



Mourningtide

Diana Wilder

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Eighteen years have passed since Seti commanded the Royal Army in THE CITY OF REFUGE. Now he rules Egypt as King.

While Seti is far away to the south, his eldest son is ambushed and killed through a senseless mistake. His family sends word, but it is not delivered. Seti returns to learn that his son is sealed away in a tomb. With grief weighing heavy upon his heart and yet constantly under his subjects' gaze, Seti cannot bear his grief.

He seeks anonymity and healing in a small village only to learn that marauders from the western deserts have been attacking the town, which is helpless to resist them. During that short summer, the greatest warrior king of that dynasty teaches them the art of battle, and in doing so regains peace, finds love again, and learns that a King is still a man.

MOURNINGTIDE is a story of loss, renewal and love set against the background of the Valley of the Kings.

Mourningtide Details

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Author : Diana Wilder

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From Reader Review Mourningtide for online ebook

Jo-Anne Pfoh says

The son of Seti king of Egypt is dead. Unable to contain his grief he leaves his son Ramesses II as regent. Seeking anonymity he heads to a small village in Thebes to mourn and recover assuming the role as a mere scribe.

As fate would have it marauders from the western deserts have been attacking the town and they are helpless and unable to protect themselves.

Seti unable to turn away steps up to teach these people the art of battle and in the process he regains peace of mind which opens his heart to love.

The details in this book were extraordinary. Although little is known of the real Seti Diana Wilder paints a wonderful picture of what Seti and his life might have been like in ancient times.

Pick it up and give it a read you won't be disappointed.

Ian Miller says

The book commences with the son of Seti I make an impulsive and not very sensible decision, which led him into an ambush, where he died. The story then focuses on Seti, who is not told properly about the death. Seti then leaves his son Ramesses II as regent and goes to Thebes to mourn and recover, pretending to be no more than a scribe Sa-Ramses, hence the title of the book. The book is nicely written, and shows what life in ancient Egypt might have been like. On top of this, there is a threat of raiders from Libya, and the story evolves to show how Seti approaches this problem without letting on who he is. The book is more character and background driven than plot driven, and Wilder does a very good job at maintaining interest. A man mourning the death of his son is not immediately obvious as the centre of a plot, nevertheless I felt quite taken by the story. The events are fictional, nevertheless Seti was confronted by such Libyan raiders from time to time, so the background, while fictional, is at least based loosely on the sort of thing that happened. Diana Wilder has obviously carried out a lot of research on ancient Egypt, and you can see her fascination with it in her writing. Was Seti really like this? The fact is, we simply do not know. The historical records of the times are largely inscriptions on a wall at Karnak that lists Seti's major victories, and praises Seti, and various artefacts that can be associated with him. The real man is probably unknowable, but Diana Wilder has created a character that impresses the reader, and we have a highly readable book.

Sekhar N Banerjee says

Not a bad story

The story is undoubtedly dull and exceedingly slow. Except for the names of some of the principal characters, there is no historical fact behind the story.

Kay Bolton says

A copy of this book was provided to me by the Publisher/Author in exchange for an honest review via the Good Reads First Read Scheme. No compensation was given or taken to alter this review.

I would normally say that Egyptian period novels were not my bag, but Diana Wilder had changed my mind.

I really loved this book. If you are looking for high-octane adventure, then you won't find it what you will find, is a pleasant meander through a verdant desert oasis, with the bonus of beautifully crafted characters. I wasn't bombarded with too much historical detail, but I formed the impression that what was there was probably well researched and considered.

I will now be adding Book 1 of this Memphis Series to my WTR list, and adding a big tick to Diana Wilder's Fan page.

Highly recommended.

Sharon Mullins says

Well done.

The second book outshines the first. The book is astoundingly detailed and it's amazingly accurate. It's a joy to read in that it doesn't insist on adding biblical overtones.

L. (Super Easy. Barely An Inconvenience.) says

I was beginning to wonder if this was some sort of alt-Egypt story as there didn't seem to be any women in this country. It's not until the second half of the book that a handful of females are allowed to have any dialogue or impact on the plot.

L.A. says

Mourningtide: Book Two of the Memphis Cycle by Diana Wilder is approximately three hundred and seventy six pages and written in third-person. I finished it in about four sittings. It is the sequel to The City of Refuge, however each is a standalone story, and this book takes place several years later. There is a large cast of characters, and the description of the time and place are vivid and jump right off the page. It is obvious the author did her research. Even her character dialogue is believable for that era. If you have a love of ancient Egypt then this is the book for you.

It is an age-old story of debilitating grief, and how one comes to terms with losing a loved one and how to start living again. Drop that idea into ancient Egypt, using famous people of the past and you have one very interesting, heart-felt story.
