

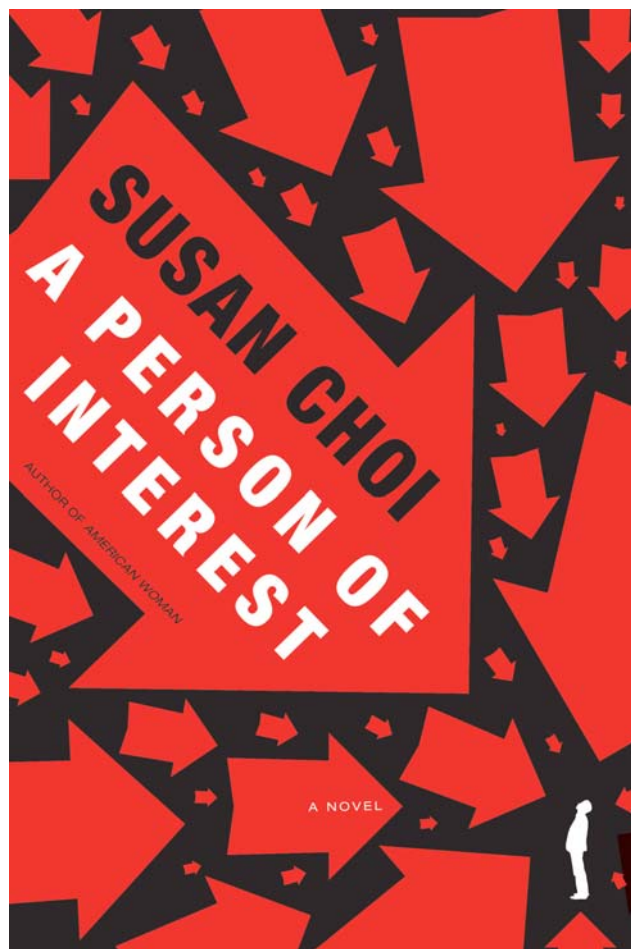
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From an acclaimed novelist, an emotionally complex and riveting story of suspicion, innocence and regret

A PERSON OF INTEREST

By Susan Choi



★“Choi combines elements of the Wen Ho Lee accusations and the Unabomber case to create a haunting meditation on the myriad forms of alienation . . . Choi’s reflections from Lee’s gruffly brittle point of view are as intricate and penetrating as the shifting intrigue surrounding the bomb. The result is a magisterial meditation on appearance and misunderstanding as it plays out for Lee as spouse, colleague, exile and citizen.”
—*Publishers Weekly* (Starred)

★”Lee . . . is mesmerizing in his ineptness and anguish. Subtle humor, emotional acuity, and breathtaking plot twists keep this tale of wounding secrets rolling as Choi’s brilliant calculus of revelation and forgiveness delivers a triumphant conclusion.” —*Booklist* (Starred)

A 2004 finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in fiction for the novel *American Woman*, Susan Choi has for the past several years been heralded by writers and critics—including Jhumpa Lahiri, Joan Didion and Sven Birkerts—as an American novelist to watch. A writer of technical mastery, great insight, lyricism and breathtaking confidence, Choi has created a complex and timely tour de force. **A PERSON OF INTEREST** (Viking; On-Sale Date: February 4, 2008; ISBN: 978-0-670-07846-8; 368 pages; \$25.95) is a novel of big ideas, authentic characters and taut, propulsive narrative drive.

As she did in *American Woman*, Choi begins her novel with a scene so explosive it feels like the events are unfolding in front of you. In this case, the explosion is real. When a mail bomb detonates in the office of a hotshot professor—who happens to occupy the office next to the book’s protagonist, Professor Lee—Lee is hailed as a hero simply for surviving the attack. Word spreads quickly that the culprit must be the “Brain Bomber,” a technology-hating psychopath reminiscent of Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski. As the frenzy around his Midwestern campus swells into full-blown hysteria, Lee receives a disturbing letter from a figure in his past, and he soon becomes convinced that the bombing of his neighbor was actually an act of revenge against him. As Lee starts to obsess about his botched relationships with his friends and family, his failings as a friend, husband and father begin to consume him. He rues his relationships with Lewis Gaither, a former colleague and friend from graduate school; his now-deceased ex-wife Aileen, with whom Lee fell into an affair and ultimately a fraught marriage; his wayward stepson Pete and his absent daughter Esther. And as his odd behavior escalates, the FBI, Lee’s colleagues and, soon, his entire community begin to suspect him of the act of terrorism.

In this lush, psychologically acute novel, the outwardly mundane Professor Lee truly becomes a person of interest—not only as he relates to the government’s investigation, but also as a moving study in isolation and misunderstood emotions. Innocent though he may be of the bombing, he is nevertheless guilty of the more insidious emotional crimes that cost him his most important relationships. The slender—but real—chance for redemption propels his determined pursuit for both the truth behind the bombing and what peace may lie at the end of his more personal investigation of his past.

About the Author: Susan Choi was born in South Bend, IN and grew up in Houston, TX. Her second novel, *American Woman*, was a finalist for the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for fiction. She is also the author of *The Foreign Student*, winner of the Asian-American Literary Award for fiction, and the coeditor with David Remnick of the anthology *Wonderful Town: New York Stories from The New Yorker*. A recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, she is 38 years old and lives in Brooklyn.

A PERSON OF INTEREST

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On Tour with Susan Choi:

The Asia Society	New York, NY	February 1, 2008
New York State Writers Institute	Albany, NY	February 12, 2008
Politics & Prose	Washington, DC	February 18, 2008
Stacey’s Bookstore	San Francisco, CA	February 20, 2008
Brookline Booksmith	Boston, MA	February 25, 2008
Barbara’s Bookstore	Chicago, IL	February 28, 2008

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