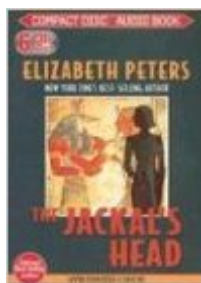


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The Jackal's Head



Synopsis

Althea Tomlinson's ostensible reason for returning to Egypt is to chaperone a spoiled teenager through this fabulous desert land. The truth is more complex . . . and dangerous. Ten years ago, something that happened here brought about her father's ruin and subsequent death—and Althea intends to clear her disgraced parent's name and finally lay a dark past to rest. But there are some mysteries best left buried in the shifting sands, and a devoted daughter's search for answers is stirring up forgotten memories almost too painful to endure, that propel her onward among ancient tombs, legendary treasures, miraculous discoveries . . . and ever-closer to her own threatened doom. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Authors, A-Z > (P) > Peters, Elizabeth #12365 in Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

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Customer Reviews

The Jackal's Head is an extremely entertaining mystery set in Egypt. I read this right after I finished The Ape Who Guards the Balance, the latest in the Amelia Peabody series; The Jackal's Head has some of the same settings, and it's interesting to see what these places looked like 60 years later. (This book was published in 1968; the newest Amelia takes place in 1907.) In "The Jackal's Head", the heroine, Althea "Tommy" Tomlinson, returns to Egypt after ten years to learn the secret behind her father's death. The mystery is tied to what may be one of the greatest archaeological discoveries ever. But I don't want to give too much away! Readers who enjoyed this book might want to go on and read Elizabeth Peters' Amelia Peabody series. I completely disagree with the reviewer who said this series was formulaic and boring. As much as I enjoyed The Jackal's Head, I love the Amelia series even more.

A truly fantastic book, full of suspense and wit. Tommy is one Peters' toughest heroines yet. She is not the stereotypical wimpering female who sits and waits for impending doom. She is stubborn and clever enough to find her way out of precarious situations (like being trapped in a tomb). The thing about Elizabeth Peters' novels that leaves me hungry for more is her technique of weaving historical fact into her stories. I always close one of her books feeling a satisfying feeling of having gained knowledge.

Althea Tomlinson's dad was an Egyptologist who was forced out under suspicion of antiquity smuggling. She sneaks back to Egypt, hiding as a tourist babysitting a spoiled 17 year old girl. She wants to prove her father was framed, but doesn't realize what a tangled web she's stepped into. I love Peters. Her characters are always so 3D. This one isn't one of her best. It's still a good read, a decent romance, and a cool little mystery. It's just not one of her best ones. Two of my favorites are *Summer of the Dragon* and *The Walker in Shadows* (as Barbara Michaels). Those two are so good, I have extra copies. (And may have to get more, I reread them so often.) To get a taste of what Peters can do, read the ones I mentioned. They're a perfect example of why people love her later books. *Devil May Care* is similar, with that wonderful quirkiness in it. It's why she has a whole shelf in my house. Darn it!!

Just finished the audio book of this novel I first read decades ago. I remembered very little except that SPOILER one of the archaeologists the heroine hangs with ended up being one of the bad guys and one turns out to be the love interest. END SPOILER It is a credit to Peters that she kept me guessing as to which one. As always Peters' wryly humorous voice shines through and is very enjoyable. It left me wishing that she had written a sequel featuring the two main characters. I wanted a lot more writing devoted to their relationship as it was an intriguing match up. I am one of the few who prefer Peters' stand alones to her *Amelia Peabody* series, which I thought grew tiresome over time.

This is the first Peters book I've read and from the other reviews it's evidently from the beginning of the series before the other books in the series were fine tuned so I'm giving it some slack. The main problem is how wordy it is. Good editing could have kept the pace moving forward, maintained the integrity of plot and characters and streamlined it so I could stop yawning until it finally moved on. The characters are developed and mostly likable, although the plot is thin and predictable. The

romantic outcome is obvious and the adventure is not all that adventurous. If Egyptology attracts you as it does me you'll put up with all of the above and not mind it too much. I may give a more current book in this series a try and see how that moves along.

I have read all of the books written by Elizabeth Peters. My only complaint is that there isn't more. I have also read and enjoyed the Barbara Michaels books and Vicky Bliss series. My favorite is the Amelia Peabody series. I seriously suggest reading these books in the order of the dates they were on their annual dig, such as: The Golden One (1916 - 17) and then Children of the storm (1919 - 20). If you don't you will get the storyline mixed up. Not all of the publication dates match the sequence of years. The book The Last Camel Died at Noon needs to be read after Deeds of the Disturber (1896) [which is not available as an e book for kindle]. The book Guardian of the Horizon is during the (1907 - 08) dig and even though out of sequence should be read after Children of the Storm (1919 - 20). I always try to read an author's books in the order in which they were written. Some don't matter, but the Amelia Peabody series is a continuation of the storyline. Hope you enjoy her books as much as I did.

Love Elizabeth Peters! I have read these years ago printed under her pseudonym. Loved then, ...I don't usually read a book twice. I remember them well but decided to try, and even knowing the book it was just as enjoyable!

Another great piece of work from Elizabeth Peters. She is a truly a master of storytelling. She will suck you in at the beginning and you will not be able to put this down until you are done!!

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