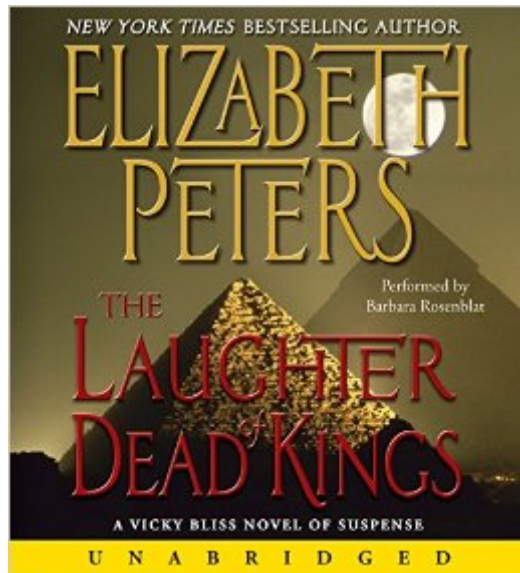


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Laughter Of Dead Kings (Vicky Bliss, No. 6)



Synopsis

â œA royal treatâ |. Welcome back, Vicky Bliss!... For readers new to Vickyâ™s sassy and distinctively smart stories, *The Laughter of Dead Kings* will mark the start of a beautiful friendship. â •â "Tampa Tribune" New York Times bestselling Grand Master Elizabeth Petersâ "author of the thrilling fictional exploits of archaeologist Amelia Peabody in the *Land of the Pharaohs*" brings back beautiful, brainy art expert and sometime sleuth Vicky Bliss for one last adventure in *The Laughter of Dead Kings*. The incomparable Peters sends Vicky and her colorful entourage racing across modern-day Egypt to investigate the brazen theft of one the ancient desert landâ™s most priceless treasures. Smart, funny, evocative, and suspenseful, *The Laughter of Dead Kings* is a fond and fitting farewell to the ever-delightful Vickyâ | and a superior mystery fit for a King Tutankhamen.

Book Information

Audio CD: 9 pages

Publisher: HarperAudio; Unabridged edition (August 26, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061662402

ISBN-13: 978-1436123310

Product Dimensions: 1.5 x 5 x 6 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (118 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,319,010 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #36 inÂ Books > Books on CD >

Authors, A-Z > (P) > Peters, Elizabeth #4342 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

#6843 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged

Customer Reviews

This is a VERY GOOD book in my opinion, which is what a book review, (again in my opinion) should be. Do I think it is Ms. Mertz-Michaels-Peters greatest book...no I would award that distinction to either *Ammie Come Home* (Michaels) or *Devil May Care* (Peters) *The Love Talker* (Peters) or maybe *Summer of the Dragon* or *Legend in Green Velvet* (also written as Peters). Ammie still scares me into sleeping with the lights on and these Peters books will always send me into spasms of laughter. But *Laughter of Dead Kings* is still a fitting contribution to and sadly probably the last of the Vicky Bliss series and does exactly what I had hoped it would do! My advice to new readers of these books to not read this as a stand alone. To really appreciate this book, a reader

needs to know the characters, both in the Bliss books and the Emerson-Peabody books.*****SPOILER*****In my opinion John is behaving more and more like his ancestor Ramses Emerson as this book progresses. My one quibble is that I would have loved to have seen more made of the relationship reveal between the two series, although after having the honor of meeting Ms. Mertz-Michaels-Peters and talking to her briefly about this point, I'm not surprised at the way this scene was written. What I would most enjoy reading is another Amelia book that would introduce loyal readers to the ancestress of John, Ramses' (as yet unborn in the last Amelia book)youngest daughter and complete the arc between the series.I am thrilled, and bored my family to death talking about, the hints that there might be additional Amelia books coming from the author with the 'large hat' and her ownership of the three family journals. And to complete this very long book review, I also recommend the Joan Hess book 'Mummy Dearest' as the hints and ties to the Amelia books were fun.

To warn you in advance of potential bias on my part, the Vicky Bliss series has been beloved to me for many years, and I had long since given up on a new novel. So this was a treat. Taken as a stand-alone book, *The Laughter of Dead Kings* is probably not quite on the same level as some of its predecessors, but then I wouldn't recommend it to anyone who hasn't read the previous novels, or *Night Train to Memphis* at a bare minimum. (And in all fairness, that was a tough act to follow.) Peters doesn't spend an extensive amount of time reintroducing characters, locations, etc., and a newcomer would be quite lost. On the other hand, I would strongly recommend this book to anyone and everyone who is familiar with Vicky and company-- but it's unlikely that they would need my urging. I can, however, assure them that it's entirely worth it.This is an honest-to-goodness Vicky, complete with lighthearted first-person narration, improbable occurrences, charming anti-heroes, and a certain amount of blundering. Peters writes with her usual panache and manages to avoid the pitfall of some of her other works (particularly the later Amelia Peabodys) in keeping the story tidy and to the point. If anything, it leaves you wishing for just a little bit more... but of course that's a hallmark of the best.All the characters are as charming and convincing as ever, despite the fact that they have been mercilessly dragged into the modern era of cell phones and instant messaging, and a few of Peters' very deliberately placed revelations had me grinning. Great stuff. Sadly, both the tone and the events strongly implied that she is wrapping up the series, but then, "one is all any of us can count on." And this "one more" was just about right.

When "*Night Train to Memphis*" was published in 1994, I eagerly awaited the next installment in the

Vicky Bliss/John Smythe series. As year after year went by, I came to the sad conclusion that there would never be another novel. You can imagine how delighted I was when I learned that there would be a new book in the series. I bought "Laughter of Dead Kings" the very day it came out. The sixth entry in this series was wonderful, albeit not as good as some of the other books in the series, particularly "Street of Five Moons" and the lovely "Trojan Gold." John and Vicky were wonderful, but Anton Z. Schmidt -- ah, the clever and debonair Schmidt -- was better than ever! I know John is supposed to be the love interest, but it's Schmidt who is my hero. I've fallen in love! With so much suspense, cleverness, laughs, and twists and turns, "Laughter of Dead Kings" was definitely worth the wait!

The "Inspector of Antiquities for all Upper Egypt" Feisal arrives at the Munich National Museum to visit assistant curator American expatriate Vicky Bliss. She welcomes her friend who has come so far since THE NIGHT TRAIN TO MEMPHIS caper, but is shocked to see him so far from his beloved Egypt and coming to Germany without telling her. He asks to see her lover antiquities dealer John Tregarth. Feisal informs John and Vicky that someone stole King Tut's mummy from the tomb in the Valley of Kings pyramid. Based on evidence, the Egyptian police believe strongly that notorious art thief Sir John Smythe is the thief. Stunned as Tregarth was once Smythe, but no longer steals anything; they begin investigating knowing they will risk Egypt to find the real culprit and return Tut to his resting place. After too long a wait, Elizabeth Peters fans will welcome the return of the statuesque amateur sleuth who along with her British lover and their Egyptian friend try to prove Sir Smythe is retired and someone else is imitating his M.O. The story line is fun to follow as the connection to Amelia Peabody is obvious with the tour of Egypt that follows in her historical footsteps, which in many ways dominates the plot over the investigation. Readers will enjoy the blissful return of Vicky and John as they struggle to stay alive and out of jail long enough to prove his innocence. Harriet Klausner

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