



## The Snake, the Crocodile and the Dog

*Elizabeth Peters*

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## **The Snake, the Crocodile and the Dog** Elizabeth Peters

A brand-new Elizabeth Peters novel is one of the uncompromising pleasures in life. As Peter Theroux in the New York Times Book Review points out, "Her wonderfully witty voice and her penchant for history lessons of the Nile both ancient and modern keep [her] high adventure moving for even the highest brows." In her previous outing, *The Last Camel Died at Noon*, Amelia Peabody and her dashing husband, Emerson, discovered a fabulous lost oasis in the Nubian desert. Now, in the seventh mystery in the series, the Emerson-Peabodys are traveling up the Nile once again to encounter their most deadly adversary, the Master Criminal, who is back at his sinister best. Amelia Peabody was unabashedly proud of her newest translation, a fragment of the ancient fairytale "The Doomed Prince." Later, she would wonder why no sense of foreboding struck her as she retold the story of the king's favorite son who had been warned that he would die from the snake, the crocodile, or the dog. Little did she realize, as she and her beloved husband sailed blissfully toward the pyramids of ancient Egypt, that those very beasts (and a cat as well) would be part of a deadly plot. The expedition began so happily....Leaving their delightful, but catastrophically precocious, son, Ramses, back in England, Amelia hoped this romantic trip might rejuvenate her thirteen-year-old marriage and bring back the thrills that she feared were fading. She and her dear Emerson were returning to the remote desert site where they had first fallen in love, Amarna, the holy city of Akhenaton and his beautiful queen, Nefertiti. But their return would threaten not only their marriage, but their very lives with perils as chilling as a mummy's curse. An old enemy was determined to learn Amelia and Emerson's most closely guarded secret: the location of a legendary long-lost oasis and a race of people bedecked in gold. So cunning was his scheme that Amelia might overlook - until it was too late - the truth about the myst

## **The Snake, the Crocodile and the Dog Details**

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## From Reader Review The Snake, the Crocodile and the Dog for online ebook

### Jammin Jenny says

I really enjoyed this book in the Amelia Peabody series. I loved how Amelia continues to shine as a forthright heroine, and how she stood by Emerson's side when he got amnesia. Also loved that they visited the place where they first met.

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### Vivienne says

The events of *The Last Camel Died at Noon* continue to impact upon the Emerson family. The secret they uncovered has attracted the attention of various baddies and as the summary above discloses Emerson has lost his memory, which creates a romantic tension.

Again this proved a very engaging story especially when Emerson loses his memory of the past 13 years! Would he ever remember Amelia? As I said to my friend, who is also a big fan of the series, I am quite invested in these characters and so was worried even though the continuation of the series should be reassuring. Still, this is part of the pleasure of this kind of romantic suspense. There were also a number of surprises along the way that I certainly did not see coming.

This has been my audiobook in the car for some weeks and I also read the corresponding pages in the Kindle edition each week. As always Rosenblat does a wonderful job voicing Amelia and her delightful dry wit.

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### Virginia Jacobs says

I always find that the first hundred pages or so are the hardest to get through, and after that the Amelia Peabody books are rather amusing.

In this book, Peabody and Emerson return to Egypt to hide some artifacts they discovered in their previous adventure, only to "discover" them again. Before you start thinking how un-Peabody/Emerson this sounds, you have to know that in their previous adventure, they swore not to mention where they had been. So they can't very well turn up with artifacts that indicate they've been somewhere they have to claim doesn't exist.

So the plan is to hide them in a probably location, claim they found them this season, and then send them off to a museum, or whatever. But of course, plans go awry and the Peabody-Emerson party is randomly (or not so randomly) attacked, etc.

This is all fine, but Peters never returns to the issue of the artifacts at all. So, presumably they're still in Peabody's possession, but it really is an incomplete plot thread.

This book was entertaining, but not as well written as other Amelia Peabody adventures.

## Empress Reece (Hooked on Books) says

Wow this one kept me entranced the whole time! I thought I had it figured out but the ultimate twist with Sethos, I never guessed. So Im wondering, is Sethos really dead? I dont think so, which is why they probably bundled him away so quickly but who knows?? I wish I had the next installment right now so i could begin reading! :) Peters just keeps getting better and better. Alot of serial authors, usually get complacent i think and all of their books start sounding the exact name but I think Peters does a remarkable job of changing it up. I understand she has to incorporate some background for stand alone readers but she really does a great job mixing it in different ways and places in each book so you dont feel like your reading the same thing over and over again. Carolyn Hart needs to take a lesson from Peters because every one of her books follows the exact same outline for every novel. Its so boring and tedious!!

