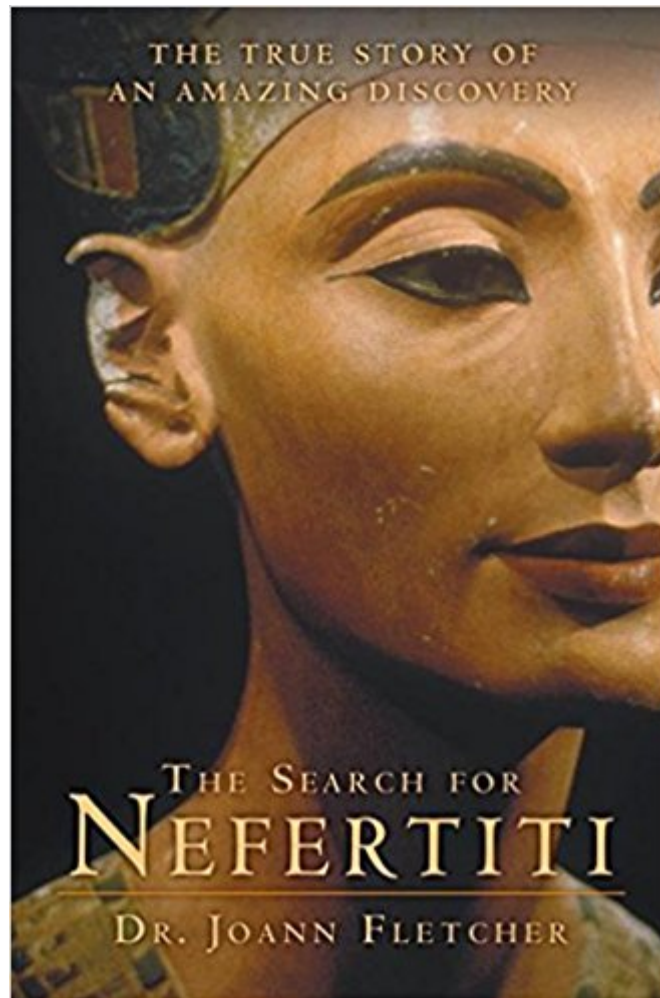




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Search For Nefertiti



Synopsis

Her power was rivaled only by her beauty. Her face has become one of the most recognizable images in the world. She was an independent woman and thinker centuries before her time. But who was Egypt's Queen Nefertiti? After years of intense research, Dr. Joann Fletcher has answered the questions countless researchers before her could not. While studying Egyptian royal wigs, she read a brief mention of an unidentified and mummified body, discovered long ago and believed to belong to an Egyptian of little importance. This body happened to have a wig, which Dr. Fletcher knew was a clear sign of power. After examining the hairpiece and the woman to which it belonged, to the astonishment of her colleagues she identified this body as the missing remains of Queen Nefertiti. The search for Nefertiti had ended. She had been found. But the questions were just beginning. Nefertiti first rose to prominence in Egyptology in 1912, when a three-thousand-year-old bust of the queen was unearthed and quickly became a recognizable artifact around the world. But pieces of Nefertiti's life remained missing. The world had seen what she looked like, but few knew about her place in history. Virtually nothing is recorded about Nefertiti's early years. What is known about her life starts with her rise to power, her breaking through the sex barrier to rule as a virtual co-Pharaoh alongside her husband, Akhenaten. Upon his death she took full control of his kingdom. The Egyptian people loved her and celebrated her beauty in art, but the priests did not feel the same way. They believed Nefertiti's power over her husband was so great that she would instill her monotheistic beliefs upon him, rendering their own power obsolete. Egyptologists concur that it was these priests who, upon Nefertiti's death, had her name erased from public record and any likeness of her defaced. This ultimately led to her being left out of history for three thousand years.

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Customer Reviews

Oftentimes, the best scholarship uses the investigation of one thing (such as a historical episode or a scientific anomaly) to speak to wider human and cultural truths. Fletcher's study of the life of the legendary queen Nefertiti is scholarship in just this sense. A learned and intensely personal book, it spans Fletcher's near-lifelong involvement with the study of Egyptian culture, from her first trip to Egypt as a teenager in 1981 to her most recent excavation in February 2003. Along the way, she provides the reader with a concise introduction to ancient Egyptian history as well as a rough guide to the shifting ideological landscape of professional Egyptology over the last 200 years. Colored by patriarchal assumptions and the personal ambitions of the men who first excavated the desert, Egyptology tends to focus on the most powerful men of ancient Egypt: kings ruling their country (and families) with unquestioned authority. This book is in part an attempt to correct such biases and challenge reigning assumptions about gender roles in ancient Egypt. Fletcher specializes in the study of "everyday" objects like hair, jewelry and clothing that are often passed over or discarded by Egyptologists. The sections of the book devoted to them offer compelling revelations about the identities of anonymous royal figures and the complex relations among and within dynasties. Ultimately, whether or not readers agree with the hypothesis Fletcher draws from her thrilling examination of the so-called Younger Woman (who she believes is Nefertiti) interred in tomb KV.35 in the Valley of Kings is irrelevant; this book is an inspiring record of a life devoted to the highest scholarship. 24 pages of color photos. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

