



The Dagger of Isis

Lester Picker

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Dangers lurk for the first woman Pharaoh.

The Dagger of Isis, Book II of the The First Dynasty Series, traces the life of Meryt-Neith, the first female ruler of a united Egypt. From her marriage to King Wadjet to her eventual coronation after his death, this tale of intrigue and betrayal follows her ascension, the wars she fought and the loves that gave meaning to her life.

The Dagger of Isis saga takes us on a journey throughout ancient Egypt and into nearby lands, as Meryt-Neith, the great-granddaughter of King Narmer, struggles against her cousin, Nubiti, the Head Priestess of the Temple of Isis, to bring honor to her family's dynasty. But Nubiti and her mother have far different plans, ones that threaten The Two Lands and the very lives of Meryt-Neith and her son, who is heir to the throne.

In Nubiti's retinue is Bakht, a powerful shaman of the dark forces and an adept of the Apep priesthood. As Meryt-Neith fights foreign enemies to save a united Egypt, the forces of darkness gather to capture the crown from within.

The Dagger of Isis Details

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From Reader Review The Dagger of Isis for online ebook

Tara Chevestt says

Too much sex. I'm not a prude, but if I'm in the mood for erotic romance, I seek erotic romance, not historical fiction. Also, I like for the sex to add something to the story, not just feel "throw in". It's like the author decided, "Oh, I'll have her masturbate here. It does nothing for the story, but I'll have her diddle herself anyway."

In just 15%, there were pages dedicated to Mery "discovering" herself, giving a blowjob, almost being raped, and then there was a masturbation scene with the sister and another sex scene.

It's not done in a sexy way either. I'm turned off, not on.

Also, lots of telling vs showing. While one can get away with this when using the first person, I didn't care for it.

Leslie Balick says

What a great book! It is so wonderful to get a lesson in history, obviously researched, wrapped around a fascinating story. Strong characters and fast paced, and well written, couldn't put it down.

Jessa says

I received a proof copy of this book through a GoodReads giveaway as a First Reads winner.

Let me just say that I *LOVED* this book! I'm a huge fan of historical fiction and Ancient Egypt and The Dagger of Isis got me hook, line, and sinker from the very first page. It's a great book, and could be read as a standalone novel as well- I haven't read The First Pharaoh, the first book in the trilogy- but I immediately wanted to purchase it because this one is just THAT GOOD.

A few parts of the book were a little transparent- I saw the pairing off of Meryt & Herihor and Nubiti & Bakht right away- but it didn't detract at all from the story for me. I'm looking forward to the third book immensely, and would recommend The Dagger of Isis to anyone who is a fan of historical fiction and Ancient Egypt.

Glenn says

The only problem I have

The book was entertaining. Lots of details and not necessarily character driven. I've come this far, I guess u will read the third installment!

Mirella says

The Dagger of Isis is the second book in Lester Picker 19s First Dynasty series about the early pharaohs of ancient Egypt. The novel is set in the 30th century B.C. and it is about Maryt-Neith, the daughter of Djer, and the wife of Djet. She rose to the lofty height of pharaoh upon her husband 19s death.

Tales about women who rise to power in male dominated worlds is always of fascination, for it is clear that in order to do so, they must possess extraordinary strength and qualities. Of course, there will always be enemies who do not want to be ruled by a woman, those with their own ambitions, and this makes for plenty of good conflict.

Lester Picker has penned a novel that depicts the brutality and mysticism of this old world with all its decadence and romance, dangers and drama. It is evident the author has spent a great deal of time immersing himself in research to demonstrate the smallest details of what everyday life in this ancient civilization was like.

Nice, readable prose, and a compelling story make this a very enjoyable book. Evil, betrayal, intrigue, and a good romance kept me tuned into the story. This book can stand alone, but I urge you to read The First Pharaoh so you have the complete tale. It is historical fiction at its finest.

Rebecca Slaton says

Awesome endeavor, well done,

I enjoyed this book as much as I enjoyed Lester Picker ' s previous work. The story 'rang true' with very few exceptions (the term 'partying' comes to mind, lol.) No glaring improbable issues raised their heads. Looking forward to reading more from this author as well as checking out his photography work. Thanks for the great ride Lester!