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## Pamela says

I love the Amelia Peabody mysteries. They play upon my love for strong female leads, Egyptology, romance, and a good mystery. I've had fun reading all of the books, but this one? Is probably my favorite since Crocodile on the Sandbank.

Yet another enemy is after the Peabody-Emersons, this time to discover the way to the hidden Meroitic civilization they found in book 6, The Last Camel Died At Noon. Unfortunately, Emerson is kidnapped and subsequently loses his memory, and aside from trying to discover who is attempting to harm them, Amelia must now try to jog her husband's memory, which conveniently disappeared back to the time just before they met.

While the amnesia plot device can be rather hackneyed, Peters uses it to revitalize the relationship between Amelia and Emerson. It is at the same time funny and frustrating, particularly for poor Amelia, who must put up with Emerson as he was before she... er, *tamed* him.

The mystery itself was a delight. I found myself jumping back and forth between suspects, and when all was revealed at the end, I gasped out loud.

Really, I can't recommend this series highly enough. It's become my mission in life to convert people to the Way of Amelia Peabody. In the last two weeks, I've converted three people. I'm building up good book karma, you see.

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## Jill says

I just love these books. Really, any star rating I give them is not for the mystery portion, but for the characters and their interactions

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## Lynne Tull says

This Amelia Peabody read like two books. One book was set in England and the other in Egypt. They were tied to each other by the mystery to be solved. Alert: Pay attention to the clues in England they might help you solve the mystery in Egypt. There are a lot of twists and turns that will keep you guessing. It was a very enjoyable book to read even all of the Egyptology that was thrown in to educate the reader.

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## **QNPoohBear says**

Amelia and her dear sister-in-law Evelyn regret the romance has gone out of their lives, especially now their husbands are more interested in what they can learn from Nefret than anything else. Amelia hopes their upcoming expedition to Egypt will put the spark back in her relationship. This time Ramses is elected to stay at home and pursue an education (and to be with "HER" as he calls Nefret). Emerson has a new plan to return to their old dig sites and make a thorough study of each one. To do this, they would need a staff (including females!) and a permanent home. Though Amelia would rather excavate some place new, she sees the merit in Emerson's plan. She's also busy translating an Egyptian fairy tale "The Doomed Prince" and they've been asked by an old acquaintance of Emerson's to watch his cat Anubis while he's away. Abdullah fears the cat is a demon based on his name, but Emerson pooh-poohs the superstition. Unfortunately for Amelia, her instincts fail to warn her of impending danger. Before they really begin making a survey of past dig sites, mysterious events occur which place both Emersons in danger. When Amelia's beloved Emerson is abducted and hit on the head, Amelia vows to move heaven and hell to rescue him. Meanwhile, long letters from Ramses arrive detailing abduction attempts on himself and Nefret! Amelia has a lot to contend with but she will keep her family safe with her dying breath if she has to.

This is the best adventure yet! Despite Amelia's protests at starting with a sensational opening, she does so anyway. My heart couldn't stop pounding and I stayed up long long past my bedtime to find out how it turned out. I almost skipped ahead but the endings are so long winded with too much explanation, I didn't want to ruin the adventure. This one really put me (and the characters) through the wringer of emotions. My heart broke for Amelia that she felt the romance had gone out of her relationship, then she faces the worst and I just felt so bad for her. I was with her every step of the way as she fought to save her family. Despite the sad overtones, there is still quite a bit of humor. The letters from Ramses are very funny (unintentionally on his part) and lighten up the plot a bit. I was completely surprised by some of the revelations at the end. I never saw some of them coming though I did suspect the identity of the villain. My only complaint about this book is that some of the archaeological explanations are too long. I was interested in the plot more than being educated (sorry Amelia).

In this novel we are reacquainted with Cyrus Vandergelt, the American millionaire the Emerson-Peabodys met on an earlier expedition. I barely remembered him so it was a good reminder of who their allies are to stick him in the plot. His heart is as big as Texas and he's such a kind gentleman. Other new characters include Anubis, the cat. I'm not a cat person and I failed to be charmed by this hissing and ornery cat. Bastet seems like the sweetest kitty next to Anubis. His name is a clue to his personality, Anubis being the Egyptian devil-like creature. Then there's Bertha, a woman with a past who seeks refuge with Amelia and entourage. She's hard to figure out and I never really warmed up to her the way Amelia did. Then there's Vincey, an old acquaintance of Emerson's whom Emerson had reported for selling illegal antiquities. He wants to make amends and leave the past behind him but with a cat such as Anubis as his pet, I just didn't like him. Nefret also appears in this story, as told by Amelia and Ramses. She's a tough young lady who will always be unconventional but strong, like Amelia. I liked hearing about her adventures from Ramses.

