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The license for elements of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. aliases Master Criminal, Cousin Ishmael [close] Master Criminal, Cousin Ishmael edit descriptions of this character \*\*\*BEWARE OF SPOILERS\*\*\*Sethos was offended. "I do not murder women," he said haughtily. Lion in the Valley Appears In[] The Mummy Case Lion in the Valley Disguises[] Father Girgis in The Mummy Case INSERT in Lion in the Valley The Master Criminal[] I speak most of the European languages with equal facility. Speculate! You are a determined pair of busybodies. If you had kept out of my way, you would not be in danger. - The Master Criminal in The Mummy Case He laughed and replied, in English as unaccented as his Arabic had been, "A melodramatic term, Mrs. Emerson. I am only the chairman of a business organization with whose operations you and your family have been interfering." - The Master Criminal in The Mummy Case Mr. Nemo: He has no name, only a variety of appellations. Those in his employ, I believe, refer to him as the Master. To others, less intimately associated with him, he is known as Sethos. - Mr. Nemo in Lion in the Valley The Master Criminal Brainstorming[] The Mummy Case[] I am referring, Emerson, to the recent, unprecedented flood of stolen objects you and Walter were discussing. You yourself said that some new player must have entered the game--some unknown genius of crime, who has organized the independent thieves into one great conspiracy. - Amelia Peabody in The Mummy Case "But who is that unknown superior? (If you have no objection Peabody, I prefer that term to 'Master Criminal," which smacks too strongly of the type of sensational literature to which I object.) Our deductions may be valid so far as they go, but we are still in the dark as to the identity of the person who is behind all this." - Radcliffe Emerson in The Mummy Case Lion in the Valley[] Only Sethos could be so bold; only he could carry out such a daring plot. - Amelia Peabody"He is Mrs. Axhammer." "The viscount," Emerson and I both burst out laughing. Ramses contemplated us haughtily down the length of his nose. "I fail to see the humor in the situation," he said.""But Mama has raised a point worthy of consideration," piped Ramses. "We know this gentleman has a peculiar sense of humor and a fondness for challenging his opponents. What if this alias is in itself a joke and a challenge?" "On the whole, Amelia," said Emerson in a reflective voice, "I believe I prefer even the atrocious term Master Criminal to genius of crime.' "Yes, yes," Emerson said. "But the name has another significance which seems to have eluded you." "Sethos the First was the father of Ramses the Second," squeaked our son of the same name. His father gave him a look of pure dislike-one of the few times I have seen Emerson regard the boy with disfavor. "Who attacked us and harassed us at Mazghunah last year? Who organized the inefficient amateur tomb robbers of Egypt into a great professional conspiracy? Who is a master of disguise, as was proved by his appearance in the role of Father Criminal, piped Ramses. In some cases, we earn commissions from affiliate links in our posts. The Amelia Peabody series is a set of historical mystery novels written by University of Chicago-trained Egyptologist Barbara Mertz under the pen name Elizabeth Peters. The books follow an unusual female Egyptologist Barbara Mertz under the pen name Elizabeth Peters. on in a career and family life centered around excavations in Egypt (and time back home in England). There are twenty novels in the series, with the final volume completed posthumously by fellow writer Joan Hess in 2017. There's also one non-fiction companion book, Amelia Peabody's Egypt, offering background information about her world. Since it's easy to get lost as you're moving through the series - and many bookstores and websites don't arrange them neatly in order - we wanted to offer up a list of all the books in the series in order. We've also included brief summaries to help you figure out where you left off, along with links to a variety of formats and bookseller options. Book 1: Crocodile on the Sandbank Crocodile on the Sandbank The first book in the series sees the independently wealthy Englishwoman Amelia Peabody embarking on her first excursion to Egypt. She's unique for her time, and considers herself a spinster. Grabbing a companion (Evelyn), she heads off, encountering a pair of archaeologist brothers along the way. Her journey will give her mystery and romance in equal measure - however unlikely it might seem at first. Get it: Kindle | Paperback | Bookshop.org (supports independent bookstores) Book 2: The Curse of the Pharaohs The State of the Pharaohs The Curse of the Pharaohs The C settled down in England with son Ramses, and all is well until they're approached by a woman whose husband died after uncovering a possible royal tomb in Luxor. Get it: Kindle | Audible | Paperback | Bookshop.org (supports independent bookstores) Book 3: The Mummy Case In this book, Amelia and her husband are excavating mounds of rubble in the middle of nowhere after being denied the right to dig at the pyramids of Dahshoor. It all seems a bit pointless until an a nearby antiquities dealer is murdered in his own shop. Get it: Kindle | Paperback | Bookshop.org (supports independent bookstores) Book 4: Lion in the Valley Lion in the Valley Now 1895-1896, this one sees Amelia and her husband back in Dahshoor with their precocious 8-year-old son Ramses. It's all going rather well until he's abducted. Get it: Kindle | Audible | Paperback | Bookshop.org (supports independent bookstores) Book 5: The Deeds of the Disturber The Deeds of the Disturber Back in London, Amelia discovers the death of a museum night watchman might be related to a mummy's curse. Get it: Kindle | Audible | Paperback | Bookshop.org (supports independent bookstores) Book 6: The Last Camel Died at Noon The Last Camel Died at Noon Now in 1897, this book is a bit of a departure from the rest of the series. While most are more traditional mysteries, this one is a satire of traditional adventure novels. It sees Amelia and family travel to the Sudan on a rescue mission, only to find themselves in need of rescue. Get it: Kindle | Audible | Paperback | Bookshop.org (supports independent bookstores) Book 7: The Snake, the Crocodile, and the Dog The Snake, the Crocodile, and the Dog In 1898, Amelia and Emerson embark on a dig that sees them becoming the targets of an evil plot. When Emerson is kidnapped, Amelia rescues him, only to discover he's lost his memory. Get it: Kindle | Audible | Paperback | Bookshop.org (supports independent bookstores) Book 8: The Hippopotamus Pool The Hippopotamus Pool The Hippopotamus Pool When a masked stranger offers to show them a lost tomb, Amelia and her husband Radcliffe are intrigued. Before he can tell his secret, the man disappears - and they'll have to follow in his footsteps to unravel the mystery. Get it: Kindle | Paperback | Bookshop.org (supports independent bookstores) Book 9: Seeing a Large Cat Egypt, 1903. Amelia is embarking on her ninth adventure. According to an ancient papyrus, it's good luck to dream of a large cat. That's just what Amelia and her husband, and murder. Get it: Kindle | Audible | Paperback | Bookshop.org (supports independent bookstores) Book 10: The Ape Who Guards the Balance The Ape Who Guards the Balance Now 1907, Amelia foils a kidnapping attempt in London, only to lead her family into a web of cults and stolen antiquities dealer is found floating in the Nile, things begin to look very bleak for our heroine and her family. Get it: Kindle | Audible | Paperback | Bookshop.org (supports independent bookstores) Book 11: The Falcon at the Portal The Falcon at the Portal Now in Egypt for the 1911 season, Amelia is expecting (against all odds) a relatively peaceful dig. it's up to them to find the real culprit. Get it: Kindle | Audible | Paperback | Bookshop.org (supports independent bookstores) Book 12: He Shall Thunder in the Sky He Shall Thunder in the Sky Now facing the eve of World War I, Amelia faces grave danger in Cairo, now under British martial law. Her fighting age son Ramses is taunted for his pacifism and the Emersons' excavations reveal a treasure that seems to remarkable to be true. Could something - or someone - more sinister be involved? Get it: Kindle | Audible | Paperback | Bookshop.org (supports independent bookstores) Book 13: Lord of the Silent Now in the 1915-16 season, this entry follows the young newlywed Ramses spending time living on the family's dahabeeyah along the Nile as excavations continue. Get it: Kindle | Audible | Paperback | Bookshop.org (supports independent bookstores) Book 14: The Golden One It's 1917 now, and the Great War shows no signs of slowing. Returning to Luxor, Amelia and her family
learn of a royal tomb that's been ransacked by thieves. Even more disturbing is the discovery of freshly slain thief in an ancient burial site. Get it: Kindle | Audible | Paperback | Bookshop.org (supports independent bookstores) Book 15: Children of the Storm World War I is over, and Amelia and her husband Emerson are preparing for another excavation season in Egypt. They're grandparents now, and they're hoping for a quiet year. Unfortunately, this new phase in life brings a new adversary - one unlike anything she's ever encountered. Get it: Kindle | Audible | Paperback | Bookshop.org (supports independent bookstores) Book 16: Guardian of the Horizon This book doubles back to 1907 to explore what the Emersons were doing before the Great War. They're heading back to the Lost Oasis, this time with a larger force and an awareness that it will no longer be a secret. As they might have expected, the bring unexpected guests - and not all of them have pure intentions. Get it: Kindle | Audible | Paperback Bookshop.org (supports independent bookstores) Book 17: The Serpent on the Crown The Serpent on the Crown We're back to the "present", this time in 1921-1922. The Emersons hear of a man's mysterious death, and the widow is convinced it's a curse. Get it: Kindle | Audible | Paperback | Bookshop.org (supports independent bookstores) Book 18: Tomb of the Golden Bird In search of King Tut, Amelia and her husband appear to have hit a wall. their digging rights. Unfortunately, his efforts make them even more determined to keep them out. Get it: Kindle | Audible | Paperback | Bookshop.org (supports independent bookstores) Book 