bank Giller Award. What a boost for the career of Victoria writer [Esi Edugyan](#). The competition for the prize is very steep. Receiving it meant she beat out the likes of Lynn Coady (*The Antagonist*) and [Michael Ondaatje](#) (*The Cat's Table*).

Edugyan's winning novel, [Half-blood Blues](#), was originally slated to be published by Key Porter, but the company collapsed a few months ago and she had to seek a new publisher, Thomas Allen. The book, already a bestseller before the prize was announced, was also nominated for the [Man Booker](#) International Prize.

Edugyan's parents immigrated to Canada from Ghana and she was born in Calgary. *Half-blood Blues*, which portrays black musicians living in Nazi Germany, was inspired in part by time she spent as a writer in residence in Stuttgart. Not surprisingly, she's also a fan of the blues.

Edugyan's first novel, [The Second Life of Samuel Tyne](#) (Knopf Canada 2004) also did very well.

Though I haven't read her work yet, I'm confident that Esi Edugyan is definitely a writer we'll be hearing more about.