



Adoption Toolbox Book Review

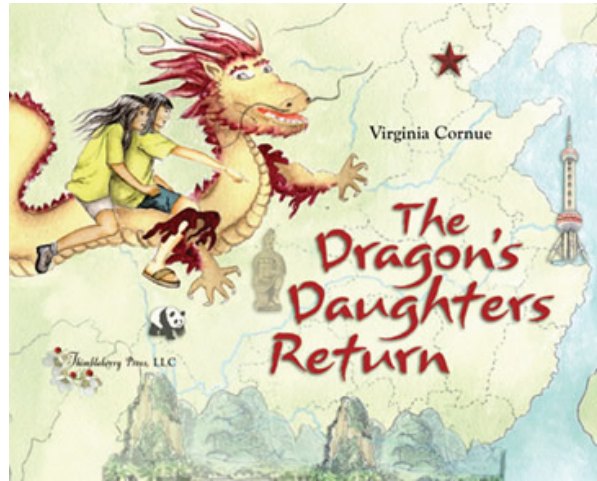
The Dragon's Daughters Return

by Virginia Cornue

Published by Thimbleberry Press

www.thimbleberrypress.com

All Ages



Personable, friendly and down-to-earth, ***The Dragon's Daughters Return*** follows a group of China adoptive families through a "root-seeking summer camp" homeland visit sponsored by the Chinese government. Gorgeously illustrated with full-color photographs, the book captures the essence of a group heritage tour with pics of what you literally do witness on a trip back.

The book's title is appropriate; in Chinese, *Long Nu Hui Xiang* translates to *The Dragon's Daughters Coming Back* or *Returning Home*. The "Dragon's Daughter" (or *Long Nu*) writes author Cornue, "is a classic robin hoodesque martial artist famous in Chinese folk tradition. Having lost her parents at a young age Long Nu is "adopted", raised and trained by a woman Wushu (martial arts) adept."

The book's colorful scrapbook approach ties together China's old traditions and rapid, new growth, while interspersing the illustrations with nuggets of travel advice and interesting cultural facts. At 96 pages, *The Dragon's Daughters Return* is not an ordinary photo essay--it is a family homeland tour experience from adoptive mom Virginia Cornue, Ph.D., who has conducted ethnographic research in China for over fifteen years. As Cornue states in her Introduction:

"...we all wish for our special Daughters of the Dragon to feel rooted and confident, happy and whole, strong and clear-sighted. This book will give all you Daughters of the Dragon wherever you live, a chance to re-live your return experience or dream about going while you continue forging strong inner connections and enduring ties to the land of your birth and the country of your upbringing."

Reviewed by Jean MacLeod

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