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## Barbara ★ says

After finding the Lost City of Gold and returning to England with Neferet in *The Deeds of the Disturber*, Amelia and Emerson return to Egypt for a winter of excavation. Both Ramses and Neferet remain in England, leaving Emerson and Amelia a chance to get frisky without little eyes watching their every move. Well that was the plan anyway. Immediately upon reaching Cairo, Amelia and Emerson are besieged with attempts on one or the others life. When they are finally successful and Emerson is kidnapped, Amelia is beside herself with worry and with the help of Silas Vandergelt sets out to rescue Emerson. Of course she is successful but with a slight setback...Emerson has amnesia and cannot remember the last 13 years of his life - yes that is the time that he met and married Amelia. She sets out to help him remember their exciting courtship and life but of course, the attempts on their lives do not stop so it's another rousing adventure in merry old Egypt.

I can't say enough about this series. It's simply wonderful entertainment! Amelia is one of those strong females who is definitely out of place in the 1800s; Emerson is bold, loud and given the time period, very romantically inclined; and Ramses is the funniest character of them all. Despite the danger, I laughed out loud at his epistles (letters to Dearest Mamma and Pappa).

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## Teri-K says

It not unusual for the first book or two in a series about a couple to be the best because the relationship is new and the reader has the fun of watching the couple get to know each other and fall in love. Though this series is not primarily about the romance, the relationship of Amelia and Emerson is definitely part of the fun. The author manages to keep it fun in all the books by not changing them too much once they marry. However, she does something pretty clever here - by giving Emerson amnesia she essentially takes us back to the beginning of their relationship and we see them get reacquainted. It was a nice idea that I thought was fun.

The plot was another nice change from deadly mummies and such, though it takes place back in Egypt. It ties in quite a bit with previous books, so I wouldn't read this one first. Take them in order and you'll enjoy them a lot more. Sometimes I get tired of Ramses, so it was nice to have him confined to the written page for one book. :) Now I just have to decide if I want to go back and revisit how they really met or move ahead. I wasn't a huge fan of these books when they came out, I found reading Amelia I could only take her in small doses, but listening to her is a delight.

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## Jamie Collins says

A really amusing Amelia Peabody adventure. It's worth reading just for Peabody's reaction to the letters from Ramses, who has been left behind in England for once, and not to Peabody's dismay. ("One may be determined to embrace martyrdom gracefully, but a day of reprieve is not to be sneezed at.") When danger threatens at home and abroad, Ramses threatens to rejoin his parents as soon as he has enough money for his fare, reciting an ominous running tally of his savings.

If these books were a little more serious then I could be annoyed over Emerson's amnesia and Peabody's reaction when she finds out exactly when he regained his memory, but these are clearly meant to be a bit silly (Emerson is psychoanalyzed by a Dr. Schadenfreude) and they're quite fun to read.

## Shiloah says

How I adore Amelia, Emerson, and company!

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## Linniegayl says

This was my first re-read of the 7th entry in the Amelia Peabody series in audio. I didn't remember a lot of the details and thoroughly enjoyed this re-read. The book opens with the Emersons in England, trying to settle Nefret into English society. When Amelia and Emerson eventually head off to Egypt, Nefret (and of course Ramses) decide to stay in England with Walter and Evelyn.

Amelia and Emerson encounter a host of troubles -- and crimes -- while in Egypt, from kidnappings, attempted kidnappings, murders, and numerous threats. All of the threats seem to relate to their last adventure and the wonders they discovered in *The Last Camel Died at Noon*.

While Ramses and Nefret don't rejoin the Emersons physically, we learn through a series of amusing letters from Ramses that they too are facing a number of threats.

This was absolutely delightful in audio, and I have no doubt but that I will listen to it again at some point.

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## Desertblues says

A bit old fashioned, for sure, but very nice to hear read on a long walk. This is the 2nd time that I hear this series.

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## Ellen says

### A fun adventure

As always. As close as you're going to get to being on an early archeological dig in Egypt. Great atmosphere and a puzzling mystery.

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## Julie says

I very much enjoyed this installment of the further adventures of Amelia Peabody. Amelia and Emerson are on their own in Egypt (*sans* Ramses) and, as usual, someone is trying to harm them. Now an old married couple, Amelia longs for the early days of their courtship. All I can say is, be careful for what you wish for - you just might get it! Lo and behold, Emerson is kidnapped and when he is finally found he has amnesia and

has no memory of ever meeting Amelia - much less marrying her! As Amelia copes with this new (but very much like the old) Emerson, they try to determine who is after them and why. Much humor (Ramses letters to his parents are hilarious) and I very much enjoyed the character of Cyrus Vandergelt, their American friend. Barbara Rosenblat, as usual, *is* Amelia Peabody, she is one of the best readers out there in the audiobook world! All her voices, whether it's Amelia, Emerson, Cyrus or Ramses - great, great, great! 4/5

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### **Susan says**

If I've learned anything about the Amelia Peabody books, it is that these are leisurely tales. Nothing is rushed and the story unfolds in it's own good time. That is fine. However this, in addition to the narrator's 'dramatic pauses', makes for a VERY long story.

