



## Winged Pharaoh

*Joan Marshall Grant*

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As a child, the astonishing Joan Grant became aware of her uncanny "Far Memory," the ability to recall past incarnations who had lived in long-ago times and far-flung places. Her seven historical novels stand out for their vividness and rich detail. For Joan, these books were not works of the imagination but personal recollections of her previous lives. In *Winged Pharaoh*, Joan Grant tells the story of Sekeeta, the Pharaoh's daughter. The ancient Egyptians reserved the title of "Winged Pharaoh" for ruler-priests who possessed extra-sensory powers. When Sekeeta demonstrates psychic abilities, she is sent to the temple and trained to recall past lives. Upon the death of her father, she becomes a "Winged Pharaoh" - both priestess and Pharaoh - and leads her country with enlightenment. The most famous of Joan Grant's "Far Memory" novels, this book brings the grandeur, beauty, and mystery of ancient Egypt to life. Upon *Winged Pharaoh's* original publication in 1937, the New York Times called it "an unusual book that shines with fire."

## Winged Pharaoh Details

Date : Published August 28th 2007 by The Overlook Press (first published 1938)

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Author : Joan Marshall Grant

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## From Reader Review Winged Pharaoh for online ebook

**MajinFox says**

### OPINIA Z 15 LUTEGO 2006

Tak mi si? spodoba? "Faraon", ?e si?gn??em sobie zaraz za nast?pn? ksi??k? o Egipcie. Nie jestem pewien, czy akurat dobr? sobie wybra?em, bo jest miejscami mocno nu??ca. Opowiada ca?e ?ycie Sekity, córki faraona. Od ogl?dania jako dusza ?wiat na który przyjdzie, do momentu wkroczenia do ichniego nieba. Ma pe?no dylematów, typu wyj?cie za m?? za swego brata, urodzenie dziecka rze?biarza, wst?pienie do ?wi?tyni i takie tam. Ró?ni si? od innych powie?ci tym, ?e w ka?dym rozdziale jest du?o filozofii na temat bycia Egipcjaninem. W wi?kszo?ci s? to ciekawe nauki, ale czasem tak nudne i jako? nie pokrywaj?ce si? z innymi ksi??kami tego typu, ?e a? m?cz?ce. Ogólnie fabu?a na plus, ale nauki mo?na by?o ograniczy? o 10%.

### OPINIA Z 20 CZERWCA 2011

By? to krótki okres fascynacji Egipcem. Bo po tej ksi??ce, ju? ?adnej nie tkn??em. Dzi? nie mog? ju? sobie przypomnie? jakiej? wi?kszej cz??ci fabu?y, pami?tam tylko, ?e nie by?a to jedna z tych ksi??ek, które trzymaj? przy swoich stronach. Nie by?a specjalnie m?cz?ca, ale te? nie stara?a si? utrzyma? czytelnika przy sobie za wszelk? cen?.

Pami?tam za to jak par? lat pó?niej, zauwa?y?em w autobusie pewn? kobiet? w ?rednim wieku, która czyta?a w?a?nie t? pozycj?. Zdziwi?o mnie, ?e w dobie Brownów kto? jeszcze si?ga, po tak zapomniane tytu?y. Podziwia?em jak szybko przewracaj? si? kartki i teraz dochodz? do wniosku, ?e mi?o?nicy kobiecej literatury byliby zachwyceni "Uskrzydlynym faraonem".

<http://www.majinfox.blogspot.com/>

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**Robbie Bruens says**

Finally it's over. This book was chosen by the book club I used to be a part of before I went abroad. It was picked on the basis of a DailyKos article about so-bad-they-are-good books, though the article said the book was actually good (so the article's writer contradicted his own stated purpose, the first red flag that this book might not be so worthwhile). The book is neither good, nor so-bad-it's-good, nor nearly as interesting as you might think considering the woman who wrote it truly believed that she was writing a memoir of one her 'past lives.' She apparently wrote a whole series of books about her 'past lives' that were somewhat popular in the 1930s. I dearly hope that those other books are better than this, because damn this one was a waste of time.

Okay, so she can write competent prose even if she ladles on many hundreds too many folksy, faux-Egyptian metaphorical aphorisms. But aside from that, there is nothing to praise in the whole book. The characters are dull, the story lacks all tension, and there are very few memorable images or ideas. It reads like Ancient Egypt fan fiction, with the first person narrator serving the role of Mary Sue - a character that is just way too perfect and clearly a stand-in for what the author wishes she was. I'm actually getting bored even writing about this dumb book, and if you can't get any joy out of tearing a bad novel to shreds than it really is

worthless.

