

The Interior: A Red Princess Mystery (Red Princess Mysteries)

By Lisa See



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“See paints a fascinating portrait of a complex and enigmatic society, in which nothing is ever quite as it appears, and of the people, peasant and aristocrat alike, who are bound by its subtle strictures.”

–*San Diego Union-Tribune*

While David Stark is asked to open a law office in Beijing, his lover, detective Liu Hulan, receives an urgent message from an old friend imploring her to investigate the suspicious death of her daughter, who worked for a toy company about to be sold to David’s new client, Tartan Enterprises.

Despite David’s protests, Hulan goes undercover at the toy factory in the rural village of Da Shui, deep in the heart of China. It is a place that forces Hulan to face a past she has long been running from. Once there, rather than finding answers to the girl’s death, Hulan unearths more questions, all of which point to possible crimes committed by David’s client. Suddenly Hulan and David find themselves on opposing sides: One of them is trying to expose a company and unearth a killer, while the other is ethically bound to protect his client. As pressures mount and danger increases, Hulan and David uncover universal truths about good and evil, right and wrong—and the sometimes subtle lines that distinguish them.

“[See] illuminates tradition and change, Western and Eastern cultural differences. . . . All this in the middle of her thriller which is also about greed, corruption, abuse of the disadvantaged, the desperation of those on the bottom of the food chain, and love.”

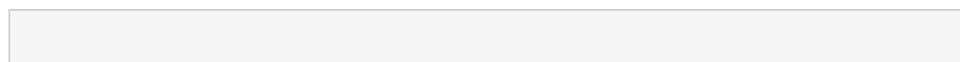
–*The Tennessean*

“Sophisticated . . . graceful . . . See’s picture of contemporary China’s relationship with the United States is aptly played out through her characters.”

–*Los Angeles Times*

“Immediate, haunting and exquisitely rendered.”

–*San Francisco Chronicle*



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

In our world, two years have passed since the publication of *Flower Net*, Lisa See's debut in thriller fiction, but as *The Interior* begins, only a few months have passed since Liu Hulan, a detective in Communist China's Ministry of Public Security, and U.S. Attorney David Stark first teamed up to catch a murderer--and rekindled their old love affair. Now, as David struggles to find a way to get back to China--or convince Hulan to move to America--Hulan goes to the village of Da Shui at the request of an old friend whose daughter has been murdered. Initial evidence suggests that it may have something to do with the nearby factory owned by an American toy manufacturer, where hundreds of Chinese women are working in sweatshop conditions. Meanwhile, David's old law firm has suddenly offered him an opportunity to head its new Beijing office, where one of his first duties will be to help one of the firm's corporate clients complete his purchase of the toy company. See's descriptions of daily Chinese life, both in Beijing and the far outposts of the country, are richly detailed. But the novel's even greater strength lies in the contests of will between David and Hulan and their various adversaries--as well as between each other, as Hulan struggles against what she perceives as a threat to her independence, and David must withhold critical information from his partner because it comes from one of his clients. While it certainly helps to have read *Flower Net*, *The Interior* is a surefooted exotic thriller in its own right, which will undoubtedly earn Lisa See as many new fans as the old ones it pleases.

From Publishers Weekly

As in her debut novel, *Flower Net*, the strength of See's work here is in her detailed and intimate knowledge of contemporary China, its mores, its peculiar mixture of the traditional and the contemporary, and its often bedeviled relationships with the U.S. Here again are American lawyer David Stark and his Chinese lover, police investigator Liu Hulan; they become involved in the issue of working conditions among women in an American-owned toy factory in rural China. A highly promising and original notion. Stark's law firm wants him to supervise the buyout of the American entrepreneur who launched the toy company, while Liu is called in by the mother of a factory worker who seems to have committed suicide. What actually happened to her, and why? It seems inevitable that the lovers will be pulled in different directions by their opposing interests, and soon Liu has introduced herself into the factory as a worker, while Stark's deal, important to his career, begins to unravel. So far, so good; but as the action becomes increasingly violent, with another girl's sudden death at the factory, gunplay, a deathly sick Liu struggling to survive, and a climactic fire that takes hundreds of lives (a calamity treated almost as an afterthought), it becomes apparent that See has plotting problems. Many story threads seem to disappear, the action scenes are stagy and unconvincing, and the David-Liu relationship never seems to generate much real warmth. A pity, because until the melodrama takes over, much here is original and fresh, an absorbing look at an unfamiliar world. Agent, Sandra Dijkstra. 6-city author tour. (Oct.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Female police detective Liu Hulan travels from Beijing to Da Shui to aid an old friend, Ling Suche, whose daughter has died. Suche believes her daughter, who worked at an American toy factory, was murdered. As Hulan goes undercover in the factory, she soon learns how women there are treated like slaves--and possibly murdered. In a strange coincidence, Hulan's American boyfriend, attorney David Stark, comes to China to help negotiate the sale of the toy factory to a huge conglomerate. How Hulan, David, and Suche join forces is exciting and interesting, but the novel does, at times, seem long and wordy, due to the digressions of an

annoying omniscient narrator. What ultimately redeems this thriller is the unflinching portrait it paints of modern-day China. *Jenny McLarin*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Richard Reid:

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The guide with title *The Interior: A Red Princess Mystery (Red Princess Mysteries)* contains a lot of information that you can discover it. You can get a lot of advantage after reading this book. This kind of book exists new knowledge the information that exists in this book represented the condition of the world now. That is important to you to learn how the improvement of the world. This kind of book will bring you in new era of the global growth. You can read the e-book on the smart phone, so you can read that anywhere you want.

John Tovar:

This *The Interior: A Red Princess Mystery (Red Princess Mysteries)* is great publication for you because the content which is full of information for you who else always deal with world and also have to make decision every minute. That book reveals its info accurately using great arranged words or we can point out no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are reading that hurriedly you can have whole facts in it. Doesn't mean it only provides straight forward sentences but difficult core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having *The Interior: A Red Princess Mystery (Red Princess Mysteries)* in your hand like having the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no publication that offers you world inside ten or fifteen tiny right but this book already does that. So, it is good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt that?

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