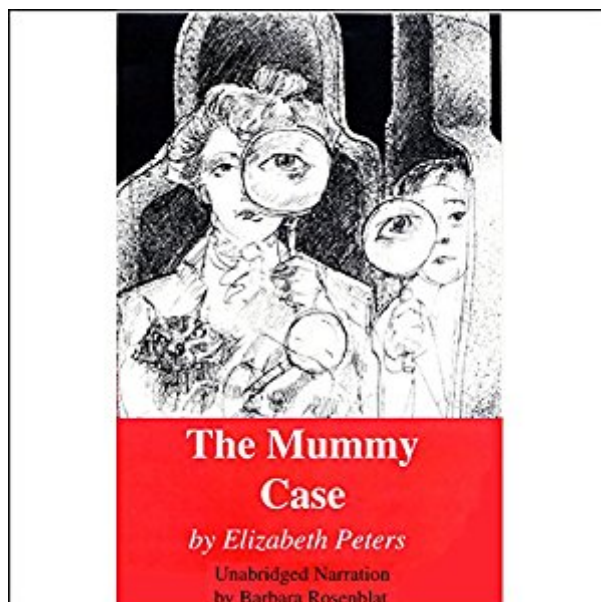


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The Mummy Case: The Amelia Peabody Series, Book 3



Synopsis

The indomitable Amelia Peabody and her husband, known to many as "the Father of Curses", are into archaeology and mischief again. This third in the series brings the reader once more into Egypt and the shady world of black market antiquities. The winter excavation season has hardly yet begun when Amelia stumbles onto what looks suspiciously like a ring of thieves. Amelia's not the type to take no for an answer, and pretty soon the Emerson family (Master Ramses, a prodigious young intellect is joining his parents for the first time) is tracking down a character known only as The Master Criminal. Or is the Master Criminal tracking them?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Mummy Case is the third in the series of Amelia Peabody mysteries, which are set in turn-of-the-century Egypt and England. Amelia is a staunch believer in the superiority of all things British, and her husband is an archaeologist with a mission (namely to save the antiquities of Egypt from the clutches of untrained archaeologists and unscrupulous antiquities dealers). All of the Peabody mysteries are tongue-in-cheek tributes to the mystery genre in general and English female detectives in particular. The Mummy Case is the most enjoyable of the first three mysteries, in large part because we get to know the Emersons's four-year old enfant terrible--Walter Peabody Emerson, nicknamed "Ramses." Ramses already knows Coptic, Arabic, German, French, and the modern methods of archaeology. While his parents stumble about trying to find out how the death of a Cairo antiquities dealer is related to the mummy case of a German baroness and a village torn

between an evangelical American missionary and the ancient Coptic church, Ramses quietly goes about solving the puzzle before either one of them. Ramses is a fantastic addition to the Emerson family, and only increases the reader's enjoyment. The mysteries are not the main thing in these books; the development of highly individualistic characters is.

This remains one of the funniest books I've ever read. It's probably my favorite Amelia Peabody (Next to Lion in the Valley) Oh how I wish Peters hadn't let Amelia's son Ramses grow up so quickly. In later books, his character (while interesting) has evolved into the standardized tall, dark and handsome leading man beloved of all historical mystery writers. But oh, what a fiendishly (not to mention, hysterically funny) atrocious little boy he is in these early books. I love his lisp! I love the way Peters sets his longwinded conversations with the lisp in tact. If you read them aloud, they're even funnier. What a deranged little genius. And speaking of deranged, what about his father, the most famous archeologist of his or any other time, Radcliffe Emerson? I love Amelia, I really do, but one of the main reasons I read and reread these books, is the inspired lunacy of her husband. Whenever I'm depressed, I pick up The Mummy Case or one of the other early Peabodys and I'm sent back to turn of the century Egypt and the intrepid Amelia and her zany family. DON'T read these for the mysteries, although there certainly is one in every book, instead read these for the ingenious characters and the inspired lunacy of plot. This is satire in its best form. Fun. Fun. Fun. I'm wondering if Elizabeth Peters now regrets setting these books in 'real' time. I believe she should've held on to the earlier years of the Emersons a bit longer. I'm also wondering why this wonderful series hasn't been snapped up by Hollywood. If I could, I'd option them myself.

are giving her fits! First there is her handsome, brilliant husband, Radcliffe Emerson, the eminent Egyptologist who finds himself once again being dragged away from his work by Amelia's escapades. Then the mysterious Master Criminal again wrecks havoc in the lives of the Emersons and their friends. The most exasperating 'man' in Amelia's life, however, turns out to be her precocious son 'Ramses'. By the time most children are struggling with their ABCs Ramses can both speak and read several languages including Arabic and was well versed in the family vocation of Egyptology. The Emersons set out for another season digging for ancient Egyptian artifacts but soon find themselves swept up by a series of more modern mysteries and adventures. The most charming aspects of this series are the hilarious Emerson family. Amelia and her tendency to overestimate her abilities, and Emerson and his tendency to underestimate them, are both confounded by their son's talents to keep them both struggling to keep up. Ramses has a speech

impediment (affectation?) that the author uses, I believe, to remind the reader that he is very young. The first few times it appears this device is rather cute but it does begin to wear thin after a time. He does outgrow it later in the series so bear with it for now. His precociousness brings a smile to anyone who can recall putting one over on an adult and bit of chagrin to any parent who has had a child put one over on them. I love this series, particularly watching the characters grow and change with the times. The mysteries are intriguing, the action exciting and the comedy is delightful.

Elizabeth Peters is a first class storyteller. Her novel is chock full of fascinating Egyptology wrapped up in an interesting detective story, with a humorous characters that will keep you laughing as you sympathize with their dilemmas. With adventures galore this is a page turner you won't want to put down and you will search for the next book in the series to keep up with the Peabody-Emerson family in Egypt.

I love the wit, tongue-in-check, character development (even the cats). One of a long series of the Amelia Peabody Emerson family saga encompassing many years in Egypt from late 19th century through and after WWI with Amelia getting married, having a son (delightful words from him) and grandchildren in the series.

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