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## **Nihil says**

This book was recommended to me, because of the dreaming elements, and probably not the sort of book I'd normally read. It's difficult to review this book in one way, because you really need to look at it in two lights. On the one hand, you have an Edwardian England-era novel about a romantic, metaphysical 1st Dynasty Egypt, in which the ruling class was extremely wise, poetic, and spiritually adept. On the other hand, you have the story of one of the author's past lives, which recounts many "authentic facts" about Egypt, circa 3000 BCE.

Taking this as only a novel, Joan Grant paints a colorful "what-if" of ancient Egypt. Grant's characters are wholly just and honest, well versed in the qualities of Karma and of reincarnation. While I couldn't call it a "page-turner" and, admittedly, I skimmed over some of the sections of poetry and song, because they weren't all that interesting, the book itself was actually pretty decent, and I did enjoy the story, as a whole. If I could rate it differently, I'd score it at a 3.5, because I really did like it a little more than just an "average" rating, but not quite enough to give it an above-average score. There are parts of the story that I quite liked, and other parts that just seemed rushed, but I rate it on the low end of the star scale because, overall, the whole book gave me a "noble savage" vibe, and, taken as a whole, the main character was just south of being a Mary Sue, and I was reminded of characters like Bella, from Twilight, who are basically flawless, except that they have a petty sort of flaw- except that in this case, the ruling class of the Egyptian people were basically portrayed as being nearly as flawless as the protagonist herself. They are very close to being wholly enlightened beings, which seems, I'll say, very unlikely of an ancient people.

There was never really a time in the story in which you could look at the main character, Sekeeta (AKA Merneith, which is her name as a priest of Anubis), and think that she ever really needed to get her act together if she wanted to be the hero, because she just IS the hero. Character flaws are so slight, you could easily overlook them, and maybe even walk away thinking she had none. Egyptians, people of the land of Kam, are exemplary, and people of other lands or unenlightened and ignorant, and ancient Kam itself is a shining beacon of what society and kingship could be, lost in the annals of history. But the story itself has appeal, and I read it in just over a week, because I found myself somewhat committed to finding out what happens next.

And we could just leave it there, if you liked, and maybe you'd be interested in reading a story about a girl who can travel through dreams, and who becomes pharaoh, and who protects her land from, presumably, Sumerians- if that sounds like a way in which you could spend a few hours, stop my review here and go read this book. It's decent.

Shifting over to the other aspect of this book, that these are the recovered memories of Joan Grant in her past life as a co-Pharaoh nearly 5000 years ago... it's hard to detach from this element of the novel once it's been attached. I wish I hadn't known that, because I think I could have then suspended my questions and just enjoyed the story... but, knowing that this was, by the way, supposed to be actual history... I couldn't help but latch onto things here and there, which seemed suspect, which distracts from the story itself quite a bit.

As I said, there's a major "noble savage" vibe permeating the book. These ancient Egyptians were INCREDIBLY fair, INCREDIBLY just, and just outright INCREDIBLE in nearly every aspect. If someone even slightly mocks another culture, the protagonist is here to shower you in tolerance... we don't even have that now! "Sure, these people are stupid and weird, but don't make fun!" Yes, history is full of cultural tolerance. So, Here you have a story written by a woman, against the backdrop of things like the Order of the

Golden Dawn, during a time of women's suffrage, writing a story about an empowered woman with major metaphysical elements- and all of this was "remembered" only a few decades after the tomb of Merneith was discovered by William Petrie (1900)... cursory information which could have been rounded up during a trip to the museum, which an affluent girl in Edwardian England may have found herself in once or twice. You also have the fact that Grant herself was married to an Egyptologist for a while...

There are, I think, things that Grant omitted from the story, not for omission's sake, but only because she didn't KNOW any differently. For example, during her trials to become a priest, Sekeeta encounters a Peruvian who cuts out human hearts as a sacrifice, and because of his sins, he's trapped in a sort of purgatory... and this sort of human sacrifice would have been unthinkable to Grant's Egyptians. The problem is, of course, that during the 1st Dynasty, Pharaohs were buried with servants. Sekeeta's father and brother were buried with servants in surrounding tombs (her father had 338, according to a cursory search around the internet, AND there were signs of strangulation... something I don't normally associate with a willing death), and it wasn't until long after Grant's tenure as Pharaoh that Egyptians started using symbolic statues... presumably because people were tired of dying/being murdered so that they could serve their dead king in the afterlife. The idea that they were dying to serve Pharaoh in the afterlife contradicts Grant's view of "her people's" view of the afterlife, to boot. Sekeeta, her brother, and her father... none of these people, according to the story, would be cool with strangling people once they (Pharaohs) died so that they had servants in the afterlife.