19: A River in the Sky A River in over to Palestine. They're determined to unearth the Ark of the Covenant, but they're also busy keeping tabs on Morley for the British intelligence services. Get it: Kindle | Audible | Paperback | Bookshop.org (supports independent bookstores) Book 20: The Painted Queen The Final Amelia Peabody novel sees our heroine and family in Egypt in 1912. This time, they're searching for the priceless, stolen bust of Queen Nefertiti - but it's not without complications. Amelia finds herself the target of a would-be assassin, but she has no idea who saved her from his attempt. Get it: Kindle | Audible | Paperback | Bookshop.org (supports independent bookstores) What do you think of Elizabeth Peters' Amelia Peabody novels? Have you read the entire series, or did you feel it lost something as it went on? If you haven't read them, will you? Let us know what you think in the comments! Save it to Pinterest! All of Elizabeth Peters' Amelia Peabody Novels in Order 1975-2010 mystery novels by Barbara Mertz Amelia Peabody SeriesFirst edition cover for Crocodile on the Sandbank (1975), book 1 of the seriesAuthorElizabeth PetersCountryUnited StatesLanguageEnglishGenreHistorical mystery, Thriller, Satire, ComedyPublisherMorrow/HarperCollins (current)Published1975-2010, 2017Media typePrint (hardback and paperback), audiobookNo. of books20 (List of books)Followed byThe Vicky Bliss Mysteries The Amelia Peabody series is a series of twenty historical mystery novels and one non-fiction companion volume written by Egyptologist Amelia Peabody series is a series of twenty historical mystery novels and one non-fiction companion volume written by Egyptologist Amelia Peabody series is a series of twenty historical mystery novels and one non-fiction companion volume written by Egyptologist Amelia Peabody series is a series of twenty historical mystery novels and one non-fiction companion volume written by Egyptologist Amelia Peabody series is a series of twenty historical mystery novels and one non-fiction companion volume written by Egyptologist Amelia Peabody series is a series of twenty historical mystery novels and one non-fiction companion volume written by Egyptologist Amelia Peabody series is a series of twenty historical mystery novels and one non-fiction companion volume written by Egyptologist Amelia Peabody series is a series of twenty historical mystery novels and one non-fiction companion volume written by Egyptologist Amelia Peabody series is a series of twenty historical mystery novels and one non-fiction companion volume written by Egyptologist Amelia Peabody series is a series of twenty historical mystery novels and one non-fiction companion volume written by Egyptologist Amelia Peabody series is a series of twenty historical mystery novels and one non-fiction companion volume written by Egyptologist Amelia Peabody series is a series of twenty historical mystery novels and one non-fiction companion volume written by Egyptologist Amelia Peabody series is a series of twenty historical mystery novels and one non-fiction companion volume written by Egyptologist Amelia Peabody series is a series of twenty historical mystery novels and one non-fiction company. The figure and th Emerson, for whom the series is named, and an ever-increasing number of family, friends, allies, and characters both fictional and based on historical figures. The novels such as those written by H. Rider Haggard. The series was published between 1975 and 2010, with the final, posthumous novel (completed by Joan Hess) appearing in 2017. Amelia Peabody is introduced in the series' first novel, Crocodile on the Sandbank, as a confirmed spinster, suffragist, and scholar, living in England in 1884. She inherits a fortune from her father and leaves England to see the world, with the side benefit of escaping various suitors and family members who were neither aware that she would be the sole beneficiary of her father's estate nor that he had amassed a small fortune over the course of his lifetime. In Rome, Amelia meets Evelyn Barton-Forbes, a young Englishwoman of social standing who has run off with (and subsequently been abandoned by) her Italian lover, and the two make their way to Egypt. There they meet the Emerson brothers, Egyptologist Radcliffe (referred to throughout the series by his last name "Emerson"), and Evelyn marries Walter. Following the birth of their son Ramses (né Walter) Emerson ("as swarthy as an Egyptian and as arrogant as a Pharaoh"), the Emerson sinitially settle in Kent, from where Emerson sinitially settle in Kent, from where Emerson sinitially settle in Kent, from where Emerson commutes to a job lecturing in Egyptian and as arrogant as a Pharaoh"), the Emerson sinitially settle in Kent, from where Emerson sinitial settle in Kent, from where Emerson sinitial settle in Kent, from where Emerson sinitial settle in Kent, from where Emerson settle in Kent, his family while Ramses is too young to travel. Peabody and Emerson return to Egypt at least once without Ramses (The Curse of the Pharaohs) in 1892 before deciding to bring him along on their annual digs (The Mummy Case), beginning in the 1894-95 season. Amelia's desire to explore pyramids is countered by Emerson's refusal to be diplomatic with the Egyptian Service d'Antiquites, resulting in the loss of their firman (permit) to excavate at one of the major pyramid fields, and instead being awarded Mazghuna, a minor pyramid field southwest of Cairo. While the Emersons are excavating at Mazghuna, they encounter an enigmatic criminal mastermind who runs an illicit underground antiquities trade, stealing artifacts from tombs, which puts him at odds with the Emersons. Amelia initially calls him "The Master Criminal", although his nom de guerre is eventually revealed to be Sethos. Sethos is initially presented as a rival to Emerson for Amelia's affections, but later becomes an important part of the Emerson's large circle of Noon), becomes embroiled in turbulent politics, and discovers Nefret Forth, the daughter of a long-presumed dead explorer. Nefret returns to England with the Emersons and becomes their ward. Another key character is introduced in the 1899-1900 season (The Hippopotamus Pool), that of David Todros, the son of Abdullah's estranged daughter and her Christian husband. David is living in a state of semi-slavery, working for a forger of antiquities. A key character in that novel, he is later taken in by Evelyn and Walter's daughter Amelia (known as Lia to avoid confusion with her aunt). The introduction of Nefret initiates a running story arc of sexual tension between her and Ramses. This becomes an important part of the plot in a subset of four books beginning with Seeing a Large Cat, coinciding with the introduction of "excerpts from Manuscript H" in which the younger generation of the family begins a parallel narration to Amelia's. Among the pitfalls in this story arc is the arrival of Sennia, a young girl initially suspected to be Ramses' illegitimate daughter with a local prostitute. Sennia's arrival, and the suspicions about Ramses that it raises, precipitates Nefret's brief marriage to another man. Sennia is revealed to be the child of Amelia's nephew Percival, first seen in Deeds of the Disturber, who is reintroduced as an adult in a villainous role for several volumes beginning with The Falcon at the Portal. Sennia is adopted by the Emersons, who take her back to England at the conclusion of the volume. The tension between Ramses and Nefret is finally resolved in He sequences in the next. The two eventually have three children: a set of fraternal twins (a son, David John, and a daughter, Charlotte, or "Charla"), and an unnamed daughter that John Tregarth, a character in Peters's Vicky Bliss series, is descended from the Emerson Peabodys. Additional characters in the series include members of the large Egyptian family who support the Emersons in their digs. The head of the family is Abdullah has several children, among them his youngest son, Selim, who, originally assigned as a bodyguard of sorts for Ramses (The Mummy Case), eventually replaces his father as reis (dig supervisor). Abdullah's daughter-in-law, Khadijah, her cooking, and her green healing poultice (which is effective, although its exact contents are never quite
determined) are frequently mentioned. After Abdullah's daughter-in-law, Khadijah, her cooking, and her green healing poultice (which is effective, although its exact contents are never quite determined) are frequently mentioned. the character appears to Amelia in dreams as a spiritual guide (although it is left ambiguous whether his appearance is a manifestation of Amelia's own subconsciousness or supernatural in nature). Chronologically, the latest book in the series (Tomb of the Golden Bird) takes place in 1922-1923, around the discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb. The earlier books in the series—prior to Seeing a Large Cat—were written entirely as first-person narrative, with the novels purporting to be edited versions of journals kept by Amelia herself. According to the series mythology, the initial cache of journals that provided the narrative for the Amelia Peabody series were discovered in the attic of the ancestral home of the Tregarth family in Cornwall, England, into which Amelia's youngest granddaughter eventually married. This is revealed in the Vicky Bliss series final installment The Laughter of Dead Kings, in which it is strongly hinted that Peters herself -- "She writes under three names"—is the journals' editor.