



Photo Credit: Patricia Williams

ABOUT LISA SEE

In her beloved *New York Times* bestsellers *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*, *Island of Sea Women*, *Peony in Love*, *Shanghai Girls*, *Dreams of Joy*, and *China Dolls*, Lisa See has brilliantly illuminated the strong bonds between women. These books have been celebrated for their authentic, deeply researched, lyrical stories about Chinese characters and cultures. Ms.

See's new novel, *Lady Tan's Circle of Women*, is inspired by the true story of Tan Yunxian—a woman born in the 15th century who became a doctor of women and girls. *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* is not only a captivating story of women helping women, but it is also a triumphant reimagining of a woman who was remarkable in the Ming dynasty and would be considered remarkable and inspirational today. Barnes & Noble has chosen the novel for its nationwide June 2023 Book Club and Target has chosen it for its August 2023 Book Club.

Ms. See has always been intrigued by stories that have been lost, forgotten, or deliberately covered up, whether in the past or happening right now in the world today. For *Snow Flower*, she traveled to a remote area of China—where she was told she was only the second foreigner ever to visit—to research the secret writing invented, used, and kept a secret by women for over a thousand years. Amy Tan called the novel “achingly beautiful, a marvel of imagination.” Others agreed, and foreign-language rights for *Snow*

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Flower were sold to 39 countries. The novel also became a *New York Times* bestseller, a Booksense Number One Pick, has won numerous awards domestically and internationally, and was made into a feature film produced by Fox Searchlight.

Ms. See was born in Paris but grew up in Los Angeles. She lived with her mother but spent a lot of time with her father's family in Chinatown. Her first book, *On Gold Mountain: The One Hundred Year Odyssey of My Chinese-American Family* (1995), was a national bestseller and a *New York Times* Notable Book. The book traces the journey of Lisa's great-grandfather, Fong See, who overcame obstacles at every step to become the 100-year-old godfather of Los Angeles's Chinatown and the patriarch of a sprawling family.

While collecting the details for *On Gold Mountain*, she developed the idea for her first novel, *Flower Net* (1997), which was a national bestseller, a *New York Times* Notable Book, and on the *Los Angeles Times* Best Books List for 1997. *Flower Net* was also nominated for an Edgar award for best first novel. This was followed by two more mystery-thrillers, *The Interior* (2000) and *Dragon Bones* (2003), which once again featured the characters of Liu Hulan and David Stark. This series inspired critics to compare Ms. See to Upton Sinclair, Dashiell Hammett, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Ms. See has led an active and varied career. She was the *Publishers Weekly* West Coast Correspondent for thirteen years. As a freelance journalist, her articles have appeared in *Vogue*, *Self*, and *More*, as well as in numerous book reviews around the country. She wrote the libretto for Los Angeles Opera based on *On Gold Mountain*, which premiered in June 2000 at the Japan American Theatre and was remounted in the Chinese Garden at the Huntington Library and Gardens in 2022. She also served as guest

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curator for an exhibit on the Chinese-American experience at the Autry Museum of Western Heritage, which then traveled to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., in 2001. Ms. See then helped develop and curate the Family Discovery Gallery at the Autry Museum, an interactive space for children and their families that focused on Lisa's bi-racial, bi-cultural family as seen through the eyes of her father as a seven-year-old boy living in 1930s Los Angeles. She has designed a walking tour of Los Angeles Chinatown and wrote the companion guidebook for Angels Walk L.A. to celebrate the opening of the MTA's Chinatown metro station. She also curated the inaugural exhibition—a retrospective of artist Tyrus Wong—for the grand opening of the Chinese American Museum in Los Angeles.

Ms. See was honored as National Woman of the Year by the Organization of Chinese American Women in 2001, was the recipient of the Chinese American Museum's History Makers Award in 2003, and received the Golden Spike Award from the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California in 2017. She sits on the boards of Los Angeles Opera, The Music Center, the 1871 Chinese Massacre Foundation, and the Trusteeship—an organization comprised of preeminent women of achievement and influence in diverse fields.

Ms. See lives in Los Angeles. To learn more, please visit her web site at www.LisaSee.com. You can also follow her adventures on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

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