

Reader's Guide and Book Club Questions for *The Adamantine Jewel*  
(**Spoiler Alert:** These questions contain plot reveals)

- 1) **In the first section, *Call to Adventure***, you are introduced to the primary characters. Who are they?
- 2) What would you say David's strengths are and why?
- 3) Does David have any shortcomings? Please explain.
- 4) Why did David become a cultural paleologist (and teaches a class on paleo-thanatology)?
- 5) David's daughter April has just started college as a freshman at UCLA. Who is her new friend and what do they have in common?
- 6) What is April's primary strength? Her weakness?
- 7) Serenity has a painful secret she is keeping. What is it?
- 8) What is the one thing billionaire William Goldman wants?
- 9) Why did Jack Rogue kill the security guard at the medical building?
- 10) Who is Charles Blackheart and what are his primary motivations?
- 11) Who is on the board of directors and what are their areas of expertise?
- 12) **In the second section, *Road of Trials***, who is the magical helper that shows up and what do you like most about him?
- 13) What is the prophecy?
- 14) Where must they journey to receive the healing they seek?
- 15) When did the Bön religion start, what is its basic premise, and who are the peaceful and wrathful deities?
- 16) What is the secret mantra and what benefits are attributed to chanting it?
- 17) What does Serenity daydream about?
- 18) Who is Mr. Xao and what question does he ask to confirm Jack Rogue is who he says he is? How does Jack reply?
- 19) **In the third section, *Garden of the Gods***, do you believe the Lama has magical powers, or just uses psychology, placebo elixir potions, and the power of suggestion to effect healing? Or a combination of both?
- 20) How did it make you feel when David was willing to give up his life to save his daughter?
- 21) Who is the blue goddess and what purpose does she serve for April?
- 22) **In the fourth section, *Healing Shield of the Angels***, who are the animal spirit helpers and what are their roles?
- 23) What do you think about Rogue seeking redemption? Do you agree with the compassion and help Mahakala gives him?
- 24) What does the Hollywood sign and antenna on top of Hollywood Mountain represent where the epic battle between good and evil takes place?
- 25) **In the fifth section, *Freedom to Live***, are the thirteen visionary initiatives believable for the future? Why or why not? Can you think of any other visionary initiatives you would like to see for the New Earth?
- 26) How do you feel about the plot twist and cliff hanger in the final chapter? Would you likely or not so likely read the next novel in this series to find out what happens?
- 27) How does this story reflect the archetypal hero's journey as proposed by mythologist Joseph Campbell?