



# The Complete Royal Families of Ancient Egypt

*Aidan Dodson , Dyan Hilton*

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## **The Complete Royal Families of Ancient Egypt** Aidan Dodson , Dyan Hilton

This groundbreaking book illuminates the lives of some 1,300 kings, queens, princes, and princesses of ancient Egypt, unraveling family relationships and exploring the parts they played in politics, cultural life, and religion.

The authors begin with a basic summary of the structure of the pharaonic state, including the nature of ancient Egyptian kingship itself, and then introduce key members of the royal family. This is followed by a chronological survey of the royal family from c. 3100 BC to the last Cleopatra. For each dynasty, or significant part of a dynasty, the authors provide an historical overview of the period, a summary listing of the kings, and a discussion of their families' relationships.

This superb biographical history of ancient Egypt is handsomely illustrated with hundreds of photographs, line drawings, and genealogical trees.

## **The Complete Royal Families of Ancient Egypt Details**

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## From Reader Review The Complete Royal Families of Ancient Egypt for online ebook

### Helen West says

Thoroughly informative. Loved it.

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### Simba says

Not perhaps brilliantly written, but style is sacrificed for information. A fascinating book which I would recommend for anyone interested in the history of Egypt, and one of the most informative books that a child could read.

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### loudermilk says

awaited in my van until the man said you can CAN CAN CAN !!! cameras, action! thegoddam! thought i'd burst out like a cheetah , look at the sun and prowl for them. flex my shoulder blades. (he's taking off down camden street) ran for a burst in the air, my feet off the ground the sun powered cat. i love being wild off the chain. sat on the roundabout and bit the passing cars while they caught up (keep rolling this is rolled gold right there!) stood up. hind legs, seven feet tall in the sun, eyes closed. no cars, just that familiar silent communication of the time before this place knew men. if i borrow any more power from the sun i will explode. my muscles are connected by sweet violin strings. calm calm calm i open my eyes. im ten feet tall, unbelievably light.

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### Terence says

This is the kind of reference book I love to spend hours poring over, opening it at random and absorbing the information.

The authors follow Manetho's ancient organization of Egyptian history into 31 dynasties - from Narmer (c. 3150 BC) to Darius III (332 BC) and also the Macedonian Dynasty that ruled until Rome conquered the Nile Valley in 30 BC. Despite the fact that this schema is very artificial and arbitrary, it remains the framework upon which modern Egyptology rests and just about the only organizing principle general readers are familiar with.

Each dynastic account is divided into three sections: **Historical Background**, which gives a brief overview of the period; **Royal Family**, which attempts to unravel the complex genealogies of the Pharaohs; and **Brief Lives**, which lists the known members of the dynasty and their probable relationships to the kings and their roles in society.

And - no - there are no space aliens or Atlantean engineers carving the Sphinx 10,000 years ago.

Some random impressions:

One, Egypt is *old!* When Solon, the Athenian lawgiver and poet, visited Egypt c. 600 BC, he was as far removed from the 1st Dynasty as we are from him (i.e., c. 2500 years). The so-called New Kingdom period *began* 800 years before Rome was founded in (traditionally) 753 BC.

Two, while I'm astonished at how much we know about Egypt's earliest history, there's still much to learn.\* For example, we have a fairly complete list of 1st and 2nd dynasty kings but we have few clues as to what they did or even how long they reigned. There's an approximate date for Narmer at 3150 BC but the only reign dates the authors felt confident enough to give were those of the last king of the second dynasty, Khasekhemwy, 2611-2584.

Many of the "Brief Lives" entries are little more than, for example, "**Khenterka** Depicted as a child in the tomb of his mother, Meresankh III" or "**Nysuheqat** (KSon)\*\* Owner of tomb 964 H8 at Helwan."

I would love to have a copy of this for my very own but - sadly - I must return it soon to the library so that others might learn a little bit about this fascinating civilization.

\* E.g., this recent news item about the discovery of 17 "lost" pyramids.

\*\* There's an interesting chart listing the various titles used throughout Egyptian history. "KSon" refers to a *sa-nesu*, a King's Son, most often just what it implies - the biological offspring of the Pharaoh - but it could also be an honorific and has been found associated with royal granddaughters.

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