[1] Beginning with Seeing a Large Cat, Amelia's narrative is interspersed with excerpts from "Manuscript H," a third person narrative that follows the adventures of the younger generation of the family, the author of which is eventually introduced in the form of letters and additional manuscripts. The series is set primarily in Egypt (see chart below for specific locations) with some installments do not take place in Egypt at all: Deeds of the Disturber, set entirely in England; The Last Camel Died at Noon and Guardian of the Horizon both set primarily in the Sudan; and A River in the Sky, set mostly in Ottoman-era Palestine. The books span a thirty-nine-year period from 1884 to 1923, which coincides with the period of the British consul general to Cairo and de facto ruler of the country at the time, makes occasional cameo appearances. The uneasy relationship between the Egyptians and their European administrators is a running theme throughout the series, especially with regards to foreign organizations to export artifacts out of Egypt to Europe and the United States rather than keeping them in Egypt. The series incorporates a number of prominent historical figures from the field of Egyptology as characters, including Howard Carter, William Flinders Petrie, Gaston Maspero, George A. Reisner, and E. A. Wallis Budge, whom Emerson considers an archrival (even if the feelings are not mutual). Another recurring character is that of Cyrus Vandergelt, an American entrepreneur who finances a number of archaeological expeditions in the Valley of the Kings (with little success) and becomes a close friend and confidant of the Emerson clan. The Vandergelt, an American entrepreneur who finances a number of archaeological expeditions in the Valley of the Kings (with little success) and becomes a close friend and confidant of the Emerson clan. Davis, the American entrepreneur who first hired Howard Carter to dig in the Valley of the Kings, and who himself appears in The Ape Who Guards the Balance. The series incorporates contemporary geo-political events in Egypt and the Middle East into the background as well as directly into the plot. The Mahdist War in the Sudan forms much of the backdrop for The Last Camel Died at Noon, in which an eager Emerson ventures into unstable territory to satisfy a lifelong wish to dig among the Nubian pyramids. The 1906 Dinshawai Incident is mentioned in historical context, and, as a result the character of David Todros (Abdullah's Coptic Christian grandson, who is fostered by the Emerson-Peabodys) becomes involved with the Egyptian nationalist movement. The character of Ramses, thought to be a conscientious objector, is revealed to be working with British intelligence during the First World War, playing a key role in thwarting the Raid on the Suez Canal by Ottoman forces and providing intelligence to the Egyptian Expeditionary Force in their campaigns. As she grows into adulthood, the character of Nefret Forth Emerson is trained as a doctor, working among the poor, championing education and rights for Egyptian women, and eventually establishing a hospital in Cairo's red light district that primarily employs females (The Golden One). Most of the archaeological achievements attributed to the Emerson-Peabodys were, in reality, accomplished by many of the archaeologists who pass through the novels as supporting characters. For example, the excavations that Emerson and Walter are undertaking at Amarna in 1884 (in Crocodile on the Sandbank) are based on those conducted by Sir William Flinders Petrie in 1891. Peters has indicated that the character of Radcliffe Emerson is based in part on Petrie, whose meticulous excavation habits were legendary and set a new standard for archaeological digs.[2] Amelia herself was partly inspired by Amelia Edwards, [2] a Victorian novelist, travel writer, and Egyptologist, whose best-selling 1873 book, A Thousand Miles up the Nile[3] is similar in both tone and content to Amelia Emerson's narration. The character was also semi-autobiographical: pressures on Amelia to marry and abandon her Egyptological career in the first book were based on Peters's own experience in academia. In other instances, fictional accomplishments are ascribed to Amelia and Emerson. For example, the tomb of the 17th Dynasty Queen Tetisheri, whose discovery and excavation form the basis of the plot in The Hippopotamus Pool has, in fact, never been found. Most scholars suggest that the tomb — assuming that it still survives — would be found in the general area where the Emerson-Peabodys discover it. The intact Old Kingdom burial found in The Falcon at the Portal is also fictional; in fact, no intact burials from the Old Kingdom period have ever been found. The first book in the series, Crocodile on the Sandbank, was first published in 1975. Initially intended as a standalone novel, [4] Peters did not write a sequel for six years. As the author was juggling several book series written under two pseudonyms, the Amelia Peabody series progressed slowly at first, with new installments published sporadically in intervals varying between two and four years. As the series became more commercially successful in the mid 1990s, however, the pace increased and by the end of the decade new books were appearing at the rate of one annually, with many of the later books in the series appearing on The New York Times Bestseller List for fiction. The 19th and last installment in the series a non-fiction companion book, Amelia Peabody's Egypt: A Compendium. The first eighteen books in the series were written in chronological order, with the exception of Guardian of the Horizon, which was the 16th book published but 11th in the series chronology. In a 2003 book talk at the Library of Congress, Elizabeth Peters revealed that her overall plan was to continue the series chronologically through World War I and end with the events surrounding the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun in 1922,[7] as the aging of the characters in real time presented a challenge to extending the series further. Although her age is given only in the first book, Amelia Peabody would have been seventy years old—and Emerson 67 or 68 — by that point in history, making their often physically trying acts of heroism less and less credible. This stated goal was accomplished with the publication of Tomb of the Golden Bird in 2006. The events of that book wrapped up most of the series' loose plot lines, although it did not bring the series to a definite ending. In the same talk, Peters stated that installments written after that point would "fill in the gaps" in the series' chronology, as there were gaps of several years between some volumes. The next (and last) book to be published, A River in the Sky (the 19th book in publication order) was retroactively inserted into the series, The Painted Queen, at the time of her death in 2013. The manuscript was completed by Peters's friend, mystery writer Joan Hess, with assistance from Egyptologist Salma Ikram, [8] and was published in July 2017. It is set in the 1912-13 season, making it the fourteenth of the series in chronological order, and deals with the fallout of Nefret's precipitous marriage. in The Falcon at the Portal. The series has been published in English in the United States and the United Kingdom. A varying number of volumes have been translated into other languages, including French,[9] German,[10] Greek,[11] and Japanese.[12] Book no. Title Date of publication (publication order) Setting Archaeological Season(chronological Season(chronological Season)). order) peak position on The New York Timesbestseller list 01 Crocodile on the Sandbank 1975 Amarna 1884-85 - 02 The Curse of the Pharaohs 1985 Mazghuna 1894-95 - 04 Lion in the Valley of the Kings 1892-93 - 03 The Mummy Case 1985 Mazghuna 1894-95 - 04 Lion in the Valley 1986 Dashur 1895-96 - 05 The Deeds of the Pharaohs 1981 Valley of the Kings 1892-93 - 03 The Mummy Case 1985 Mazghuna 1894-95 - 04 Lion in the Valley 1986 Dashur 1895-96 - 05 The Deeds of the Pharaohs 1981 Valley of the Kings 1892-93 - 03 The Mummy Case 1985 Mazghuna 1894-95 - 04 Lion in the Valley 1986 Dashur 1895-96 - 05 The Deeds of the Pharaohs 1981 Valley of the Kings 1892-93 - 03 The Mummy Case 1985 Mazghuna 1894-95 - 04 Lion in the Valley 1986 Dashur 1895-96 - 05 The Deeds of the Pharaohs 1981 Valley of the Kings 1892-93 - 03 The Mummy Case 1985 Mazghuna 1894-95 - 04 Lion in the Valley 1986 Dashur 1895-96 - 05 The Deeds of the Pharaohs 1981 Valley of the Kings 1892-93 - 03 The Mummy Case 1985 Mazghuna 1894-95 - 04 Lion in the Valley 1986 Dashur 1895-96 - 05 The Deeds of the Pharaohs 1981 Valley of the Kings 1892-93 - 03 The Mummy Case 1985 Mazghuna
1894-95 - 04 Lion in the Valley 1986 Dashur 1895-96 - 05 The Deeds of the Pharaohs 1981 Valley of the Kings 1892-93 - 03 The Mummy Case 1985 Mazghuna 1894-95 - 04 Lion in the Valley 1986 Dashur 1895-96 - 05 The Deeds of the Pharaohs 1981 Valley 1986 Dashur 1895-96 - 05 The Deeds of the Pharaohs 1894-95 - 04 Lion in the Valley 1986 Dashur 1895-96 - 05 The Deeds of the Pharaohs 1894-95 - 04 Lion in the Valley 1986 Dashur 1895-96 - 05 The Deeds of the Pharaohs 1895 Mazghuna 1894-95 - 04 Lion in the Valley 1986 Dashur 1895-96 - 05 The Deeds of the Pharaohs 1895 Mazghuna 1894-95 - 04 Lion in the Valley 1986 Dashur 1895-96 - 05 The Deeds of the Pharaohs 1895-96 - 05 The Died at Noon 1991 The Lost Oasis (Nubia) 1897-98 - 07 The Snake, the Crocodile, and the Dog 1992 Luxor and Amarna 1898-99 - 08 The Hippopotamus Pool 1996 Dra' Abu el-Naga' 1899-1900 - 09 Seeing a Large Cat 1997 Valley of the Kings 1903-04 - 10 The Ape Who Guards the Balance 1998 Valley of the Kings 1906-07 - 11 Guardian of the Horizon 2004 The Lost Oasis 1907-08 10 12 A River in the Sky 2010 Palestine 1910 05 13 The Falcon at the Portal 1999 Zawyet el'Aryan 1911-12 - 14 The Painted Queen (completed by Joan Hess) 2017 Cairo and Amarna 1912-13 07 15 He Shall Thunder in the Sky 2000 Giza Necropolis 1914-15 13 16 Lord of the Silent 2001 Giza Necropolis and Luxor 1915-16 10 17 The Golden One 2002 Gaza and Deir el-Medina 1916-17 08 18 Children of the Kings 1922-23 07 Luxor (previously Thebes) Deir el-Bahri Cairo Alexandria Gaza London Novels 1919-20 11 19 The Serpent on the Crown 2005 Valley of the Kings 1922-23 07 Luxor (previously Thebes) Deir el-Bahri Cairo Alexandria Gaza London Novels 1919-20 11 19 The Serpent on the Crown 2005 Valley of the Kings 1922-23 07 Luxor (previously Thebes) Deir el-Bahri Cairo Alexandria Gaza London Novels 1919-20 11 19 The Serpent on the Crown 2005 Valley of the Kings 1922-23 07 Luxor (previously Thebes) Deir el-Bahri Cairo Alexandria Gaza London Novels 1919-20 11 19 The Serpent on the Crown 2005 Valley of the Kings 1922-23 07 Luxor (previously Thebes) Deir el-Bahri Cairo Alexandria Gaza London Novels 1910-20 11 19 The Serpent on the Crown 2005 Valley of the Kings 1922-23 07 Luxor (previously Thebes) Deir el-Bahri Cairo Alexandria Gaza London Novels 1910-20 11 19 The portal List of characters in the Amelia Peabody series ^ Elizabeth Peters, The laughter of dead kings, (New York: Harper, 2008, pp. 315-321). ^ a b See Peters' "travel journal", documenting a 2000 "Amelia Peabody" tour to Egypt, published with The Golden One. ^ A Thousand Miles up the Nile, public domain title, with a recent printing available at Norton Creek Press (see "The official website of Elizabeth Peters aka Barbara Michaels aka Barbara Mertz". 