Sekeeta's child, Tchekeea, is explicitly a girl, her daughter, and though in the book, she may eventually reach the point where she dresses as a guy, more or less, the fact is that Den, the name that "Tchekkea" takes, is widely thought to have been a male, who ruled as pharaoh after Merneith, and her brother Djet ("Neyah" in the book). I feel like, if you lived it, you'd know whether your daughter was actually a son.

Look, I realize Grant didn't have access to the internet, and didn't really bother to fact-check what she wrote- she based her story on things she knew at the time, and her imagination, and I really don't want to rain on her parade, but when her forward states that she realizes horses haven't been proven to have existed in ancient Egypt, when horses feature heavily in her story, I knew we were in trouble on the reincarnation front.

If Grant were really pulling from past life memory, she would have been able to say things that were later proven to be factual, but instead she wrote a story that comes across as something written by a romantic who likes Egypt but doesn't know much about it. Not only do you have horses, you have Egyptians keeping rats as pets, domesticated lions, and frequent mentions of corn... It's my understanding that corn is Mesoamerican in origin, the grain of the Indians... and I don't know that I've ever heard of a corn God that didn't originate in North or South America, but apparently, Egypt was once full of corn.

Grant can tell you how long it takes to sail to Minoa, but can't accurately number the years "Meniss" ruled Egypt... Menes himself is up for a lot of debate, but I don't think anyone could look to Grant's writings and think that she's painted the final picture on Menes... Look, I realize that there really aren't a lot of records on the 1st Dynasty... maybe they had hover cars and could blow up each other's minds with psychic powers, and we'll never really know, but chances are not really in favor of any of that. I get the impression that Grant's imagination was much more instrumental in filling in history's gaps than actual recovered facts.

In the end, her past life mopes and moans about her brittle bones and gray hair at the ripe old age of 53, at the end of a book in which people in their 70's still traveled far from home on ships... and to me, it sounds like nothing more than a story someone might tell you over several nights as you lay in bed, just prior to sleep. An enjoyable story, but totally a story, crafted by imagination, and nothing else.

### **Patrick Niemeyer says**

I suggested this for my book club because I figured we should try something out of left field. I think this fits the bill. It's beautifully written, albeit a bit dry in places. The whole thing has this stately, formal feel to it, much like the Bible. So it took me a little while to warm up to it. But somewhere around the halfway mark (about when Sekeeta enters the temple and starts having visions), everything slid into place. This is not historical fiction, but rather a supposedly nonfiction account of what the author honest-to-God believed to be a past life. So if you're not interested in spirituality and reincarnation, this book is not for you. I don't believe in reincarnation, but went along with it anyway and was glad I did. The imagery is vivid, the moral and theological lessons challenging, and the depiction of an ancient time and place--whether accurate or not--never less than utterly convincing. I recommend it.

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### **Charlotte Ellestad says**

Helt fantastisk og meget speciel bog... jeg føler virkelig den fortælling er en sand udlægning af Egypten på faraos tid. Detaljerne er eminente! Skønt gammeldags sprog i den udgave jeg læste. (Dansk 1958)

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### **Tiffany says**

The concept of how she wrote her books sometimes overshadows the story itself. This was a well written and emotionally sensitive book. Sekeeta and her life in the Egyptian court completely enthralled me. She wrote the details with so much depth and meaning even if she had not lived this life before, she gives a great illusion to having lived the life in the court. I recommend the title to anyone who wants a good character based novel and has ever questioned reincarnation. I love it because it challenges my common perceptions and does it elegantly without forcing me to buy into any specific bias. A refreshing change from the common new age biases I've sloshed through in the past few years.

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### **Angella says**

I got this book in like a 1 bin somewhere in berkley about because I liked the cover which was different from this one. It had a pharoh head and some ancient Egypt type hiero-graphics (for lack of knowing how to spell, you get the idea)I stared to read it but the begining was slow. So I stopped and picked it up again aprox 5 years later. Once I got to the middle I liked it. Joan Grant's bio is really interesting she really believed in this book was a book of memories. I wonder how this book was recieved by the public in 1937

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### **Vicki Cline says**

This book was almost a fantasy, describing a perfect ancient Egypt, where Pharaoh is wise and kind and wants only the welfare of his people. Also, certain people are able to be trained to be clairvoyant, in order to see dangers for Egypt. This is the story of one of those people, Sekeeta, from her time as a spirit before being

born to the current Pharaoh, through her idyllic childhood, followed by her training as a seer, to her marriage to her brother, ending in her death and return to the spirit world. The language is very lyrical and somewhat soothing. It would sure be nice if there were a place like the one in the book.

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### **Jim Morris says**

I think Joan Grant is my new enthusiasm. One does not read, but is transported by. The writing is spare, simple, not a word missing or added or out of place.

She says these are not novels, but memoirs of previous lives that she can remember clearly. The book reads like truth.

I've already started *Scarlet Feather*.

