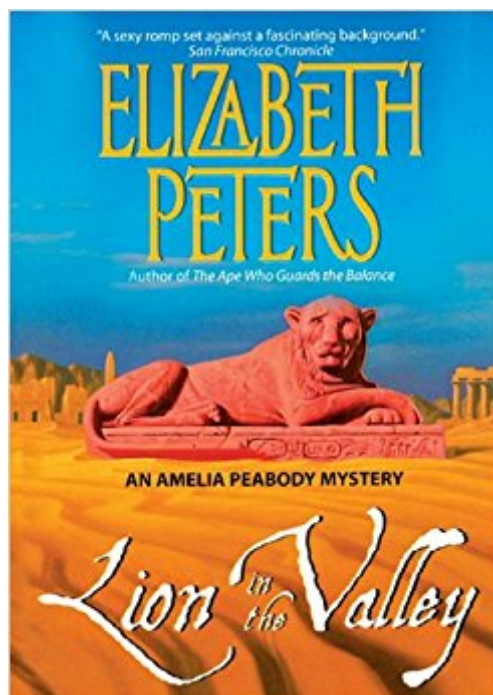


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# Lion In The Valley (An Amelia Peabody Mystery)



## Synopsis

The 1895-96 season promises to be an exceptional one for Amelia Peabody, her dashing Egyptologist husband, Radcliffe Emerson, and their precocious (some might say rambunctious) eight-year-old son, Ramses. The long-denied permission to dig at the pyramids of Dahshoor has finally been granted, and the much-coveted burial chamber of the Black Pyramid is now theirs for the exploring. Before the young family exchanges the relative comfort of Cairo for the more rudimentary quarters near the excavation site, they engage a young Englishman, Donald Fraser, as a tutor and companion for Ramses, and Amelia takes a wayward young woman, Enid Debenham, under her protective wing. But there is danger and deception in the wind that blows across the hot Egyptian sands. A brazen kidnapping attempt, a gruesome murder, and an expedition subsequently cursed by misfortune and death--all serve to alert Amelia to the likely presence of her arch nemesis, the "Master Criminal," notorious looter of the living and the dead. But it is far more than ill-gotten riches that motivate the man known as Sethos. The evil genius has a score to settle with the meddling lady archaeologist who has sworn to deliver him to justice . . . and he's got her dead-on in his sights. Replete with edge-of-the-seat suspense and scrupulous archaeological and historical detail, all delivered in Amelia Peabody's unique, wry voice, *Lion in the Valley* is a classic installment in Elizabeth Peters's beloved mystery-adventure series.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Emerson family are an unholy trio: Radcliffe Emerson the prickly archaeologist, Amelia Peabody Emerson his officious wife and amateur sleuth, and Walter "Ramses" Peabody Emerson,

their 7 year old son who reads lots of sensational fiction and is writing his own Egyptian grammar. In the days of modern air travel they would be the family you hated to have anywhere near you on the plane; in turn of the century Cairo, you wouldn't have wanted to get near them either! For wherever they go, murder, mayhem, and the Master Criminal cannot be far behind. I loved the Mummy Case because we got to know Ramses who provided some leavening into the already hysterical antics of Amelia and Radcliffe. As he lisped about in the sand discovering priceless relics and running rings around his parents, the reader realized that he was going to be a great addition to the series. Here in Lion in the Valley, Ramses really comes into his own. Now 7, he is twice the trouble and twice the detective. The plot hinges on the actions of the "Master Criminal"--a mastermind of devious and deadly plots who is organizing the grave robbers of Egypt into a formidable criminal underworld. We briefly met the MC in the Mummy Case, but here he takes center stage, pushing aside any hope of interest in the archaeological dig itself. By the end of the book Amelia and the MC have met...and it is hilarious. If you like your mysteries with a laugh track then this is for you. Fans read them for Amelia and the 101 things she can do with waterproof matches--not for the labyrinthine plots--and increasingly for Ramses as well.

This book has got to be one of my all time favourites. Ms. Peters' incomparable skill at writing an Egyptian mystery near the end of Queen Victoria's reign is demonstrated by the witty dialogue, interesting twists and unforgettable characters. In the thick of the mystery is our lovable heroine, Mrs. Amelia Peabody-Emerson (affectionately called "Peabody" by her amazing husband), Emerson--the Egyptologist spouse and their little rascal son, Ramses. The mysterious, yet fascinating Master Criminal has fallen for Amelia and tries to woo her heart while creating intriguing twists in the process. Amelia fights his advances all the way and the duel between Emerson and his rival certainly provides some entertainment!! When there is a worthy heroine, great dangers, a mystery to die for set in the most wonderful country, Egypt, how can it not be a great yarn, eh? I can't seem to be able to write a review worthy of this book without giving away everything. My advice, please buy this book, you will NOT be disappointed.

Welcome (or welcome back) to the wonderful world of crime and archaeology that abounds in this series. In The Lion In The Valley, we meet up with Amelia Peabody and her husband, Radcliffe Emerson as they set out once again for a dig in Egypt. Their son Ramses, a "catastrophically precocious" 8 year old with an eerie aptitude for languages both ancient and modern, accompanies them for only the 2nd time and promptly gets himself kidnapped. He is rescued almost immediately,

but that isn't the end of their misfortune. Mishaps continue to plague their dig, and the hand of the Master Criminal once more appears to be present. If you haven't read any of this series yet and you don't want to start all the way at the beginning, this is a good place to start. There's enough coverage of the past stories so you won't get lost without being repetitive for those who have read the 3 previous books. A great story with wonderful characters, I highly recommend it.

Being somewhat disappointed with "The Mummy Case," I wasn't too sure as to what to expect from "Lion in the Valley." I was not to be disappointed again! This book has everything that makes the "Amelia Peabody" stories so enjoyable to read: mystery, suspense, adventure AND the Master Criminal, who has won my heart (if not Amelia's) in this book. Emerson and Ramses weren't too bad either!

I am now on book five of this series and have enjoyed them all to a "five-star" degree! The author, Elizabeth Peters, and her husband are/were Egyptologists and archaeologists. These books, written in the 70s, are set in the mid to late 1800s and early 1900s when archaeology was just beginning in Egypt. Ms. Peters has researched the culture and speech for the time period as well as the new and burgeoning world of archaeology. The result is a series which is built on historical fact, rich in information, written in a lively, delightful, cheeky style. Amelia Peabody and her husband Emerson and their son (nicknamed Ramses) are all strong personalities with their own quirks who stumble upon a mystery and adventure in each new season of digging. In the series we are only with the family during their 'seasons' in Egypt (the rest of their time in their homeland, England, is caught up each time in a few pages). I try to have the next book at my disposal before I finish whichever one I am reading at present as I seem to be addicted to Amelia and her bunch. Yes, I enjoyed this book very much but you do need to read this series in order to fully enjoy and appreciate it. Start with book one--Crocodile on the Sandbank.

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