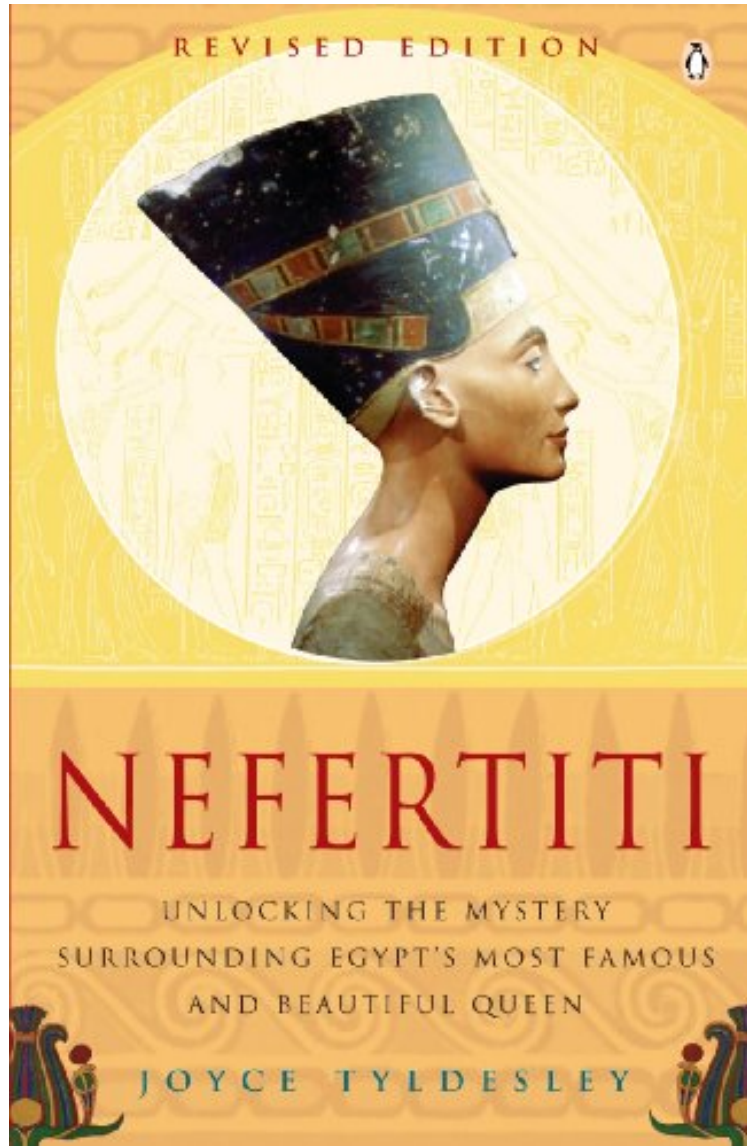


(Get free) Nefertiti: Egypt's Sun Queen

Nefertiti: Egypt's Sun Queen

Von Joyce Tyldesley

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Von Joyce Tyldesley : Nefertiti: Egypt's Sun Queen before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nefertiti: Egypt's Sun Queen:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The disappearing queen...Von FrKurt MessickJoyce Tyldesley's book, 'Nefertiti: Egypt's Sun Queen' is a fascinating study of a very important but mostly misunderstood figure in Egyptian history. Perhaps it was due to the confusion of names (another queen, Nefertari, is popularly known due to the use of her name in Biblical epic films), and largely

