

# BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS

## A Mother and Daughter Review Two Mysteries

Susan Avery and her 10-year old daughter, Emily, give them thumbs up.

### Daughter's Thoughts

The Emperor's Pendant is a truly wonderful book. Built with suspense and cliffhanger scenes, the author, Steve Whan, shows it all in this enchanting book. Great for all readers, I suggest this book strongly for children adopted from China.

Autumn Jade, a bright-eyed, head-strong 12-year old lives near Vancouver, BC. Her best pal is Adam and her "girl friend" is Vannassa. The story revolves around two friendships – Adam's and Vannassa's and Autumn's and Adam's. Autumn has been trying forever to locate the jewelers that sold her parents her purple dragon pendant that they got for her when she was adopted. Her father finds the jeweler and, of course, Autumn wants to figure out more about it.

They also meet up with old Mrs. Lynn Lee from a previous book. She brings them to her friends in Chinatown and asks Autumn to show the pendant to a friend of hers. A minute later his son comes in and says that somebody was listening to their conversation and knocked him over. They think that "somebody" is after the pendant. Autumn, her friends and her family set out on an adventure of a lifetime.

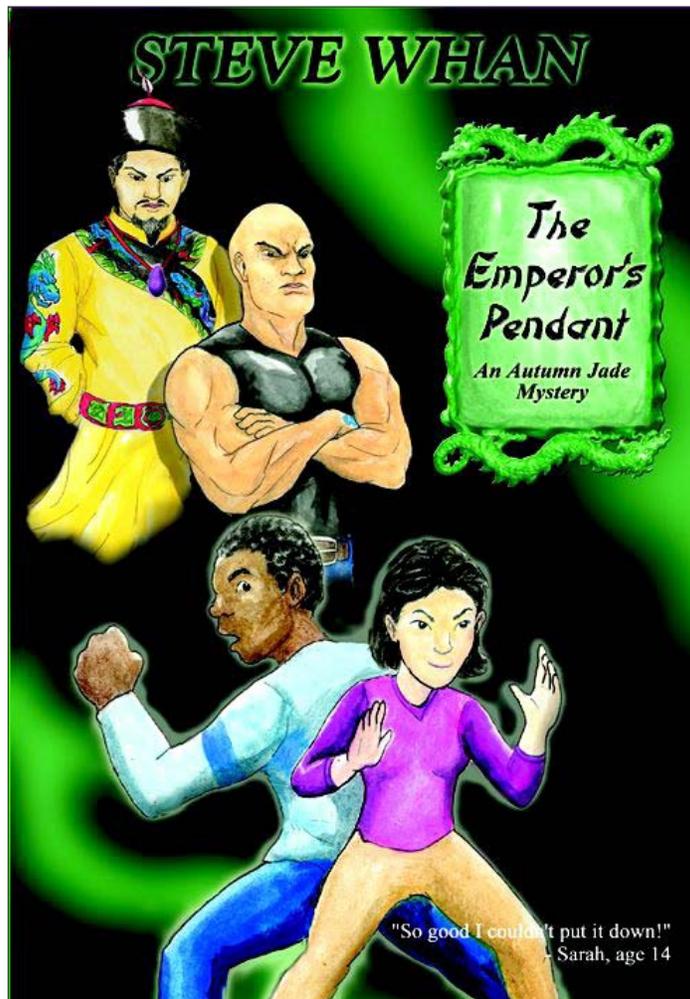
Two thumbs up! I would definitely read this book. – Emily Holmes

### Mom's Thoughts

The Emperor's Pendant is the second (and so far the last) in the Autumn Jade mystery series for chapter-book readers. "Bullets on the Bund" is the first. They fit in well with the many book series available now for such readers. The protagonist, Autumn Jade, is a pre-teen Chinese adoptee. With her friend Adam she solves mysteries, aided by dreams she has of 1930's Shanghai. The books are well written, and were quickly devoured by my 10-year old daughter, Emily. They cover some explicit adoption material (abandonment, in particular), so I

recommend that parents read the books along with their children in case some issues arise.

The author is an adoptive dad himself, and he wrote these books to provide a literary role model for our children. He has done a great job. It is wonderful to have a series feature a girl so like my own daughters. At our house, we are eagerly awaiting the next Autumn Jade installment. – Susan Avery



Susan Avery is a long time member of the FCC/NE board and handles membership. She and her husband, Joe Holmes, live in Acton with their three children who have been adopted from China. Emily Holmes, their oldest, is 10 years old.