



Tutankhamun: The Book of Shadows

By Nick Drake

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“I’m glad that Rahotep, the policeman from *Nefertiti: The Book of the Dead*, has had a second outing. The central figure is the best known Egyptian of them all, Tutankhamun, and Nick Drake has written an engaging and convincing account of this doomed figure and the loyal and dogged Rahotep, the ‘seeker of mysteries’.” — *Bookseller* (London)

In this gripping central novel in Nick Drake’s Egyptian trilogy—following the critically-acclaimed *Nefertiti*—savvy detective Rahotep investigates a terrifying plot against the great Egyptian King Tutankhamun... a murderous plan, shocking in scope, that threatens to unravel the entire Egyptian empire.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. At the start of Drake's superlative middle book in his ancient Egypt trilogy (after *Nefertiti*), Rahotep, the chief detective in the Thebes police force, visits a horrific crime scene. Someone has mutilated a young man and removed his eyes—and possibly pacified him with narcotics during the assault. When the killer strikes again, Rahotep wonders if the murders may be connected with efforts to destabilize the regime of the young Tutankhamun. The ruler's foes include Ay, the regent who effectively runs the country, and Horemheb, commander of the country's armies. Rahotep must tread carefully to identify the parties behind both the killings and the threats to Tutankhamun without jeopardizing his life and the lives of his family members. Drake seamlessly introduces a serial killer plot line into his vivid evocation of the past. Admirers of such great historical novelists as Robert Graves and Mary Renault will hope that he continues working in the field after concluding this series. (*July*)

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From [Booklist](#)

This fine historical mystery follows up *Nefertiti* (2007), which introduced the ancient Egyptian detective Rahotep. Tutankhamun, the young pharaoh, has achieved adulthood and is poised to assume control of the vast empire of Egypt. But a series of savage murders, not to mention ominously veiled threats, points to a plot aimed at ending the new pharaoh's reign rather sooner than he intended. It's up to Rahotep to defuse the plot before it destroys the pharaoh and the empire. There are other mystery series set in ancient Egypt—those by Lynda Robinson, Lauren Haney, and P. C. Doherty, for starters—but there's always room for one more, at least if it's as colorfully written as this one is. This is the second volume of a projected trilogy, but readers may find themselves hoping Drake will keep turning out Rahotep novels long after he finishes number three.

--David Pitt

From the Back Cover

As Egypt's young king is crowned, a vicious killer waits in the shadows. . . .

Egypt's next Pharaoh, the young Tutankhamun, is ready to claim his birthright—a vast, powerful, and sophisticated empire. It should be at the height of its glory, but it is troubled by long-lasting foreign wars, public dissent, and internal struggles. With his new wife, Ankhesenamun, the daughter of Nefertiti, Tutankhamun undertakes an audacious plan to consolidate his power and return tolerance and enlightenment to his land. But not everyone wants the ambitious new Pharaoh to succeed, and soon sinister "gifts" begin appearing in the royal palace—evil objects designed to terrify the nineteen-year-old King.

Rahotep, the stalwart chief detective of the Thebes division, is summoned to the palace to investigate. As he begins to piece together the clues, he realizes that the mysterious gifts have much in common with a series of sadistic murders plaguing the city. Rahotep's determination to protect the vulnerable King and Queen makes him a target, too, and he is soon enmeshed in a web of intrigue and danger that reaches from the top command of the army to the dark heart of the empire's government. What he discovers will change his life and put everything he loves at risk.

In this compelling second novel, set against the dazzling splendor of the golden age of the Pharaohs, Nick Drake takes an imaginative and historically accurate look at one of the most fascinating reigns in ancient history. Drawing on the latest archaeological evidence, he crafts a sophisticated and gripping thriller that

explores one of the greatest unsolved mysteries of ancient Egypt—the untimely death of young Tutankhamun.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Viola Waters:

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