historically due to Nefertiti's marriage to Akhenaton, a pharaoh who was almost erased from history. Akhenaton was a heretic in Egyptian terms -- he renounced the worship of old gods in favour of a more monotheistic framework based upon a sun-worship (Aton) which prompted him to change his name (he had been Amenhotep IV). He built a new capital city at Amarna, where he and Nefertiti lived and raised their children. Nefertiti was perhaps the most influential person on Akhenaton, at that time one of the most powerful rulers on earth. Very little is known of Nefertiti -- her death is not recorded, and her tomb has not been found. Her beauty is renowned from the masks found at Amarna by archaeologists early in this century, having been lost for millennia. It is unusual that such a prominent person's death would not be recorded in the culture of Egypt, symbolised to this day by the monuments to the great who have died in pyramids and tombs. The mystery deepens, however, with the discovery of stelae at Amarna that shows Nefertiti in glorious array while her husband the Pharaoh occupies a lesser position. The Berlin stela provides us with the image of a perfect and semi-divine family inhabiting an ideal world far beyond the experiences of most Egyptians. The exact roles played by the principal members of this family are unclear. Akhenaten seems quite happy perched on his lowly, undecorated stool while his wife occupies the more regal seat, yet to him fall the the honour of holding the more important princess while Nefertiti looks after the babies. Nefertiti may have been the regnant queen by this point -- unusual but far from unheard of in Egyptian history. Female pharaohs such as Sobeknofru and Hatshepsut had proved this, but it is much more likely that a female would act as regent rather than regnant. She might have served as co-regnant with Akhenaten until his death, and then as a regent for Tutankhamen. Of course, alternate theories also abound. Some inscriptions have been discovered in which another name, Meritaten, was inscribed over erased names and titles of another woman -- was this Nefertiti? Did she overstep her position? Did she commit some indiscretion or crime? Meritaten, the daughter of Nefertiti and Akhenaton, might have assumed public duties as queen. This was put forward by Egyptologists including Norman de Garis Davies and John Pendlebury. Tyldesley presents various theories of Nefertiti's life and death side by side with evidence supporting each. Alas, the support is difficult no matter which interpretation is preferred -- Amarna was abandoned shortly after the death of Akhenaten, and the old religious ways reinstated. Akhenaten's name was deliberately suppressed due to the threat to the 'established religion' that monotheistic ways represented (perhaps a source of animosity between another group, the Canaanite/Israelites, and the Egyptians stems from the fear of this monotheistic tendency latent in Egypt). It is a sad tale, that Akhenaten and Nefertiti's family was all but destroyed, their capital reduced to a quarry for future pharaohs and builders to use; they and their family, including Tutankhamen and Ay, the following pharaohs of the family, were all deleted from official lists of kings -- in traditional Egyptian theology, for the spirit to live forever, the person's name, body, or image must survive -- and thus the officials of Egypt tried their best to destroy the spirit of these people. But archaeology has managed to resurrect their images and at least part of their story, and the mystery of their lives will continue for a long time to come.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Nefertiti Von Atheen I enjoyed this book, but it is definitely for the person with some knowledge of Egyptian history. The book is not a romantic, detailed description of the queen and her life and times; it covers the artistic and epigraphic data dealing with the Amarna period, a particularly complex and confusing time in Egypt's history. The personalities of the period first came to public awareness during the 1920s, when the famous bust of the queen was put on display, and since that time a number of speculative theories have enjoyed a vogue among experts and amateur enthusiasts. Ms Tyldesley covers the history of these theories, the data supporting or refuting them, and poses some of her own. (Some of these I first came across in Week's "The Lost Tomb," where he introduces the concept--borrowed from Ms Tyldesley and others--that some of the novelties of the Amarna court were actually in evidence during the reign of the preceding monarch, Amenhotep III, and were simply driven to extremes under Akhenaten). Ms Tyldesley also makes it quite evident that much of the evidence that might have gone far to clearing up some of the confusion in the reigns of the Amarna monarchs has been lost to the vandalism, theft and neglect of centuries. Although she goes far in creating a profile of the queen and her contemporaries, I think that the reader will still come away with a feeling that the only certain thing about the period is its continued mystery.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A nice update and revision of current theories Von Philip Daay Well-written, concise, easy-to-read. Though it doesn't clear up the fundamental mystery of Akhenaten and Nefertiti, it does help clear away some cobwebs from their life. For instance, it is stated that the royal couple did not have the dramatic falling out and consequent destruction of Nefertiti's name everywhere that other historians have theorized. The author states that Egyptologists now know for certain that Merit-Aten's name was subscribed over the names and titles of some other lady; probably Kiya. Intuitively, it never made sense to me that Akhenaten could somehow be motivated to blot out the name of a woman he was obviously very devoted to. One of the author's specialties is powerful women in history. Therefore, the author thoroughly explores the roles of power that Nefertiti might have assumed and where she might have derived that authority. One of the things I've always enjoyed about Nefertiti books is how they treat the famous bust in photographs using various angles, lights and shadows. Here the bust is photographed in B/W from four very good angles. The treatment of the bust is near pg 143 in the hardback. There, you will see such a lifelike Nefertiti, you will blink. (Ahh, the magic of photo-editing software! ;-)

In short, this book doesn't make any major breakthroughs, but it does inch us forward. Its enjoyable; takes about 2 nights to read.

The book has a sleek and attractive appearance. Its romantic and tragic; without sacrificing objectivity.

Kurzbeschreibung For over a decade Nefertiti, wife of the heretic king Akhenaten, was the most influential woman in the Bronze Age world; a beautiful queen blessed by the sun-god, adored by her family and worshipped by her people. Her image and her name were celebrated throughout Egypt and her future seemed golden. Suddenly Nefertiti disappeared from the royal family, vanishing so completely that it was as if she had never been. No record survives to detail her death, no monument serves to mourn her passing and to this day her end remains an enigma - her body has never been found. Joyce Tyldesley here provides a detailed discussion of the life and times of Nefertiti, Egypt's sun queen, set against the background of the ephemeral Amarna court..deShe was the beloved wife of "heretic king" Akhenaton, who defied ancient custom by practicing monotheism and by elevating Nefertiti far above the role of subservient consort previously played by Egyptian queens. Her image has ravished Western viewers ever since a magnificent limestone bust unearthed at the royal retreat of Amarna went on display in Berlin in 1924. But frustratingly few facts are known about this woman who lived more than three millennia ago. As she did in Hatchepsut: The Female Pharaoh, British archeologist Joyce Tyldesley makes a virtue of necessity by writing a book that is as much a cultural history as a biography. As Akhenaton swept away the plethora of old gods, dismaying many of his subjects, he needed a strong female figure to soften the abstract austerity of Aten, the sun deity; his beautiful queen was celebrated in official art and inscriptions that focused on the domestic life of the royal family. Tyldesley meticulously analyzes this iconography to evaluate Nefertiti's position in Egypt and her importance to her husband, who clearly cherished her beyond the demands of propriety or political necessity. The author cannot give readers a strong sense of Nefertiti's personality--the evidence simply isn't there--but she paints a wonderfully evocative picture of life at the civilized heart of the ancient world. --Wendy SmithKurzbeschreibung For over a decade Nefertiti, wife of the heretic king Akhenaten, was the most influential woman in the Bronze Age world; a beautiful queen blessed by the sun-god, adored by her family and worshipped by her people. Her image and her name were celebrated throughout Egypt and her future seemed golden. Suddenly Nefertiti disappeared from the royal family, vanishing so completely that it was as if she had never been. No record survives to detail her death, no monument serves to mourn her passing and to this day her end remains an enigma - her body has never been found. Joyce Tyldesley here provides a detailed discussion of the life and times of Nefertiti, Egypt's sun queen, set against the background of the ephemeral Amarna court.