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Maps and timelines of the Emersons' travels at the official Amelia Peabody website; previously available at AmeliaPeabody.com, and archived at the Internet Archive. August 2015 "Maps" and Timeline The Peabody Emerson Excavations 1884-1923, including a map of sites along the Nile River Retrieved from " Spoiler note: While most troping involves spoilers to a certain degree, this page as it's currently laid out has major mid- to late-series arc spoilers out in the open! If you hate having your mysteries spoiled, stop reading after the next couple of paragraphs. You have been warned! A historical mystery series written by Elizabeth Peters. Amelia Peabody and her husband Radcliffe Emerson are Happily Married Victorian Egyptologists. They are also Amateur Sleuths. They don't often bother to call the police while battling criminals, as the Police Are Useless. Amelia, in fact, is generally scornful of cops, ignoring the fact that police must follow rules of evidence she doesn't consider binding on her. She frequently says Scotland Yard would solve more cases if a woman ran it — not talking about getting both male and female perspectives, but about replacing the male way of thinking with the female. The Amelia Peabody series starts in Victorian Britain but runs through World War I and into The Roaring '20s. Over this time, she and her husband have founded a Badass Family and Quirky Household, the Emerson, that is the core of a bi-ethnic (English/Egyptian) example of The Clan. In addition to Peabody and Emerson, that is the core of a bi-ethnic (English/Egyptian) example of The Clan. In addition to Peabody and Emerson, the Emerson family includes: Nefret Forth is the only child of an archeologist who died discovering a Lost World oasis where a remnant of ancient Egyptian civilization lingers. This was Peters' Shout-Out to the various lost worlds of H. Rider Haggard, Edgar Rice Burroughs, and Arthur Conan Doyle. Nefret was adopted by the Emersons and went through a long time when she thought her relationship to Ramses was Like Brother and Sister, while Ramses pined in silence. Nefret is just as strong-willed and intelligent as her husband and in-laws, and rich and beautiful to boot. And a Medical Doctor. Each of these four main characters has an Egyptian nickname, bestowed on them by the locals, a particular interest within Egyptology, and an edge of some kind that makes them a bit super-normal: Amelia is "Sitt Hakim" ("Lady Doctor"). (She is also called "Peabody" by her husband; she always calls him "Emerson". If he calls her Amelia, it means he's really angry with her.) Her favorite topic is pyramids. Her edge is the dreams of or from her dead friend Abdullah. Emerson is "Abu Shitaim" ("Father of Curses"), earned by his short temper and talent with Arabic invective. His favorite topics are tombs and temples. His edge is sheer strength and even more endurance. Ramses" is already a nickname; his real name is Walter.) His favorite topic is inscriptions and the study of the ancient Egyptian language. His edge is his extraordinarily sharp hearing and vision. "The Brother of Demons can hear a whisper across the Nile." Nefret is "Nur Misur" ("Light of Egypt"), probably in tribute to her hair and her vibrancy. Her favorite topic is mummies, which chimes well with her medical degree. Her edge is a psychic link with Ramses that let her know when he is in imminent danger; it also spills out into a general sympathy that lets her tame horses, dogs, and cats, feed sparrows from her widespread popularity with the Egyptian poor. The main characters complicate their investigations for themselves by (1) sometimes competing to see who can solve it first, and (2) almost always keeping information from each other to protect the others from rushing into the danger that they themselves feel must be investigated. As a result, they spend a lot of time rescuing each other. There are a great many repeating characters, including many historical archeologists. Among the important supporting characters are: Sethos, Seth Emerson, who would be an Evil Uncle if he were actually evil; he is Emerson's bastard half-brother, starts the series as a professional tomb robber, gets a crush on Amelia, who reforms him, and goes on to become a British secret agent, all before he reveals the relationship to Peabody and Emerson. Sethos has a way of turning up unannounced to drag in new plot complications. Abdullah ibn Hassan al Wahhab, the foreman on the digs. His son Selim takes over from him eventually. His brother Daoud is a Gentle Giant. His grandson David is taken in by the younger Emersons, becomes a famed illustrator, and marries Walter and Evelyn's eldest daughter Amelia "Lia", which her parents initially object to, but which the rest of the family (except for Amelia, though she had not realized this until then) supports, and they come around. His daughter-in-law Fatima becomes the Emerson's housekeeper. Abdullah's family is the hook on which to hang issues of racism and imperialism, which the Emersons are fiercely against. The Emersons, both female and male, are also fierce proponents of equal rights for women. Some of the stories touch on the early feminist movement in England, and Amelia and Nefret are always trying to improve the lot of Egyptian women. The Emersons' career is intertwined in the real history of Egypt and Egyptian archeology. The latest books put them on the outskirts of Carter's discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamen. The Amelia Peabody books, with the dates when they are set, are: 1884-85, Crocodile on the Sandbank (1975) 1892-93, Curse of the Disturber (1988) 1897-98, The Last Camel Died at Noon (1991) 1898-99, The Snake, the Crocodile, and the Dog (1992) 1899-1900, The Hippopotamus Pool (1998) 1907-08, Guardian of the Horizon (2004, published out of sequence) Summer-Fall 1910, A River in the Sky (2010, published out of sequence) 1911-12, The Falcon at the Portal (1999) 1912, The Falcon at the Portal (1999) 1912-23, The Sequence) 1914-15, He Shall Thunder in the Sky (2000) 1915-16, Lord of the Silent (2001) 1915-16, Lord of the Silent (2002) 1912-23, Tomb of the Golden Bird (2006)Tropes featured include: open/close all folders General Action Girl: Amelia and Nefret both start out as this, fighting villains on equal terms with their male partners. Both
ultimately graduate to Action Moms. Action Hero: Emerson and Ramses. In the later novels, Ramses usually gets beaten up at least once a book. Action Dad: Dr. Radcliffe Emerson, Amelia's Egyptologist-detective husband, is always short-tempered and becomes absolutely volcanic at any threat to his family. Since he is regularly described by his narrator-wife as "Herculean" in build, the results are impressive. For that matter, his son Ramses inherits this trait. Action Mom: Amelia's Egyptologist-detective husband, is always short-tempered and becomes absolutely volcanic at any threat to his family. an Action Mom who carries a steel tipped parasol, a gun and a knife — and still is unequal to her son Ramses. Ramses' wife, Nefret Emerson, seems to be carrying on her mother-in-law's legacy quite well, being the mother of twins and still keeping up with her husband in the dangerous games of disguise and espionage that he plays with his bloodbrother, David Todros. Adventurer Archaeologist: Amelia and her husband Emerson, Victorian Egyptologists who originally bonded over their passion for preserving and learning from the artifacts that they discover. These two go out of their way to subvert several aspects of the trope though: they regard their adventures as interruptions, most of the time, and are always itching to get back to The Dig; and they are stridently clear about Egyptian artifacts belonging to the Egyptians, not, for instance, the British Museum, and make frequent derogatory remarks about the treasure-hunting approach of their predecessors and some of their contemporaries. Affably Evil: Sethos lives and breathes this trope. He may be a criminal (at least, until he pulls a Heel-Face Turn), but he has his own code of conduct and avoids harming innocents. Amateur Sleuth: Amelia and Emerson are professional Victorian Egyptologists, but they also wind up doing a lot of sleuthing over the course of the series. Animal Lover: The whole core family. They all hate cruelty toward animals and despise wasteful "sport" hunting. Amelia hates blatant animal abuse, and she insists on inspecting and doctoring all animals acquired for their digs before they are put to work. One of Abdullah's Catch Phrases in the early years is a resigned, 'Yes, Sitt Hakim, the donkeys have been washed'. At one point in Lord of the Silent, Ramses reminisces on one of his fondest childhood memories: Amelia calmly scrubbing a camel with a long-handled brush while it kicked and bellowed so violently that it took two of the expedition crew to hold it in place. The Curse of the Pharaohs mentions an incident between Emerson and one of their neighbors in England: Amelia notes that she understands 'escorting the fox off the field when it's about to be trapped', but that 'pulling Sir Harold out of his saddle and thrashing him with his own riding crop' was a bit superfluous. Apron Matron: Amelia Peabody Emerson herself. Her parasol is a weapon feared throughout Egypt (even before her husband gave her a sword-cane version in He Shall Thunder in the Sky), and senior British officials cringe at the thought of her tongue-lashings. In a later book, she reveals that needed their own sheathes. Badass in Distress: Most of the main cast take a turn at this, but Ramses is especially prone to it. Badass Family: The Peabody-Emerson family consists of Badass Archaeologist Radcliffe Emerson; his Action Mom wife, Amelia Peabody Emerson; for whom a parasol is a deadly weapon; their son Ramses who reduces even them to quivering terror; foster-child and later daughter-in-law Nefret, who wields a mean knife; and Uncle Sethos, the former Master Criminal! Throw in ferocious Arab in-laws, a Battle Butler and household staff to match and you have a crew feared by enemies of knowledge and justice everywhere. Battle Butler: Gargery, the Peabody-Emerson's butler, is a mean hand with a blackjack. The footmen are also useful in scrap and even the housemaids have learned not to scream or faint at the sight of blood. Battle Couple: Amelia and her husband Radcliffe Emerson: Egyptologists and incidental detectives. Despite the amount of time they waste going behind each other's backs in misguided attempts to protect each