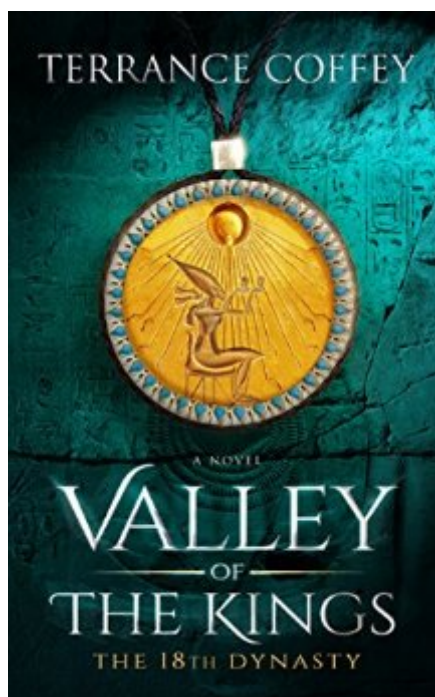


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VALLEY OF THE KINGS: The 18th Dynasty



Synopsis

The 2016 International Pacific Book Award Winner for BEST HISTORICAL FICTION In the year 1355 BCE, the land of Egypt was the superpower of the known world. King Tut's father, Akenaten, the so-called 'heretic pharaoh,' and his wife, Queen Nefertiti, are on the verge of catapulting Egypt into a revolution that will forever divide its people and rip the most powerful empire on the earth from its foundation. Inspired by the actual Hittite and Amarna letters of 14th century BCE, 'Valley of the Kings: The 18th Dynasty' is an epic novel of intrigue, passion, and betrayal, resurrecting the thrilling story of a singular leader whose beliefs were both visionary and disastrous.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Terrence Coffey's VALLEY OF THE KINGS is the third novel of ancient Egypt I have read recently, and I am once again most impressed by the work of an author. Coffey treats one of the most popular and misunderstood periods of Egyptian history, the so-called 'Amarna Revolution.' This was in many ways a reactionary movement that remains clouded in mystery and thus creates a number of problems as we attempt to make sense of it. Unfortunately for

Egyptologists and historians, with the restoration of the cult of Amun-Ra came concerted efforts to remove all record of the heretical pharaoh, Akhenaten, and even the brief reigns of his successors. Thus, enigmas abound. Once again I find myself wishing I could offer 4.5 stars. Perhaps will some day provide us with the option to count beyond the decimal point. This is a good book, and I certainly recommend it. The narrative flows smoothly, and it is a definite "page-turner." The pacing is excellent for the plot line as it unfolds chronologically. I like a number of the author's touches, particularly: (1) Ay as the ultimate manipulator -- de facto assassin of Amenhotep III, likely assassin of Nefertiti, and implicated conspirator in the chariot "accident" of Tut; (2) the intrigues amongst the Mitanni and Hittites, who are also given very credible characterizations; (3) the eventual ruthlessness of Akhenaten, who was indeed a fanatic and probably had plenty of blood on his hands. This is a work of fiction, and the author is certainly entitled to take liberties -- all the more so, since we often do not know what actually happened. We might perhaps begin with the celebrated Tutankhamen.

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