I was also mad that the author made me like one of the characters that wasn't really that character. If you've read the story, you know what I mean. And I don't think Ramses could be any more precocious. This came through loud and strong - and only from letter writing! I really don't like that character at all.

Still, interesting enough. Will continue onto the next, after a little rest from these stories.

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### **Cherie says**

I rather liked this convoluted story. It took me a while to understand everything that happened at the end though. I thought the amnesia bit was amusing, but the constant brushes with death for the two Egyptologists is getting old.

Parents *do* need a break sometimes, and it was nice to see Amelia and Emerson going off to Egypt by themselves.

Previous to this book in the series, I have listened to them, so this was my first exposure to actually reading one.

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### **C-shaw says**

I'm a little disappointed in Ms. Peters. I have always loved the Amelia Peabody novels, but this one, though it started out likeable, became so convoluted and confusing that I struggled to finish it. Also while she has some discreet bodice-ripping references, in this book Amelia fairly slobbered over her husband of 16 or so years, too much to be realistic. The villain was a character with whom I wasn't previously familiar and his role didn't make a bit of sense to me. The morale is, I suppose, to read all this series in order and don't skip any.

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### **Rhonda says**

I'm in the process of re-reading the entire Amelia Peabody series again, from start to finish in one go. They

are still some of my favorite books. They must be read with tongue firmly inserted in cheek. It also helps to have an interest in and some knowledge of Colonial-era exploration narratives, fiction like that of H. Rider Haggard, Orientalist studies, the competitive acquisitive zeal of western museums at the turn of the century, and the "gentlemen archaeologists" of the 19th century who brought more treasure-hunting fever than academic and historical interest to their digs. That is to say nothing of the insight into early seeds and outbreaks of unrest in the Middle East that find their way into the middle and later novels in the series. Add to this impressive list of "ingredients" a dash of early feminism, British upperclass manners, interesting plots, and especially the academically sound Egyptian history from a legitimate scholar (Elizabeth Peters had a PhD in Egyptology from the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago) and you have the very best in historical fiction, enclosed within adventurous and funny plots led by engaging and memorable characters who, though immensely more enlightened than many of their time, nonetheless remain realistic people OF their time, seeing the world through glasses tinted by their own culture and class. Though they attempt to rise above prejudice, they cannot quite entirely do so. Elizabeth Peters showed immense wisdom of the human condition in this aspect of her characterizations, reminding us all that we cannot even be aware of - much less remove - ALL of our preconceptions through which we see the world around us. Even the best of us - like Amelia - can continually peel back the layers of lenses through which we see the world.

All these philosophical, aesthetic, academic, and historical reasons for loving the series are thus topped off with depth of characterization, imaginative storytelling, fast-paced plotting, excellent word-crafting, and an overall affectionate humor about the human condition - the whole coming together even better than the sum of its parts to make it one of my favorite series of all time. I might add that it's a series that I've read and re-read multiple times, something that I almost never do.

To be fair, my one criticism about the series is that the non-chronological nature of the last few books gets a big confusing even to me, someone who's read them multiple times. They're still very enjoyable, but holding the timeline and chronology of events in my head is not always easy. I plan to tackle the compendium "Amelia Peabody's Egypt" soon to see how that clears things up. Nonetheless, I'm waiting with bated breath for the book Elizabeth Peters was finishing at the time of her death to be published. I think it would be a great tribute to her career to publish it posthumously.

I have been really surprised when friends I've recommended the series to haven't been as enthusiastic as I am about Amelia Peabody. I think I can attribute that to the fact that my first go-round of the series was on audiobook and Barbara Rosenblat and Grace Conlin did such a marvelous job of giving the series the proper amount of irony and tongue-in-cheek humor and updated H. Rider Haggard-style adventure, that even today when I read the series I hear it in their voices in my head. If you are having trouble connecting, then, I recommend listening to at least the first several books on audiobook. It wouldn't hurt to do some quick Wikipedia research on Colonialism, Egyptology, Howard Carter, Wallace Budge, Orientalism, H. Rider Haggard, museum-sponsored archaeology of the late 19th & early 20th centuries (especially the competitiveness between the British Museum & the Metropolitan Museum of Art), WWI, pre-WWII espionage, dismantling of the Ottoman Empire... anything relating to history of the 19th century to early 20th century. All will add to your enjoyment of the novels as well as your appreciation for how deftly Elizabeth Peters wove history and real people throughout her fiction.

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