other, the climax of many of the stories has them side by side or back. Him with his 'Herculean Physique' (Amelia's phrase) and her with... well...Emerson (after witnessing her first Rage Blackout): There is blood on your parasol, Peabody. Their son Walter "Ramses" Emerson and his wife Nefret are a somewhat milder example, as they prefer sneakier indirect methods. If they do need to resort to direct force, however: watch out. They coordinate well, and the pretty little surgeon has no compunction about cutting you. Her husband, on the other hand, would prefer to take you alive. Be Careful What You Say: Evelyn states that she has so many children (six)... then she loses two, one to what is apparently SIDS, and one fighting in France in World War I. Been There, Shaped History: The series centers around a family of Egyptologists working in Egypt in the 1880s-1920s. Since they have to make discoveries periodically, the author has them make all the discoveries of Flinders Petrie, a real-life Egyptologist who worked in the same era. In order to avoid the awkwardness of actually meeting him, the author gave the main character's husband an uncontrollable dislike of him. The Berserker: Hurt her husband or her son and Amelia Peabody becomes something far more elemental than an English lady. Watch out for the parasol. Beta Couple: Several — David and Lia, Cyrus and Catherine, Walter and Evelyn, Sethos and Margaret, Daoud and Kadija. Big Brother Bully: Amelia got this from pretty much all her brothers, but especially her oldest brother James: "Dear Amelia. You haven't changed since you were a little girl. Do you remember the time..." There he stuck, probably because he couldn't recall any fond memories of our childhood. I certainly had none that included him. Born Detective: Walter "Ramses" Emerson is the son of Amelia Peabody and Radcliffe Emerson, both archeologists and both Amateur Sleuths. He has been detecting with them since he was six or so, whether they want him to or not. He follows them in both careers, with a side-order of secret agent. Brits Love Tea: Amelia, being a British archeologist in turn-of-the-century Egypt, guite frequently discusses the plot with other characters while passing out "the genial beverage," as she often call tea (though sometimes, after tense moments, "the genial beverage," is whiskey and soda). Canon Welding: With Peters' Vicky Bliss series. A fairly early book establishes Amelia as an historical figure, and it turns out that one of the main characters in that series is descended from one of Ramses and Nefret's daughters. Cannot Spit It Out: Ramses cannot tell Nefret he's in love with her until fourteen years old when it starts. Catch Phrase: Amelia herself has several. She has a love for aphorisms, but these are all her: "We must have a Council of Wa near the climax of most cases. She frequently makes or consults "one of my little lists" of clues. "Another shirt Ruined!" — Both Emerson and Ramses tend to be a fansite for the series that used this as its name. She often has "the direct of forebodings". The family eventually pick this one up, at least when they are expressing their misgivings to Amelia. "I had, of course, considered that / thought of that / anticipated that / thought of that / anticipated that misgivings to Amelia. "I suspected him from the start!" — Ramses once remarked that this is meaningless because she always suspects everyone. Abdullah in later books often laments: "Every year, another cursed pair of young lovers" whenever he detects signs that Amelia's Shipper on Deck tendencies are going to distract from the Important archaeological work they have in front of them. Cats Are Mean: Nefret's cat, Horus (introduced in The Ape That Guards the Balance), is a demon incarnate to everyone but Nefret and Sennia. Cats Are Snarkers: The long line of Emerson cats all manage this without talking. Child Prodigy: Ramses, to an insufferable degree. Funnily, Ramses comes to recognize this himself as an adult. Can't quite bring himself to apologize to his mother for this, though. Childhood Friend Romance: Amelia and Emerson intend Ramses and Nefret until he has some indication she feels the same. After a great deal of angst on his part, Nefret eventually comes around. The Clan: Egyptologist Amelia Peabody and her husband Radcliffe Emerson are the founders of a clan, including their son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren, Emerson's brother and his wife (Amelia's best friend), and, through the marriage of a clan, including their son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren, Emerson's brother and his wife (Amelia's best friend), and, through the marriage of a clan, including their son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren, Emerson's brother and his wife (Amelia's best friend), and, through the marriage of a clan, including their son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren, Emerson's brother and his wife (Amelia's best friend), and the marriage of a clan, including their son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren, Emerson's brother and his wife (Amelia's best friend), and the marriage of a clan, including their son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren, Emerson's brother and his wife (Amelia's best friend), and the marriage of a clan, including their son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren, Emerson's brother and his wife (Amelia's best friend), and the marriage of a clan, including their son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren, Emerson's brother and his wife (Amelia's best friend), and the marriage of a clan, including the m niece with the grandson of their Egyptian foreman, a large chunk of an Egyptian village. Oh, and there's the illegitimate half-brother and his liaisons. In the chronologically last book, their friends the Vandergelt family become linked
to them by marriage as well (as David's cousin Jumana agrees to marry Cyrus' step-son Bertie). Clothing Damage: Amelia's husband and son have a tendency to undergo this in practically every book, sometimes more than once, to the point where one of her catchphrases is "Another shirt ruined!" Commuting on a Bus: Karl von Borg, Sethos. Dead Person Conversation: Amelia has at least one dream-conversation with her deceased friend Abdullah in each novel since his death. They are cryptic enough that they do not interfere with fair play in the detection, but she believes them to be genuine. Direct Line to the Author: The novels are framed as being excerpts from the rather extensive and detailed journals Amelia Peabody Emerson kept over many decades, starting approximately with her initial trip to Egypt in the 1880s, during which she met the man who would become her husband. Later volumes also include excerpts from "Manuscript H", written by Amelia's son Ramses. Elizabeth Peters takes on the role of the editor of these journals in the author's notes, which allows some extensive Lampshade Hanging: she often expresses exasperation at the inconsistencies and inaccuracies in the text, such as the signs that the journals were rewritten many years later with an eye towards publication ("Little Did I Know..."), and Amelia's tendency to put her own opinions in the mouths of her famous contemporaries. Disappeared Dad: And husband. Sethos isn't very good at this kind of thing. Actually he's very good at the 'disappeared' part... Dreaming of Things to Come: Amelia tends to have premonitions, including a notable vision at the end of Seeing a Large Cat. Emerson thinks it's all nonsense though. Drives Like Crazy: Amelia Peabody Emerson and her husband Professor Radcliffe Emerson, from The Ape Who Guards the Balance on, when Emerson gets his first motorcar. To be fair, cars were a novelty at the time, and neither ever had any formal driver's training, but Amelia's daughter-in-law tried to give her a lesson — and later made excuses never to ride with her again. As for the Professor, his style of driving is "floor it and hit the horn a lot" (not a quote from the books, but accurate), prompting Amelia to do her best to limit his opportunities to drive it or any other motor vehicle from then on. Everyone from Abdullah to Tarek. Exact Words: All of the Emersons, especially Amelia, tend to use these rather than outright lies when dissembling (including to each other). The Exotic Detective: Amelia Peabody and Radcliffe Emerson, Egyptologists who detect because their path is littered with the bodies of murdered tomb robbers, spies, etc. Faking the Dead: Sethos, the Master Criminal and eventually ally of Amelia and her family, does this twice. First in the climax of The Snake, the Crocodile, and the Dog (book 7 of the series), though this is not revealed until book 9 (Seeing a Large Cat), then a second time in the climax of He Shall Thunder in the Sky (book 15 chronologically), though this is not exposed until six months later in its direct sequel Lord of the Silent. Both times, he intercepted a bullet meant for Amelia with his own body and was believed to have died as a result, but actually recovered from his wound and resumed his activities. Flirty Stepsiblings: Ramses and Nefret were raised as siblings from the ages of ten and thirteen, respectively, but ended up falling in love and marrying, albeit with some complications. Flowery Insults: Amelia's husband Emerson is widely known in Egypt by the nickname "Abu Shitaim" or "Father of Curses" for his flowing, creative Arabic invective. The nickname is a compliment, as his Egyptian workmen consider proper cursing to be an art form. He seems less fluent when swearing in English, but since Amelia Bowdlerizes her own journals, we can't be sure. Friendly Enemy: From the third book until sometime late in the series, Amelia Peabody-Emerson and the Master Criminal is, well, mainly because the Emerson family are Egyptologists and the Master Criminal is, well, mainly dealing in forging antiquities. or any member of the family from danger from any of the book's main antagonists. It isn't until the book He Shall Thunder in the Sky that it is discovered by Amelia's son Ramses, who was working as a spy for British Intelligence in World War I, that Sethos is actually his uncle — the illegitimate half-brother of Amelia's husband and Ramses' father Radcliffe Emerson, and they effectively ditch the "Enemies" part as a result. Genius Bruiser: Amelia's husband, Egyptologist Radcliffe Emerson is described by his wife as "Herculean" and also as "the greatest archeologist of this or