



Dragon Bones: A Red Princess Mystery (Red Princess Mysteries)

By Lisa See

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In a magnificent land where myth mixes treacherously with truth, one woman is in charge of telling them apart. Liu Hulan is the Inspector in China's Ministry of Public Security whose tough style rousts wrongdoers and rubs her superiors the wrong way. Now her latest case finds her trapped between her country's distant past and her own recent history.

The case starts at a rally for a controversial cult that ends suddenly in bloodshed, and leads to the apparent murder of an American archaeologist, which officials want to keep quiet. And haunting Hulan's investigation is the possible theft of ancient dragon bones that might alter the history of civilization itself.

Getting to the bottom of ever-spiraling events, Hulan unearths more scandals, confronts more murderers, and revives tragic memories that shake her tormented marriage to its core. In the end, she solves a mystery as big, unruly, and complex as China itself.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The controversial construction of a massive dam on the Yangzi River is the backdrop for the latest adventures of Liu Hulan, inspector in the Ministry of Public Security in Beijing, and her husband, American lawyer David Stark, familiar to readers of *Flower Net* and *The Interior*. Many years in construction, the Three Gorges Dam will benefit millions of people, but it will also bury untold archeological wealth. At the start of this complex, atmospheric thriller, Hulan is emotionally estranged from David after their young daughter's death from meningitis, for which she blames herself. Officially, she is scrutinizing a reactionary cult, the All-Patriotic Society, when she is sent to investigate the murder by drowning of a young American archeologist, a man who may have stolen ancient artifacts from the dam site. David accompanies her and they begin to repair their relationship, but the body count mounts and the sinister All-Patriotic Society leader, Xiao Da, rallies his followers against the dam. The tension reaches the breaking point at an auction in Hong Kong at which the most precious artifacts are offered for sale; soon after, Hulan and David are fighting for their lives in dark, slimy-walled caves alongside the Yangzi. The melodramatic conclusion has none of the elegance of the prologue, which casually but exquisitely notes the progress of the archeologist's decaying body along the river, through narrows and bays beyond the magnificent gorges. But See succeeds in widening the reader's knowledge about the politics and culture of contemporary China while racing along with an absorbing story.

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From School Library Journal

Adult/High School-In their third outing, which can be read independently of *Flower Net* (1998) and *The Interior* (1999, both HarperCollins), Inspector Liu Hulan of the Chinese Ministry of Public Security and her American husband, attorney David Stark, are sent from Beijing to the Three Gorges Dam construction site. The plot involves searching for a written record of 5000 years of continuous civilization in China, an ancient myth, the smuggling and sale of valuable artifacts in Hong Kong, the murder of several members of an international crew of archaeologists, and the increasing popularity of a Falun-Gong-like cult, all set against the backdrop of the largest engineering project ever. Some actions in the last 50 pages call for suspension of disbelief, but up to that point this is another good read, especially for Sinophiles. There is one caveat: all of the Chinese speak with double meanings and are smart and crafty, while almost all of the Americans are portrayed as naive, obvious, stupid, or all three until the very end of the book.

Judy McAloon, Potomac Library, Prince William County, VA

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From Booklist

See's third international thriller featuring Chinese inspector Liu Hulan and her American husband, attorney David Stark, finds the couple's marriage on rocky ground after the death of their daughter. When Hulan is assigned to investigate suspicious deaths at an archaeological site near the construction of the controversial dam at Three Rivers Gorge, and David is assigned by the Ministry of Culture to investigate the possible theft of artifacts from the same site, it seems like a chance for the couple to spend some much-needed time together away from Beijing. But what is really going on at the site proves to be much more complicated than it appears--smuggling, religious cults, strange scientific discoveries--and David and Hulan find their lives as well as their marriage on the line. Like See's previous novels, this one is wordy, the dialogue a bit stilted. The sheer amount of information she conveys about historical and modern-day China, though, makes it worthwhile, and the plot is convoluted but fascinating. *Carrie Bissey*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Christine Willis:

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive now, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice by simply surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a book your ability to survive enhance then having chance to stand than other is high. For you who want to start reading some sort of book, we give you this kind of Dragon Bones: A Red Princess Mystery (Red Princess Mysteries) book as nice and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Charlie Bowers:

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Benjamin French:

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