

Murder at the Feast of Rejoicing

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Foul play once again stalks the court of King Tut in the third historical whodunit featuring ancient Egyptian sleuth Lord Meren.

When the murder of his beautiful cousin-in-law shatters Lord Meren's homecoming celebration, the man who is "the Eyes and Ears of the Pharaoh Tutankhamun" plunges into a shocking mystery that could threaten his most crucial mission for the boy king.

Murder at the Feast of Rejoicing Details


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Elizabeth says

This is my second book I've read out of the series. It was really good and I even managed to predict the answers to some of the mysteries from the first. The book is obviously about murder yet there is a side story and you actually get a lot of background before the murder even takes place which I quite like :)

Filip says

Undoubtedly this has been my favourite book. A bickering family, motive that comes from a long-held secret, a small circle of suspects... it was almost Christie-like in this regard. And as much as I like the courtly parts of this series, I find more "ordinary" crimes much more interesting... though as the plot twist at the end shows, this crime was anything BUT ordinary. The twist doubles as a very, very intriguing cliffhanger and I'm oh so eager to learn more!

As usual I really, really liked all the characters and it was a very enjoyable story.

Janet says

Mystery set in Ancient Egypt. Think it was very well done. She obviously knows a lot about Egypt and is able to bring to life the time of Tutankhamun. Looking forward to reading more in the series.

Holly Lindquist says

In this installment, Lord Meren is involved in a top secret mission on behalf of Pharaoh Tutankhamen, but his plans are hampered by family drama of the worst kind. Now he's stuck with having to solve a murder among his own kin, no easy task. Yet another solid outing for the Lord Meren series.

Hannah says

I really liked this book, the setting was vivid and beautiful, the characters well thought-out and vibrant. I wish that I knew more about the history of Egypt and the ancient people who lived there. I think I would have understood more of the customs. However, I did understand enough to thoroughly enjoy this delightful book.

Helen says

A bit of a slow starter compared to the previous book in the series, but the pace picks up dramatically in the

second half. Anyone who's ever had to face a houseful of contentious relatives at Thanksgiving will sympathize with Meren whose dear, meddling sister has ignored his request for immediate family only and invited the extended family, each one with a bone to pick. Either they dislike the way he's behaving as head of the family, or they have grievances with each other. Of course, it's going to lead to murder. That would be bad enough, but a continued diplomatic problem from the previous book, and a teenage King Tut who refuses to do what's best for his safety add to Meren's frustrations. Not quite the nest of cobras from book 2 but interesting enough to keep the reader turning pages.

Michelle says

After a slightly disappointing second outing that was fouled by an over-complicated plot, this third book in the Lord Meren series was much more in the realm of Agatha Christie - a murder in a family compound in ancient Egypt, with a limited set of suspects. Generally, it was pretty good; of course the final denouement had to point to a gigantic conspiracy though! Still, I'm pretty sure I'm going to plough through the rest of this series; I'm finding it a nice escape for a couple of hours.

Darth says

I had trouble getting into this one - it wasn't bad, but it wasn't great.

My opinion may be colored by the lesser (in my opinion) descriptive talents of Robinson when compared to Doherty.

Still not terrible, but not my favorite either.

Werehare says

3,5/10

Banale, prevedibile al massimo (il che per un giallo non è una buona cosa), brevissimo e per giunta scritto male. L'identità del colpevole dovrebbe essere un colpo di scena delle ultime pagine, invece già a un terzo del libro si ha la ragionevole certezza del suo nome. I personaggi sono macchiette, l'antico Egitto lo si vede col binocolo. Perfino la copertina è discutibile, con la figura che impugna due flagelli invece della classica coppia flagello-pastorale.

Lisa says

This is the middle of a series, so I think I may have enjoyed it more had I read the first two books. A quick read, but I wasn't especially captivated.

Skjam! says

Lord Meren wanted two things from his trip home to his estate at Baht. First, to enjoy some rest and relaxation with his children, far from the politics and dangers of the court. And also to complete a secret task for his friend and master, Pharaoh Tutankhamun. Unfortunately, Meren's sister Idut has decided that his visit is the perfect opportunity to hold a feast of rejoicing, inviting all of their relatives...most of whom Meren hates or vice versa.

One of these is Anhai, the beautiful but poison-tongued wife of Meren's cousin Sennefer. Her marriage with the notorious womanizer is on the rocks, and several other people have good reasons to hate her. Still, it's a bit of a shock when she vanishes from the feast, and found dead in the granary, oddly positioned. Lord Meren may be the Eyes of Pharaoh, and authorized to take steps to investigate, but his extended family has little respect for him, and his mission may be imperiled.

This is the third Lord Meren historical mystery set during the reign of King Tut, and I do not believe I have read the earlier ones. The author is an anthropologist, and cites some of the research she's done. She does admit that she's fudged some of the names for easier reader comprehension.

The characters are distinctive, and mostly unlikable, from drunkard little brother Ra, to the self-righteous Uncle Hepu. At least one of the mysteries involved can be solved early by the reader who pays attention—others require more clues.

In addition to the usual murder, there is also talk of suicide, and some period-appropriate sexism

The paperback edition includes the first few pages of the next book in the series, Eater of Souls, which seems to indicate there's an Ammit-themed vigilante on the loose.

This is a perfectly decent murder mystery, and I recommend it to those with an interest in Ancient Egypt.

Dana says

1st half of the book was very slow. Picks up toward the end.

Scilla says

Lord Meren, a noble in Tutankhamun's retinue, was protecting the bodies from the tomb of Akhenaten, after they tomb was broken into. After being wounded while thwarting a rebellion, he goes to his family home with his adopted son, Kysen. The visit is supposed to be secret, but his sister Idut, who is taking care of Meren's two daughters, arranges a Feast of Rejoicing in Meren's honor. At the feast, a cousin and his wife die in mysterious circumstances, and Meren and Kysen try to solve the murders.

Phair says

Read this series some time ago and this was a re-read for a f2f mystery discussion group. Can't say I recalled much of the book so it all seemed brand new. I do know I really liked the books back then and often recommended them to folks looking for a story set in ancient Egypt. Second time around with this one (#3)

and I felt I really needed the backstory of the prior books for maximum enjoyment and I obviously have forgotten the details and am left only with the old feeling of satisfaction. Lots of characters & complicated relationships both personal and political. Took a while for the crime to occur and the action to pick up. For maximum effect start with #1!

Kgwhitehurst says

Like MURDER IN THE PLACE OF ANUBIS, this novel is strong on the plot and not so much on characterization. In fact, the plot is so breakneck in speed that it's hard to a) keep up with the characters--there are too many--and b) to believe the motivations. The twists are a little too convoluted to be quite believable.
