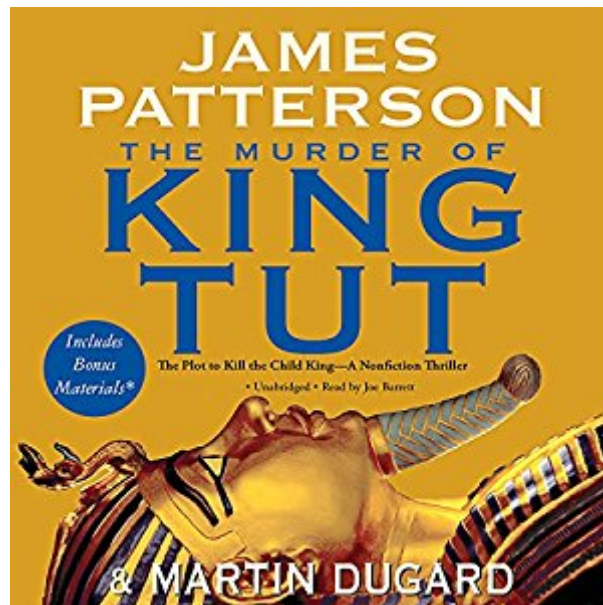


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# The Murder Of King Tut: The Plot To Kill The Child King



## Synopsis

A secret buried for centuries thrust onto Egypt's most powerful throne at the age of nine, King Tut's reign was fiercely debated from the outset. Behind the palace's veil of prosperity, bitter rivalries and jealousy flourished among the Boy King's most trusted advisors, and after only nine years, King Tut suddenly perished, his name purged from Egyptian history. To this day, his death remains shrouded in controversy. The keys to an unsolved mystery enchanted by the ruler's tragic story and hoping to unlock the answers to the 3,000 year-old mystery, Howard Carter made it his life's mission to uncover the pharaoh's hidden tomb. He began his search in 1907, but encountered countless setbacks and dead-ends before he finally, uncovered the long-lost crypt. The clues point to murder. Now, in *The Murder of King Tut*, James Patterson and Martin Dugard dig through stacks of evidence--X-rays, Carter's files, forensic clues, and stories told through the ages--to arrive at their own account of King Tut's life and death. The result is an exhilarating true crime tale of intrigue, passion, and betrayal that casts fresh light on the oldest mystery of all. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book's title may mislead readers who, not knowing James Patterson's vast outpouring of detective fiction, expect a scholarly archaeological study of the circumstances surrounding the death of Tutankhamen, the Pharaoh popularly known as "King Tut." *THE MURDER OF KING TUT* is no such thing. It is a shrewd blend of fact and fiction, an airy set of variations on an Egyptian theme, told in short chapters that whiz back and forth between 1300 BC, the 1920s and the present day. Patterson and Martin Dugard are not shy about touting the amount of research they put into this

concoction, but the reader who is not himself an Egyptologist will have to be on constant alert to distinguish fact from fiction. Did Tut really marry his own sister? The basic historical framework is well known --- the attempt by Tut's father Akhenaten to turn Egypt away from polytheism to the worship of a single god by building a new capital city dedicated to that god and far removed from Thebes, the ancient capital. Tutankhamen became Pharaoh as a child, ruled for only a decade or so and died under circumstances that Patterson and Dugard see as a murder plot spawned by Tut's failure to produce a male heir to the throne. They finger three villains: Tut's younger sister whom he married in an unsuccessful effort to produce the needed heir, a villainous general and an equally sneaky high-level "grand vizier." There is a smattering of rather sanitized sex in the book and a satisfactory amount of blood and gore, delivered rather casually. A good many people end up being beheaded or with their throats cut, as was evidently the ancient Egyptian custom in matters of high state policy.

James Patterson should not have lent his name to this book. Why did he do it? Was it greed or bad judgement? Or perhaps both? I don't know, but THE MURDER OF KING TUT is most certainly unreadable--a juvenile sleight-of-hand non fiction that abuses Mr Patterson's reputation as a writer of fiction, and a cruel joke on those willing to invest their time and money on a writer they've come to admire, enjoy and trust. Paterson paints a false portrait of Howard Carter, showing him as a difficult and disagreeable man, without considering or even realizing that almost immediately after Carter's discovery of the tomb, he and his party were victimized by a deluge of humanity. Newspaper correspondents flocked into the valley dispelling any opportunity to get down to the business of excavation. Standing knee deep in artifacts that would shatter into dust at the slightest touch, Carter had to fend off visitors of every stripe. The visitors came armed with guide books, gawking and descending on workers who tried to emerge from the tomb with delicate artifacts. There were American students with their jazz age slang, half drunk from spending half the night in the bar of the Winter Palace hotel, hucksters, and reporters. On they came, an army of people, arriving on donkeys and two horse cabs, setting up camps, staking claims on the rim of the excavation, from morning until night, knitting, photographing, singing and in some cases getting quite drunk. And if all this wasn't bad enough, royalty and diplomats insisted on private tours. The Egyptian government felt obliged to grant every request for tours, forcing poor Carter to spend days away from the onerous task of labeling all of the artifacts in situ, and preserving and cataloging them.

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