“The narrative conveys Fletcher's enthusiasm for her work and is supplemented with an excellent bibliography. Highly recommended.” (Library Journal)
“Fascinating...Fletcher picked up on the tiniest of clues to track down what she believes could be the missing queen.” (Daily Mail (London))
“A learned and intensely personal book... compelling revelations... a thrilling examination.” (Publishers Weekly)

I found this book absolutely wonderful. I am 73 years old, and ever since I was a little girl I have been fascinated by a group of ancient people whose pictures portrayed them in wonderful clothing,

beautiful jewelry and makeup, shown facing forward, but with their feet and faces turned in profile. I saw the Discovery special in which Dr. Fletcher opened KV55 and studied the three mummies who have recently been moved to the Cairo Museum. She was, and still is, convinced that the younger mummy is that of Nefertiti. However, Zahi Hawass, the director of antiquities in Egypt, is not. He believes that it may be Kiya, who supposedly is the mother of Tut and who may have died in childbirth. However, Kiya was a very young woman, while the one in the tomb that Dr. Fletcher is interested in is seemingly mid to late 30's and maybe into her 40's. Dead giveaway is the arm that was wrenched off the mummy. Kiya was not a royal, only a secondary wife, and as such she would not have been buried in the royal position, with the arm bent at the elbow and the fist up by the opposite shoulder. In spite of all the above, I do not believe Nefertiti's remains may ever be found. This was a very traumatic time for Egypt, and even though Ankhenaten has been identified, his mummy is in very bad shape and the face and name on his coffin have been scourged out. Nefer's mummy may no longer even exist, or be so well hidden that it may someday be discovered only by accident. By the way, I heard it said that the most dangerous place to be on this planet is between Dr. Hawass and a television camera! And, as far as hair and wigs go, Dr. Fletcher has carved a niche for herself with her amazing studies and discoveries about the uses of wigs and hair styles and even dying and bleaching that the Egyptians used in their everyday lives. Again, this was a wonderful read and I highly recommend it to anyone who is even remotely interested in Egyptology.

This is an absolutely fabulous book. You feel you know the answer to the question - who is this woman? - but you are compelled to take each twisting step with the author until the evidence supports the conclusion that this is the long-lost Nefertiti! The author's skills in presenting this search and its mysteries is a perfect match to the subject. The fact that I have been interested in Egyptology since childhood and actually walked through the Valley of the Kings and been inside many of its tombs and chambers only adds to the ability to visualize and understand the writer's detailed descriptions put in front of me. I am certain anyone would find this book enjoyable and I shall look for more of her books.

The book reads well and is so interesting if you like Egyptian archaeology, good storyline and good writing. I so pleased to be reading this book. I have been repeatedly frustrated in reading generalized books about this period in Egyptian history so it is both refreshing and oh so interesting a read. The author does a nice job of employing good writing technique (flashback, side stories) and good history. Brava

I enjoyed this book but feel too much like to be taking notes for a midterm exam. Perhaps it's the subject, but keeping which dynasty with its appropriate BC date was hard enough. But with the name repetition and variations I felt I needed pictures which in this Kindle edition were omitted. (WHY?). But a good story nonetheless with an almost surprise at the end.

interesting in parts, but also bogged down with minutiae repeatedly. Annoying that after the author goes into great detail about a particular item, she does it again a few chapters later. The author does this SEVERAL times. I couldn't decide if she was not organized enough to realize that she had already described the artifact, didn't trust us to remember that she had, or just wanted to make the book longer.

Amazing story of this search for the powerful Queen Nefertiti. Subsequent research recently has shown this person to have been Akhenaten's sister and King Tutankamen's mother. This historic change in Egypt's culture is very interesting.

Dr. Fletcher is an excellent writer and this book is well, worth reading. An incredibly, intriguing story. Weaving history and forensics with down-to-earth "good fun," Fletcher keeps us on the edge of our seats and leaves us wanting more.

Would have liked some photos. Figures were referenced but not found. Would recommend to all interested in ancient Egyptian s

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