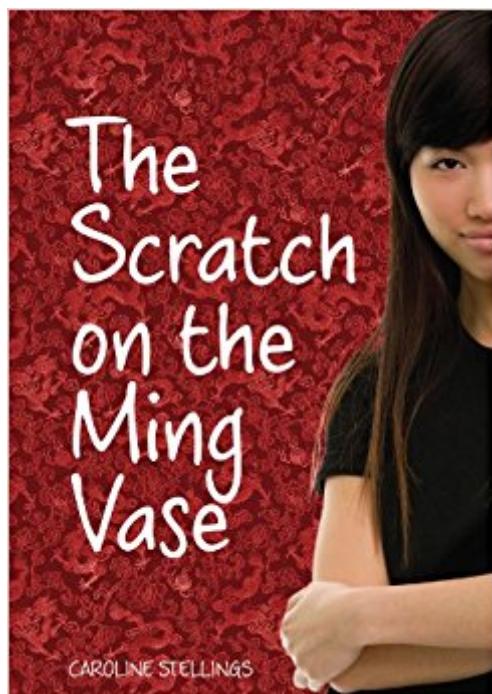


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# The Scratch On The Ming Vase: A Nicki Haddon Mystery



## **Synopsis**

Born in China, Nicki was left in an orphanage before being adopted by a wealthy North American family. Now sixteen, Nicki divides her time between Hawaii and Ontario. All set to train with her kung fu Grand Master, she reports to his studio only to find him stabbed and near death. As he lapses into a coma, he begs her to find a priceless Ming dynasty vase that once belonged to Pu Yi, the boy emperor. Over seven days of danger and deception, Nicki will rely on her wits, her martial-arts training and some unexpected alliesâ "including Fenwick, the family butlerâ "to uncover the criminal mastermind behind the plot to steal the vase. Along the way, she will begin to wonder about the mystery of her own past and the family she left behind in China.

## **Book Information**

Series: A Nicki Haddon Mystery (Book 1)

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 8 - 12

## **Customer Reviews**

The Scratch on the Ming Vase is a real page-turner...it's all good fun and readers will love it. Enjoy!! I think that The Scratch on the Ming Vase is a promising start for a good series. The Scratch on the Ming Vase is especially great for the younger YA crowd. This one is all about the action and mystery surrounding the missing Ming vase. I really liked the story. Nicki was such a fun character to be around...She was smart, whimsical, and kick-butt. The Scratch On The Ming Vase: A Nicki Haddon Mystery by Caroline Stellings is a good mystery-adventure story. Nicki Haddon, the adopted child

of wealthy North Americans and former kung fu champion, sets off to train at the Fire Dragon Academy. When Nicki arrives at the studio, she finds her kung fu master stabbed and bleeding. Before the police arrive, David Kahana, her stabbed kung fu master, asks her to find a Ming vase in his hotel room. Nicki realizes that the Ming vase she has been asked to find has been replaced and from there onwards, Nicki intends to solve this mystery. For someone who has read many mystery stories, I found this book one of the best mystery stories I've ever read. The way Nicki Haddon is characterized in this book makes the story fun; she sleuths around and uses her kung fu skills quite a lot. I find Nicki Haddon very similar to Nancy Drew because both characters go on adventures to solve mysteries. I strongly recommend this book to teens. Not only is this story amusing it is also action-filled. Yet this story also has a serious, mature side such as mentions of murder and suicide attempts. It has all the makings of a great thriller. For someone who has read many mystery stories, I found this book one of the best mystery stories I've ever read.

Nancy Drew wishes she had these martial arts skills.

Sixteen year-old Nicki Haddon arrives in Canada, ready to begin her training at the Fire Dragon Academy. But when she reports to the academy to meet kung fu master David Kahana, Nicki finds him lying in a pool of blood. He is only able to slur out a few words and begs Nicki to find a priceless vase and return it to its owner. The search for the Chinese vase causes Nicki to question her past. She wrestles with the absence of her wealthy adopted parents as they manage their hotel chain, and her origin as an abandoned baby from a Chinese orphanage. Are her real parents still out there? Do they think of her at all? Bravely facing danger and following sharp instincts, Nicki pursues Kahana's attacker and the Ming vase. Along the way, she receives help from the butler, another Chinese family and the generous owners of a small deli. Together, they will find the vase and return it to its owner, as Master Kahana has asked. This is a fun mystery story, a great one for a middle reader to begin with in exploring the mystery genre. The story is pretty straightforward, but definitely interesting enough to keep readers guessing what will happen next. The second book in the series should be available next spring. It's already on the list of books my daughter would enjoy.

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