any other age." His daughter-in-law can do charity medical work safely in the worst slums partly because she is widely loved, but also because "I will tear out your liver" if a hair of her head is mussed. Go to Your Room!: Ramses is often told this, with explicit instructions to stay there, because he will leave otherwise. Happily Adopted: Nefret, Sennia and David Todros all become the wards of the Emerson brothers and their wives (the former two for Amelia and Emerson, the latter for Evelyn and Walter), and are very happy to become part of the family (Sennia is technically already part of the family, but was abandoned by her father Percy and is only brought to her great-aunt's attention by an unscrupulous pimp/con artist). Hair-Trigger Temper: Emerson is rather short-tempered, Happily Married: Amelia and Emerson. Evelyn and Walter. Eventually David and Lia, and Nefret and Ramses. Amelia Peabody and her husband Radcliffe Emerson, archeologist detectives. They quarrel all the time, partly for the fun of it, but also hold each other in something like awe and devote a considerable part of their considerable will-powers to making the marriage work. Their son Walter "Ramses" Emerson apparently learned from his parents' example and has this relationship with his wife Evelyn. Despite a rough patch after, has a very happy marriage with his wife Evelyn. Despite a rough patch after their sixth and youngest child dies in infancy. David and Lia also become this when they marry. Heel-Face Turn: Sethos. Heroic Sacrifice: Sethos twice! He gets better both times though. Historical Domain Character: The Emerson has a lot, and T. E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) shows up at least twice. Emerson has a particular dislike for fellow Egyptologist Flinders Petrie, possibly because Petrie is the Real Life model for Emerson and the fellow who in Real History developed many of the archaeological principles and techniques Amelia credits Emerson and the fellow the fellow because Petrie is the Real Life model for Emerson and the fellow and shoulders are sometimes likened to those of a bull — with very strong hands.note We know this because Amelia gives us asides on how she finds these qualities... distracting. She's 5 foot nothing, and of a slender build. Hypocritical Humor: Emerson does this all the time. You'll lose track of how many times he tells someone (especially Amelia) not to lose their temper, despite the fact that his own has earned him the nickname "Father of Curses" and everyone in Egypt is afraid to cross him. I Am Not Pretty: Amelia rubbishes anyone trying to praise her appearance, constantly emphasising that her height, frame, facial features, complexion and jet black hair clash with late Victorian fashions; she concludes that she is not in any way attractive. Several gentleman and definitely Emerson plus Sethos would beg to disagree. Idiot Ball: Everyone at one time or another. Kid Detective: Walter "Ramses" Emerson was an example (a master of disguise among other things) until, over the course of the series, he grew up. Since his marriage, he's produced his own frighteningly precocious children, who are following in his footsteps. His mother feels it serves him right. Note that in the following passage, rescuing his parents, Ramses is about eight or nine: "Now, Mama, Papa, and sir," said Ramses, "please withdraw to the farthest corner and crouch down with your backs turned. It is as I feared: we will never break through by this method. The walls are eight feet thick. Fortunately I brought along a little nitroglycerine—""Oh, good Gad," shrieked Inspector Cuff. Kindhearted Cat Lover: Amelia and her whole family are fond of cats, and "the Cat Bastet" (always referred to in full) is a character in several of the novels, as are her descendants Horus, Seshat, and the Great Cat of Re. Knew It All Along: Amelia and Emerson both like to claim to be better at detective work than they actually are: In The Curse of the Pharaohs, most of the Disturber, Amelia gives The Summation to their assembled friends, explaining why one person and one person only could be the mastermind behind the murders. When she and Emerson are in bed together later, however, they both confess that they had both suspected the wrong person right up until The Reveal. Lady of Adventure: Amelia. Nefret and Margret Minton are, too, though not in Amelia's league. Lamarck Was Right: Ramses inherits his talents at disguise and general sneakiness from his uncle Sethos. Let's face it, Amelia and Emerson would make a good army just by themselves, but sneakiness isn't exactly among their considerable talents. Also, the character in the Vicky Bliss series who turns out to be descended from Ramses? Starts off as a master thief and antiquity smuggler, with a knack for disguise. Large Ham: Emerson might grumble about the wasted time, but he really gets into the exorcisms that he throws when setting up camp in abandoned buildings, empty tombs, and the like. These locations invariably have reputations for being haunted, and the antics of the criminals that the family contend with don't help. The superstitious local workmen are usually much reassured after he's put on a "magic" show, complete with special effects. He's pretty good at it: the shows are perpetually popular even with his trained cadre,
who have had enough experience to suspect human evildoers before Afrits and Djinn. Last-Name Basis: Amelia and her husband Radcliffe Emerson fondly refer to each other by their last names, in memory of their rather tumultuous courtship. That Prof. Emerson from the first with less than affection addresses Miss Peabody by her last name alone, as though she were a man, indicates that he respects her as an equal. Loophole Abuse: During her son's childhood, Amelia is always forbidding Ramses from speaking of something or carrying out some action or another, and then adding extra details to her prohibitions while mentally noting that he's already thinking of ways to get around it and that she needs to be careful to close these loopholes before he can make use of them. In Deeds of the Disturber, Amelia has to forbid him from leaving his room unless there is genuine danger that will result if he stays in it. He subsequently leaves to alert his mother that said room is on fire. Love at First Sight: At one point, Ramses says outright that he had this for Nefret, regardless of the fact he was a child at the time. Love at First Punch: Love at First Shout, at least: Amelia and Emerson first meet in a museum where he lambastes her for daring to dust some of the afternoon grousing about how rude and unpleasant he is, but then she meets an aristocratic young man and can't help comparing their manner, physique, hands... the young dandy comes off much the worse in the comparison. It's unclear exactly when one of his henchmen knocks Ramses into a wall, leading Amelia to think he's been killed. She goes utterly berserk, beats up the henchmen, and stabs Sethos with her parasol, sending him fleeing into the night screaming in pain and fear. The next we hear from him, he's sending her utterly miscalculated love gifts. Love Epiphany: When Nefret finally realizes how she feels about Ramses, the sound she makes is described as half squeak, half sob. Loval Animal Companion: The Cat Bastet note Yes, she is always addressed or referred to this way, for Ramses. She's also pretty intelligent for a cat. To the extent that early in Seeing a Large Cat, on learning she had died about a month before, Ramses admits that he had a dream of her the night she died (he was away at the time), which is implied to be her personal farewell to him after death. But then, she is an Egyptian cat. Her grandson Horus (introduced in The Ape Who Guards the Balance) becomes this to Nefret, and later Sennia as well. Mama Bear: While Amelia does love Ramses she's very unsentimental about it, much to the frustration of Emerson who wishes she'd be more affectionate towards their only child. Then during the family's first proper encounter with Sethos, one of the Master Criminal's henchmen slams Ramses into a wall and Amelia believes he's dead. The next thing she remembers is Emerson shaking her out of her blind rage, the henchmen cowering on the floor and begging for mercy, a bloodstained parasol from having stabbed Sethos with it, and Ramses pressed flat against the wall in sheer terror. She also takes a bullet meant for him in The Serpent on the Crown Master of Disguise: Sethos and Ramses, in fact, developed his own skill at disguise while still a young boy, after stealing one of Sethos' rather comprehensive makeup kits; for a while before puberty he was in the habit of disguising himself so convincingly as a girl that the Emersons' servants thought they were being haunted by a child's ghost. In The Snake, the Crocodile and the Dog, Sethos spends most the plot hanging out with Amelia, disguised as her and Emerson's good friend Cyrus Vandergelt, and she can't tell the difference. Maybe Magic, Maybe Mundane: Amelia often dreams of her old friend Abdullah after he is killed in The Ape Who Guards the Balance. Only he looks young now, and he was old when they met... He offers promptings, rather than clues, about the mystery of the moment... mostly. She comes to believe she's really meeting her old friend in the afterlife. Her family are not so sure, though their skepticism is showing signs of erosion by the end of the series. Mighty Whitey: Both used and her husband, son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren are all white and regarded with awe, admiration, and dread by the Egyptians they work with, but one of the causes they champion is equal rights for Egyptians, and they cultivate some impressive Egyptian sidekicks (though none in their own league). In The Last Camel Died at Noon, Amelia and family visit a Lost World, where Amelia is irritated to discover that the heroic native prince believes in the Mighty Whitey trope. Mindlink Mates: Ramses and Nefret Emerson have a one-way link (which is explained to

