Join us for a discussion with authors Susan Straight and Lisa See as they discuss Straight’s recent memoir, *In the Country of Women*.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2019 | 7:30 P.M. | ROTHENBERG HALL | THE HUNTINGTON**

Free, reservations required: huntington.org/susan-straight

A reception and booksigning follow the program.

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**SUSAN STRAIGHT** has published eight novels, including *Highwire Moon*, *Between Heaven and Here*, and *A Million Nightingales*. She has been a finalist for the National Book Award, the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, and the National Magazine Award. She is the recipient of the Robert Kirsch Award for lifetime achievement from the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, the Edgar Award for Best Short Story, the O. Henry Prize, the Lannan Literary Award for Fiction, and a Guggenheim Fellowship. Her stories and essays have been published in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Guardian*, *Granta*, *McSweeney’s*, *Black Clock*, *Harper’s*, and other journals. She is Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing at the University of California, Riverside. She was born in Riverside, where she lives with her family.

**LISA SEE** is The New York Times bestselling author of *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*, *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, *Peony in Love*, *Shanghai Girls*, *China Dolls*, and *Dreams of Joy*, which debuted at #1. She is also the author of *On Gold Mountain*, which tells the story of her Chinese American family’s settlement in Los Angeles. See has also written a mystery series that takes place in China. Her books have been published in 39 languages. See was the recipient of the Golden Spike Award from the Chinese Historical Association of Southern California and the History Maker’s Award from the Chinese American Museum. She was also named National Woman of the Year by the Organization of Chinese American Women.

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*In the Country of Women* is a valuable social history and a personal narrative that reads like a love song to America and indomitable women. In inland Southern California, near the desert and the Mexican border, Susan Straight, a self-proclaimed book nerd, and Dwayne Sims, an African American basketball player, started dating in high school. After college, they married and drove to Amherst, Massachusetts, where Straight met her teacher and mentor, James Baldwin, who encouraged her to write. Once back in Riverside, at driveway barbecues and fish fries with the large, close-knit Sims family, Straight—and eventually her three daughters—heard for decades the stories of Dwayne’s female ancestors. Some women escaped violence in post-slavery Tennessee, some escaped murder in Jim Crow Mississippi, and some fled abusive men. Straight’s mother-in-law, Alberta Sims, is the descendant at the heart of this memoir while other women from Straight’s family reflect the hardship and resilience of women pushing onward—from Switzerland, Canada, and the Colorado Rockies to California.