Heather says

I received this free from good reads first reads. It was okay. Not to bad.

K.F. says

Good, but very long

The writing again, is very strong for this series. It's intriguing, it sucks you in. But the problem is the sheer LENGTH of each book. To be honest, the only thing that kept ,e going was that I was halfway through and need to meet my Goodreads book challenge for the year. Nubiti doesn't really get a satisfying ending, Meryt is sort of fizzling "and now I can die" at the end, and nothing is really wrapped up re: Den getting an heir if he's gay. Would have felt better as a duology, if only to flesh out those details and streamline others.

Sekhar N Banerjee says

Most interesting depiction of an ancient era

The author has brought to life an obscure era without sacrificing known history. The ancient characters are excellently portrayed. All known historical and recent archeological finds have been nicely woven into the fabric of the novel.

The FountainPenDiva, Old school geek chick and lover of teddy bears says

I know pretty much all there is to know about Queen Hatshepset, but there were two other women before her who took on the reins of rulership by becoming Pharaoh. This historical fiction novel about the first, Meryt-Neith was chock-filled with action, adventure, treachery, war and romance. I could feel the heat of the sun on the sand and smell the black silt from the life-giving Nile. The fact that the ancient Egyptians were depicted as people of color was a definite plus--because they were. When characters described the Ta-Seti people as "black", it was not in a perjorative sense as much as it was depicting their most notable physical characteristic.

There's a certain irony that while the ancient Egyptians were far more progressive when it came to the rights of women, they were also notoriously hidebound when it came to their being allowed to rule. There is also an irony that, at least in Hatshepset's case, hers was a highly successful rule for both trade, a flourishing of the arts, and even a decisive military victory. Hmm, the same can be said of Elizabeth I. Just a thought. Unlike Hatshepset, it seemed that Meryt-Neith would have been happy to have remained Queen Consort rather than thrust onto the role of pharaoh by her young husband's untimely death. She has to deal with raising a young son alone while struggling to hold on to her great-grandfather, King Narmer's (of the famous Narmer Palette) dream of a unified Egypt. Something many in the battered yet bitter Lower Egypt, do not want.

The weakest and most predictable aspect of this book was Nubiti, Meryt-Neith's half-sister. She is the daughter of the old king's Second Wife Shepsit and a member of the royal house of Lower Egypt. Unification did not sit very well with those conquered and Nubiti becomes a typical foil to separate Upper and Lower Egypt. While her reasons seemed motivated by loyalty and patriotism, it just seemed she was power-hungry, if not patient. Still, hers was a character that didn't feel as fleshed-out or somewhat sympathetic.

Still, for those like me who fiend hard for historical fiction about this fantastic culture, and who've read everything Pauline Gedge, Michelle Moran and Moyra Caldecott have written, this second book in the series about the First Dynasty is great stuff. The author even thanks Dr. Zahwi Hawass, which to me is very very cool!

April Martinez says

The Dagger of Isis by Lester Picker

I like these books about ancient Egypt, their customs and way of life. They are easy books to read. The characters are well defined and continue throughout the series. Understanding upper and lower Egypt through this early history gives you a different perspective of the time and the people. I'm on to the third book in the series.

Janet says

Continuing the stories (and there are many) of the ancient Pharaohs, the reader becomes a participant in the extraordinary life of Meryt-Neith, the first female Pharaoh of Egypt. There is a LOT in this book- passion, romance, ancient medicinal practices, family drama, terrifying mystical characters (the evil Bakht of the underworld is truly creepy), vivid battle scenes, and -oh yeah- history. The reader is immersed in the ancient world - you experience what the ancient Egyptians ate, how they worshipped, their architecture, government, what they wore, their education, their art- how they loved---the reader EXPERIENCES one of the most fascinating cultures ever to exist.

Fermenta Montgomery says

Book 2

The character Meryt- neither made the reading very interesting because of her strength & strong character. I look forward to the next book in this series.
