



## The Egyptian Jukebox: A Conundrum

*Nick Bantock*

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## **The Egyptian Jukebox: A Conundrum** Nick Bantock

In this picture-cum-puzzle book, every picture is full of clues which are designed to lead to the whereabouts of Hamilton Hasp, an eccentric millionaire who has disappeared. Containing a baffling mystery that reveals a connection between the ancient and contemporary worlds, *The Egyptian Jukebox* offers a ten-drawer "cabinet" of colorful artifacts, each with its own eerie story.

## **The Egyptian Jukebox: A Conundrum Details**

Date : Published September 22nd 1993 by Viking Books

ISBN : 9780670849444

Author : Nick Bantock

Format : Hardcover 48 pages

Genre : Art, Fiction, Mystery, Fantasy, Mathematics, Puzzles

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## From Reader Review The Egyptian Jukebox: A Conundrum for online ebook

### **Sarah Sammis says**

Last year I did a post of "fun facts" about author Nick Bantock. Writing the review inspired me to read all of his books I hadn't yet read. One of those was The Egyptian Jukebox: A Conundrum.

The jukebox in question is a ten drawer puzzle found under mysterious circumstances. The author explains in a series of one page stories his take on the drawers and how the search for clues affected his life. I think here "juke" refers to its wickedness, rather than it being a coin operated music box.

Did I solve the mystery? No. I tried some but I frankly don't have much patient for this pictorial mystery books. Since I was borrowing the book from the library I also felt rushed to return it.

I did however love looking at the different drawer photographs and seeing what they contained. I like his collage artwork even if I don't fully understand it.

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### **Rebecca says**

Another Nick Bantock book, taking the form of an I Spy mystery for adults. Recommended to me by Jim Snorf.

From the Goodreads description: "In this picture-cum-puzzle book, every picture is full of clues which are designed to lead to the whereabouts of Hamilton Hasp, an eccentric millionaire who has disappeared. Containing a baffling mystery that reveals a connection between the ancient and contemporary worlds, The Egyptian Jukebox offers a ten-drawer "cabinet" of colorful artifacts, each with its own eerie story."

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### **Jenn says**

i was not smart enough to read this book

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### **Frances Sawaya says**

Wanted this to be as good as the Griffin trilogy but once the code was broken then the book along too quickly. Still, quite clever with great graphics. From the list given on this site though, I see that this author has quite a few books that I have not read. Will have to check them out when at the library in Oceanside.

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### **Josee Leon says**

This was a charming little book featuring 10 intriguing stories, puzzles and artwork. Very enjoyable!

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## Julian says

I received this book many years ago, and although I enjoyed the stories and images, didn't think too hard about solving the puzzle. I don't know why it took so long, because on a whim I picked it up today, sat down and solved it without much effort. A nice puzzle morsel.

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## Julia says

Bantock is an amazing creator of collage art, and the Jukebox shows his usual skill at combining myriad bits and pieces into creations of intricacy. However, this 10 chapter "mystery" is weak in story line. The book is 48 pages long and oversized (9X12), which allows Bantock much more room than usual for his assemblage art. The "conundrum" is based on the contents of 10 drawers, and the reader is supposed to solve a puzzle.

Since I'm not big on puzzles, especially one as esoteric as this one, I mainly enjoyed the double-page spreads of the drawer contents. Each drawer has a very short story right before it, but the stories aren't connected.

And I'm still unclear as to the "Jukebox" title, since we're dealing with a chest of drawers--but the title certainly allowed the cover art to be one of the best of Bantock's pieces.

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## Chris says

I've long enjoyed Nick Bantock's work, and appreciated his way of creating complex visual and literary colleges with overlapping meanings and unusual connections. The Egyptian Jukebox was his first post Griffin and Sabine book, and I think it misses the mark. The ten drawers of the jukebox are beautifully composed, and the stories are haunting little snapshots, but I felt like there was a disconnect. Sure, an object from the stories appears in each of the drawers, and one can deduce where most of the others relate, but this felt more like a collection of short stories (and had it been packaged that way I think I would have enjoyed it more) than a complete work. Moreover, the mystery felt confusing, overly complicated and forced, and the plot, what that it was, didn't make any sense. Man who is wealthy and travels vanishes. Instead of waiting for him to return, his daughter publishes a book with the clues he left to find out where he is. Read the book, have someone else explain how to connect the dots they made, and come up with a random city name, which I comfort myself in being a bizarre pop-culture reference (rather than actually making sense). Enjoy the short stories, look at the pictures, ignore the clues.

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## Chrisel says

Beautiful book. Original. Love the Sabine & Griffon saga better.

But it seems I wasn't in the mood to solve riddles... I am afraid that Hamilton Hasp will remain 'lost' for a long time if you are waiting for me to find him...

Will surely revisit this book at another time.

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### **Nic says**

I love Nick Bantock's art. This book did not disappoint in that regard. The riddle within the book was far too difficult to break so I barely even tried.

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### **Slarson6 says**

Very short, but strange. Each drawer of the jukebox contains clues to the answer of the conundrum, (I couldn't figure it out) and a short story that explains the contents. As with all of Nick Banton's books, the illustrations are fantastic and the stories mind bending.

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### **Miriam says**

I can't comment on the puzzle aspect of the book as I didn't try to solve it. There's a solution in the back but since I never actually caught what the question was it meant nothing to me.

The collages and mini-stories were nice.

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### **Amber the Human says**

I know. I'm awful. I didn't follow the clues - although in my defense, they confused me. And I was eager to read the story and see the art - less about solving things. Reading other reviews on here, some people found the stories not exciting or un-related, but I disagree. I really liked the stories. Bantock does a nice job of teetering right on the edge of the impossible - who am I to say that there isn't a chess board in India where the pieces move on their own?

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### **Susan says**

Our library has this shelved as non-fiction, but I don't really understand why. The entire book is a huge, complicated puzzle, made up of Bantock's characteristic bizarre and beautiful drawings, short stories, and clues, all of which eventually tie together. When I started, I thought I'd just read the stories and absorb the pictures, but the temptation to try to solve the puzzle was just too great for me, and I found myself totally absorbed in it.

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### **Sean says**

What could have been an exercise in enjoyable, thought provoking puzzles and atmospheric storytelling ends up being a chore in following directions. While the collages are certainly well done, they aren't sufficiently impressive enough to overcome the poor execution of the "conundrum" aspect of the book.