some extent in He Shall Thunder in the Sky), whereby Nefret knows when Ramses is in imminent danger. Mr. Smith: A recurring character, introduced in Lord of the Silent, is a British spymaster who often goes by "Smith" — partly because spies use pseudonyms and partly because it's so much easier than coping with his real name of "the Honorable" Algernon Bracegirdle-Boisdragon". "Near and Dear" Baby Naming: Walter "Ramses" Emerson is named for his paternal uncle, his and Ramses's cousin John. Walter and Evelyn's daughter Amelia, and David and Lia's son Abudullah "Dolly" is named for David's grandfather. Non-Human Sidekick: The cat Bastet in several of the early novels, even though these are mysteries, not fantasies. She is amazingly, though not quite supernaturally, intelligent and loyal. When she eventually dies at an advanced age in Seeing a Large Cat, other cats show up — sometimes her descendants, sometimes just adopted strays — to continue the tradition, though only her daughter comes close to her calibre. By the way, the stories mostly take place in Egypt and the cat Bastet", never just "Bastet", as if even the very unsuperstitious Emersons wanted to be careful that she not be mistaken for any other Bastet. Not Blood Siblings: Amelia's son Walter "Ramses" Emerson is attracted to his adopted sister Nefret pretty much from the moment he meets her, but it takes Nefret a long time to see Ramses as anything other than an Annoying Younger Sibling. Only Known by Their Nickname: Amelia's son Ramses. No, a Victorian Age English couple did not name their son after an Egyptian Pharaoh, but you could be forgiven for thinking they did, given how rarely his real name (Walter) is mentioned in the books. Sethos too — his real name of Seth isn't even revealed until Children of the Storm, fifteenth in publishing order and eighteenth in in-universe chronological order. Papa Wolf: Dr. Radcliffe Emerson, the Egyptologist-detective husband of Amelia Peabody, is always short-tempered and becomes absolutely volcanic at any threat to his family. Since he is regularly described by his narrator-wife as "Herculean" in build, the results are impressive. For that matter, his son Ramses inherits this trait. Shades into Helicopter Parents with regard to Nefret sometimes; not so much about sex as about shielding her from the world's ugliness. He'll say she shouldn't be permitted to examine a gruesome corpse, ignoring the fact that she's a fully trained doctor and would politely and lovingly tell him where to stuff his objections. At least once after she and Ramses married, Ramses got a bit irritated by Emerson's attitude effectively implying that Ramses didn't do a proper job of looking after her; he was rather maliciously amused when Emerson became embarrassed to realize Nefret was taking a bath in the next room. Parasol of Pain: Amelia makes an art form of this, to the point that some superstitious 19th-century Egyptians believe it to be a magical weapon. By the time she's in her 50s, Amelia actually has custom parasols made with extra-strong steel shafts and unusually sharp, pointed finials so they aren't destroyed by the damage she deals with them and can stand up to the rigors of hiking in rough terrain and scrambling around ruins. To top it off, at least one is built along the lines of a sword cane — this latter is a special present from her husband in He Shall Thunder in the Sky, which delights her even though she doesn't actually know how to fence. Aside from this version, she's used them for: Making a path through packed crowds. Smartly applying them to the wrist to fend off women who are being inappropriately clingy around her husband. Stabbing people who attack her son. Intimidation, at least once she's developed a bit of a reputation. Police in their detective work due to believing in this trope and using it as an excuse to pursue their investigations as they see fit. Justified, in that their adventures happen in Egypt in the 1880s to 1920s, where the police are indeed ineffectual (due to a lack of training), violent, corrupt or afraid to press matters when a European is suspected of being the criminal. Less so when in England, where there are competent investigators; the friction that this attitude causes makes applying Amelia and Emerson's real expertise in Egyptian culture to incidents involving London's Cairene population... more difficult than it needs to be. Things get better by the end of the series, but by then, their habits are ingrained, to the chagrin of the new police inspector. Posthumous Collaboration: The Painted Queen was started by Barbara Mertz (AKA Elizabeth Peters) and finished by her friend and collaborator Joan Hess. Put on a Bus: Mary and Karl von Borg debut in book 4, reappearing. Percy Emerson debuts in book 4, reappear in book 9, and have little role otherwise. Raised by Natives: Nefret Forth fits this trope morally if not factually. Her parents were 19th-century explorers who discovered a remnant of ancient Egyptian civilization in a lost oasis and spent the rest of their lives there, Going Native in varying degrees. When Amelia and her family arrive, they find the 13-year-old Nefret being high priestess of Isis. Her parents being dead by the end of the book, Nefret goes back to Western civilization with the Emersons, where she has a realistically rough time fitting in. "Scooby-Doo" Hoax: Unsurprisingly, considering the setting, some form of this is always used by someone, protagonists included. Sesquipedalian Loquaciousness: Walter "Ramses" Emerson tends to embody this trope through his younger years, though he (mostly) grows out of it by around age 20, as stated by Amelia in Guardian of the Horizon. Then, in the very end of Children on the Storm, his son is revealed to be the same way. In fact, David John's first sentences are requesting to be called by his full name and "What subject would you like to discuss?" which prompts Amelia to beg Emerson for a drink. Amelia herself could actually fit this trope in many regards, although it may be more her old-fashioned manner of narration than excessive verbosity. Shipper on Deck: Amelia. Every book, sometimes for more than one couple. Methods range from moderately subtle such asCarefully arranged dinner seating or dropping back in a walking party to distract the third wheel, to practically whacking Walter upside the head when he Can't Spit It Out. In Crocodile on The Sandbank she encourages Evelyn to express her feelings to Walter, despite Evelyn's fears that her Defiled Forever status would lead to a painful rejection. Turns out that Amelia read Walter correctly. Hilariously misaimed in Curse of The Pharaohs: Mary joins the party, As the denouement unfolds, Amelia drags the conversation outside of his room, leaving Mary behind. Some time later, Mary joins the party, and we get this exchange:Mary: He is asleep, I am so happy for him. He will so enjoy being lord Baskerville.Amelia: I always know these things. Cue Karl stepping over to Mary and putting his arm around her. Mary snuggles in. Of course... Amelia being Amelia, within two pages and two and a half months, she's going on about how she knew that Mary & Arthur would not have been a good match. Shout-Out: Multiple throughout the series. To Sherlock Holmes — the second book has characters belonging to a different branch of the Baskerville family, a German named Von Bork, and someone under the pseudonym of Milverton, as well as a direct reference to Holmes, while book four has Amelia meet a detective named Tobias Gregson who's not actually either of those things. There are also references to H. Rider Haggard's stories, in addition to the Homage mentioned above involving Nefret's backstory. Elizabeth Peters is a Discworld fan One of the World War I-era stories had Sethos pretending to be a German agent reporting to a "von Überwald". Shown Their Work: The Egyptology and history of archeology in the series is solid, because the author, Elizabeth Peters (IRL Barbara Mertz) is an Egyptologist and writes non-fiction under her real name. Silk Hiding Steel: Amelia and Nefret and to a lesser extent Evelyn. Literally in the case of their parasols. Sir Swears-a-Lot: Emerson, which earns him the epithet "Father of Curses". Ramses is less prone to this, but on one occasion, he "breathed out a word even his father seldom used" when rescuing David. Nefret will swear on occasion, but justifiably when she is giving birth to the twins, Ramses tells the "Father of Curses" that, "At your most eloquent you've never surpassed it" Stroke the Beard: Archeologist Radcliffe Emerson had a beard when he met Amelia, but not after they married; he still strokes his chin meditatively as an action-equivalent to a Catch Phrase. The habit has even been picked up by other characters, including his daughter-in-law. Title Drop: In several of the novels. Unreliable Narrator: The series provides a fantastic example; the narrator, which can be due to either omission or equivocation. She reports her perceptions, but despite her vaunted skills in understanding people, she routinely misses the actual meaning of events; for example, when people speaking with her begin coughing, she totally misses their disguised laughter and offers them cough drops. She also is often oblivious to her own viewpoints and prejudices, and even when she is aware of them, pride stops her from relating them to the reader. Victorian sensibilities also prevent her from discussing delicate subjects. Unto Us a Son and Daughter Are Born: Ramses and Nefret eventually have a son and daughter between the events of The Golden One, when the pregnancy is announced, and Children of the Storm, set a few years later. Very Loosely Based on a True Story: As noted in Historical Domain Character, Emerson and Peabody clearly are versions of Real Life Flinders Petrie and his friend and patron Amelia Edwards, embellished up to 11 and married to each other. Victorian London: The series starts in this period and moves through The Gay '90s into World War I. But Amelia and her husband (though notably not her children) retain their Victorian London sensibilities throughout. Most of their adventures actually happen in Egypt, as they are archaeologists. Wouldn't Hit a Girl: Emerson, Ramses, and Sethos. Wouldn't Hit a Girl: Emerson for all his large physique, short temper and boisterousness, would never harm — or allow any harm to come to — a child, his or anyone else's. You Called Me "X"; It Must Be Serious: Amelia and her husband scrap all the time, but she knows he's only really angry at her when he calls her "Amelia" rather than the usual "Peabody". The Curse of the Pharaohs (1981; covers 1892-93) Abhorrent Admirer: Emerson manages to attract the attentions of Madame Berengeria, a loathsome woman who is convinced that she and Emerson were lovers in Ancient Egypt. Being Emerson, he's as annoyed by the historical inaccuracies in her story of their past lives as he is by the lady herself. Covered in Mud: Ramses interrupts a tea party after having gone digging in