Incidentally, I learned about Joan Grant from an interview with her publisher on *Open Minds* on [gaia.com](#).

This is a great show, and three times I've listened to five minutes of an interview, stopped the interview, ordered the book, and gone back to finish the interview.

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### **Miz Lizzie says**

Joan Grant wrote a number of books that were published as historical novels that she considered to be received memories of some of her past lives. *Winged Pharaoh*, the first of her "far memory books" was originally published in 1937. It is the story of Sekeeta, a priestess who ceremonially married her brother and co-ruled with him as Pharaoh in the First Dynasty in Egypt. It does read more like an autobiography than a novel. Though there are childhood adventures, epic battles, and even a romance, these events generally take a backseat to Sekeeta's dreams and spiritual beliefs and practices. As such, it is not a page-turning novel, but a fascinating metaphysical history of ancient Egypt. Anyone interested in dreams, ancient religions, and spirituality will find this a thought-provoking resource.

Book Pairings: *The Kind of Ata Are Waiting for You* by Dorothy Bryant and *The Fifth Sacred Thing* by Starhawk are both metaphysical novels that explore similar territories in a future setting.

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### **Raissa says**

This book is beautifully written, with descriptions that bring the setting to life. The trouble with it is its biographical format, with the tension in the book peaking in the narrator's adolescence. Since she lives to ripe old age, the latter chapters of the book are less compelling. It is perhaps the problem with having a protagonist who gains wisdom too early. There isn't sufficient conflict to keep you emotionally involved, and the new characters added were dealt with rather cursorily, so interesting as they and their lives were, it wasn't as compelling towards the end. A romance with one of her close relations and a minor character was thrown in abruptly. The last few chapters are pretty rushed, really and I think would have been okay if the author had taken more time in build-up and description as she did with the first half of the book. But then, I am not so keen on the typical biographical style, that is, a book whose organization is merely chronological relating of the events of someone's life; I like there to be a definite conflict to be centered on. I thought her yearning for romance that began in adolescence was it, but that petered out later.

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## James Norman says

The way in which Grant writes is lovely to say the least. Looking at it basically, her writing is very easy to follow, simple clear and concise. That said, she is greatly prone to use animals as metaphysical of Seeketa's development as a character. Personally I think this is clever, particularly with the fact that it offers a rather Darwinian angle to the story, and the rather clever irony, much displayed from the story of the arrogant monkey, that although humans have developed from animals, their characteristics are not so different. The stories that are forever being given to her by her older brother Neyah are very cleverly integrated narrative devices to show how they link to the life of her own. I must say, amongst all of that, what I find the most lovely about the book is that she teaches such lot about Egyptian symbols and gods, in such a way that it is charming and brings one to feel like they are a child listening and experiencing new levels of thinking, which subtly brings the reader to be put into the position that Seeketa is in, Whilst I think all of these are very charming features of the book, my one criticism of it at the moment would be that it is quite slow developing, Chapters 1 - 15 though pleasant to read, concentrate souky on Seeketa's life, which, while she is the protagonist, leaves very little room for everything else to be explored. However, it is still early days and looking from her notes about Babylon and Sumerian Egypt, I will be looking forward to continue reading it

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## Steven says

A really remarkable book, not for the story-line but simply for the wisdom it tells of within it's pages. This is the story of Sekeeta, child of the Pharaoh in 1st Dynasty Egypt (called Kam) who herself becomes joint Pharaoh. This is her story from birth to death, taking you through her childhood and into the Temple for training to become a Winged Pharaoh. How she fares as Pharaoh as well as a person. A vivid account of life as seen through the eyes and heart of one living there. After reading this it is easy to believe that Joan Grant really was seeing a past life and telling it as it was. If anyone has a fear of death then read this as it shows how life continues from one life to another. Death is but the release of the Spirit from an aged or broken body. Very highly recommended.

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## Mike S says

I really enjoyed this book very much. Before reading it I read *\_Far Memory\_* and *\_Many Lifetimes\_*, I enjoyed them both very much as well. While I take Joan at face value and think her ability to remember previous incarnations is legit, the story stands on its own.

A quote from her Wikipedia page applies, "Her first and most famous novel was *Winged Pharaoh* (1937). Grant shot to unexpected fame upon publication. The *New York Times* hailed it as "A book of fine idealism, deep compassion and a spiritual quality pure and bright as flame" a sentiment echoed in countless reviews the world over."

That is a great summary. It's just a great story. I look forward to reading it again in a few years.

Addendum: In her book Joan talks about her training as a priestess, and how she had to be shut away in a chamber for 4 days and nights, with 3 dropstones closing off egress. I just saw this today, 3 dropstones sealing access to chambers in pyramids!!

<http://www.livescience.com/55347-prim...>

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## Maureen says

One of my all-time favorite's

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