

GALLEY TALK

■ Diane Garrett, Diane's Books, Greenwich, Conn.

I was dazzled, and readers will be, too. Joanna Hershon's *A Dual Inheritance* (Ballantine, May 7) gets my vote for best book of the year, hands down. It reminds me of *The Great Gatsby* and Amor Towles's *Rules of Civility*. The reader walks into two lives: that of Hugh, a Boston Brahman leading



"A classic in the making."

a life of privilege, and that of Ed Cantowitz, a penniless, unapologetic, and ambitious kid on a scholarship to Harvard. The novel begins in 1963. Ed and Hugh are separated by class but strangely connected. Hershon (*The German Bride*) follows these two lives for several decades, filling the pages with gorgeous texture, elegant structure, and powerful, masculine prose. I fell in love with Ed and Hugh—cheered for them, wept for them, and I was sadly reminded of the ever-present curse of race and class. There is no doubt in my mind that this is Hershon's most accomplished novel, and in my opinion, a classic in the making!