the compost heap and getting covered in Mud: Ramses is described as not so much leaving muddy footprints as having a stream of filth trailing behind him. I Resemble That Remark!: When Emerson is accused of raising his voice, "Emerson bellowed. A ghostly echo came rolling back from the depths of the tomb, as if the king's spirit were objecting to being awakened. The Mummy Case (1985; covers 1894-95) Riding into the Sunset: Invoked and lampshaded when M. de Morgan returns Ramses to his parents after a minor escapade, he deliberately rides off toward the sunset, despite having dinner plans in the opposite direction. The Emersons dryly agree: Frenchmen — Anything for a grand gesture! Deeds of the Disturber (1988; covers Summer 1896) Auto Erotica: Slightly unconventional and Downplayed a bit. Emerson and Amelia make out in the back of a (horse-drawn) cab on the way home from a stressful day. Amelia notes that something about cabs — she's not sure if it's the smell of the leather, the sound of the horses' hoofbeats, or the dark enclosed space — tends to inspire Emerson. Strange Minds Think Alike: Emerson examines a threatening note and proclaims (in a very Sherlock Holmes-esque way) that he can tell from the handwriting it was written 'by a man of education with a pen that needed mending'. Amelia understandably writes this off as complete nonsense. Enter their son Ramses... who then proceeds to make exactly the same comment, much to Amelia's annoyance. What Happened to the Mouse?: Violet Peabody is only seen in Deeds of the Disturber. She's mentioned briefly in The Falcon at the Portal, but otherwise never reappears. The Snake, the Crocodile, and the Dog (1992; covers 1898-99) Amnesiac Lover: Emerson losing his memories of meeting, falling in love with, and marrying her early on. Even after he's recovered, he fakes still having amnesia about his relationship with Amelia until the climax. Faking the Dead: Sethos, in the climax. Faking the Dead: Sethos, in the climax when he's disguised as Cyrus Vandergelt and shot by Leopold Vincey, the villain of the book. However, his survival is not revealed until the events of Seeing a Large Cat. Seeing a Large Cat. The Ape Who Guards the Balance (1998; covers 1906-07) Guardian of the Horizon (2004; covers 1907-08) The Usurper: When the Emersons arrive at the Lost Oasis, they find King Tarek is in exile, with his position usurped by a man named Zekare. In the climax, Zekare's son Marasen betrays and murders him in an attempt to usurp the throne, but he's defeated and killed, and Tarek reclaims his throne. The Falcon at the Portal (1999; covers 1911-12) The Bus Came Back: Fifteen in-universe years after his last appearance in The Deeds of the Disturber, Percy Peabody reappears. Disney Villain Death: During the climax, while the Emersons are working in a pyramid, Geoffrey Godwin attacks Amelia and is knocked off-balance by Ramses, acting to protect his mother, falling into a pit. Though Ramses grabs onto Geoffrey in an attempt to save him, the other man claws Ramses' hands, breaks loose and falls to his death. Downer Ending: Not usually, but The Falcon at the Portal did not end on a happy note. Nefret had married Geoffrey Godwin after Ramses denied Sennia was his, out of anger over both the accusation and the denial, but in the climax, Geoffrey turns out to be the book's villain and deliberately lets himself fall to his death, leaving Nefret a widow. To top it off, she suffers a miscarriage — revealed in He Shall Thunder in the Sky to have been Ramses's child, conceived the night before Sennia was brought to the family — shortly after, falls into depression, and goes off to another country on a doctor's advice. Family Eye Resemblance: This is what allows Sennia (the three-year-old illegitimate daughter of Percival "Percy" Peabody) to be passed off as Ramses' child when she's introduced in The Falcon at the Portal. Tempting Fate: In The Falcon at the Portal Nefret asks Lia in a letter, "What could Percy do to hurt Ramses?" They find out very quickly when he arranges to have his daughter brought to the family, claiming Ramses is the girl's father. And also does other things to Ramses later. The Painted Queen (2017; covers 1912) Avenging the Villain: The story starts when Amelia is bathing and a man comes into her bathroom with the intention of attacking her. It's eventually discovered that he was one of Geoffrey Godwin's five half-brothers, who are seeking vengeance for Geoffrey's death in The Falcon at the Portal. Their mother is finally exposed and, unlike his mother and brothers, captured by Amelia. In the Back: The plot kicks off when Amelia is bathing and a man who's been stabbed in the back comes into her bathroom, utters "You!" and "Murder", then drops dead. He Shall Thunder in the first chapter. Connected All Along: Sethos is revealed to be Emerson and Walter's paternal half brother (conceived by their father and his mistress). The same book introduces Melinda "Molly" Hamilton, who's revealed to be Sethos' illegitimate daughter by his former associate Bertha. Foreshadowing: In a scene in chapter four, Nefret says that Major Hamilton had "behaved rather like an indulgent uncle" to her. It's revealed late in the book that Hamilton was actually a disquised Sethos, and that Sethos is Emerson's illegitimate half-brother. Heroic Sacrifice: Sethos, again, when he once more takes a bullet for Amelia in the climax — this time from her nephew Percy. In the Back: During the final chapter, Nefret attacks an already-wounded Percy this way, clutching her knife in both hands and bringing it down into his back. It's later revealed that it was Sethos' bullets and not her stab wound that killed him though. A Taste of the Lash: After finding Ramses spying on him late in the book, Percy does this to him. Lord of the Silent (2001; covers 1915-16) Faking the Dead: Sethos had done this a second time at the end of He Shall Thunder in the Sky. Emerson is not pleased when he finds out, and at the end of the book makes the following comment: Emerson: "I wish he would turn to a line of work that doesn't interfere with mine, but I can even put up with that, unless..."Amelia: "Unless what, Emerson: "I wish he would turn to a line of work that doesn't interfere with mine, but I can even put up with that, unless..."Amelia: "Unless what, Emerson: "I wish he would turn to a line of work that doesn't interfere with mine, but I can even put up with that, unless..."Amelia: "Unless what, Emerson: "I wish he would turn to a line of work that doesn't interfere with mine, but I can even put up with that, unless..."Amelia: "Unless what, Emerson: "I wish he would turn to a line of work that doesn't interfere with mine, but I can even put up with that, unless..."Amelia: "Unless what, Emerson: "I wish he would turn to a line of work that doesn't interfere with mine, but I can even put up with that, unless..."Amelia: "Unless what, Emerson: "I wish he would turn to a line of work that doesn't interfere with mine, but I can even put up with that, unless..."Amelia: "Unless what, Emerson: "I wish he would turn to a line of work that doesn't interfere with mine, but I can even put up with that, unless..."Amelia: "Unless what, Emerson: "I wish he would turn to a line of work that doesn't interfere with mine, but I can even put up with that, unless..."Amelia: "Unless what, Emerson: "I wish he would turn to a line of work that doesn't interfere with mine, but I can even put up with that, unless what, Emerson: "I wish he would turn to a line of work that doesn't interfere with mine, but I can even put up with that, unless what, Emerson: "I wish he would turn to a line of work that doesn't interfere with mine, but I can even put up with that, unless what, Emerson: "I wish he would turn to a line of work that doesn't work that doesn Hell: Cyrus' stepson Bertie is invalided out of service after two years of service in World War I. More than his physical recovery, he badly needs someone sympathetic to listen to his doubts about his war service, and Ramses (who posed as a conscientious objector) plays this role for him:Nefret: Was it very bad?Ramses: About what you'd expect. Mud, vermin, fear, loneliness, disillusionment. The worst of it was realizing that the enemy weren't demons, but men like himself. Just as lonely for their homes and families, just as frightened. The Golden One (2002; covers 1916-17) Altar Diplomacy: Attempted while Ramses is in the hands of Ismail Pasha and Sahin Pasha, Sahin attempts to lure Ramses to his side, suggesting that if Ramses betrayed his country and joined them, he could convert to Islam and be given Sahin's daughter Esin for a second bride. Ramses, of course, declines. Egypt, 1912—Amelia Peabody and her dashing archeologist husband, Radcliffe Emerson, are once again in danger as they search for a priceless, stolen bust of legendary Queen Nefertiti and Amelia finds herself the target of assassins in this long-awaited, eagerly anticipated final installment of Elizabeth Peters' bestselling, beloved mystery series. Arriving in Cairo, when a man with knife protruding from his back staggers into the bath chamber and utters a single word—"Murder"—before collapsing on the tiled floor, dead. Among the few possessions he carried was a sheet of paper with Amelia's name and room number, and a curious piece of pasteboard the size of a calling card bearing one word: "Judas." Most peculiarly, the stranger was wearing a gold-rimmed monocle in his left eye. It quickly becomes apparent that someone saved Amelia from a would-be assassin—someone who is keeping a careful eye on the intrepid Englishwoman. Discovering a terse note clearly meant for Emerson—Where were you?"—pushed under their door, there can be only one answer: the brilliant master of disguise, Sethos. But neither assassins nor the Genius of Crime will deter Amelia as she and Emerson head to the excavation site at Amarna, where they will witness the discovery of one of the most precious Egyptian artifacts: the iconic Nefertiti bust. In 1345 B.C. the sculptor Thutmose crafted the piece in tribute to the great beauty of this queen who was also the chief consort of Pharaoh Akhenaten and stepmother to King Tutankhamun. For Amelia, this excavation season will prove to be unforgettable. Throughout her journey, a parade of men in monocles will die under suspicious circumstances, fascinating new relics will be unearthed, a diabolical mystery will be solved, and a brilliant criminal will offer his final challenge . . . and perhaps be unmasked at last.