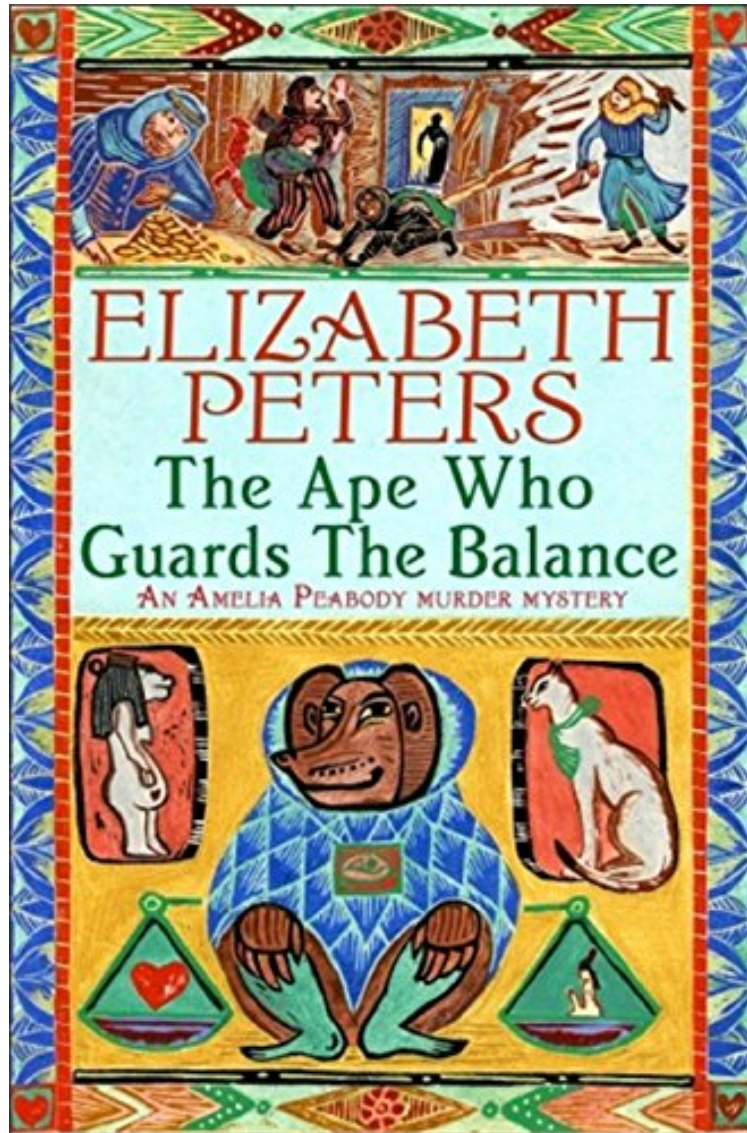


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The Ape Who Guards the Balance (Amelia Peabody)

Von Elizabeth Peters

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Von Elizabeth Peters : The Ape Who Guards the Balance (Amelia Peabody) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ape Who Guards the Balance (Amelia Peabody):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Getting very sleepy ...Von EmmaThis is the kind of book where if you read the first three chapters and the last three, you haven't missed much. Still an improvement on Amelia's last outing, I was wondering if these were the same characters I had grown to love. What on earth has happened to Amelia? Since when was she a racist and a snob? Her reaction to David and Lia was simply unbelievable and her comments about the nouveau riche and servants are irritating. If I can

remember, Amelia herself didn't come from a particularly rich family - it was her father's shrewd investments that produced her wealth. Amelia has now become the stereotypical Victorian stiff that she ridiculed in the first books! I love the characters of Ramses and David, but I find it hard to warm to Nefret. The girl is just too good to be true! There are only so many times I can stomach reading how she seems to be "wreathed in her own golden light". In this book, in particular, both she and Lia come across as obnoxious and spoilt which hardly endears one to them. It would also have been nice if Lia could have done something other than turn up, faint, simper over a man, then go home again. Amelia was likeable because she was a strong woman who went against the ideals of her age - and using brains instead of beauty. None of the other female characters have even touched her yet. I am also finding it tiresome how nearly every single other supporting character in the book falls in love with Amelia, Emerson, Ramses or Nefret! Please, just give it a rest! But in spite of all this, the ending is worth waiting for, if only for the interactions with, and some revelations about the mysterious Master Criminal. And I even cried when Abdullah died.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. "The Perils of Peabody" Von Justin Anderson Adventurous Egyptologist Amelia Peabody is embroiled in another affair of intrigue and homicide in Elizabeth Peters' "The Ape Who Guards the Balance." Fans of the series will be pleased to know that Peabody and her eccentric family are involved in more adventures and excavations in Egypt, but new readers will quickly warm to Peters' engaging characters. Indeed, in this book Peters devotes almost as many pages to the romantic misadventures of Peabody's extended family as she does to the mystery itself. Readers won't mind, however; Peabody's son Ramses, stepson David and stepdaughter Nefret emerge as full bodied characters in their own right, and they are every bit as willful as their archeologist parents. Fans of the series will also be pleased to know that "Ape" represents the return of master criminal Sethos, one of the few individuals in the series who can match wits with Peabody. The novel opens with an ingenious robbery where Sethos uses a suffrage demonstration (attended, coincidentally, by a Peabody unaware of the impending theft) as a screen for his operation. When the scene shifts to Egypt and Peabody's clan begins another season of digging, Sethos appears to follow. Soon horribly mutated bodies begin to turn up in the Nile, and it will take the talents of the whole family to crack the case. The "Ape" of the title refers to a figure on amulets worn by the criminal gang involved, and represents an Egyptian god that observed the weighing of an individual's heart after death, an act which determined if the soul was worthy for a place in the afterlife. Peters obviously has a great love for her characters, and her writing is infused with an infectious enthusiasm for the adventures of Peabody and Co. An accomplished student of Egyptology (with a PhD from the prestigious Univ. of Chicago) who weaves historical references into her narratives, Peters the author is just as comfortable describing the dusty streets of Cairo as she is detailing the events of a swanky European dinner party. Peters entertains as well as educates, wisely choosing to keep the Egyptology as the background scenery to her story. "Ape" is an enjoyable trip through turn-of-the-century Egypt taken with good company, and will meet the expectations of old fans while winning some new converts. If there is a weakness to the novel, it is that the mystery appears almost secondary to other plot lines, and the machinations of the main villain appear so shadowy that the reader is left to wonder if there really is any threat to Peabody. Amateur sleuths may find themselves disappointed, as clues are few and far between. Nonetheless, "Ape" is another solid addition to the Peabody series, and should only add to the popularity of the Egyptologist super sleuth.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Good for "His" story, but not story Von Joe Quadres Elizabeth Peters' "The Ape Who Guards the Balance" is an installment of her Amelia Peabody mysteries. It is set in England and later Luxor in the early 20th century. The plot revolves around an archaeological expedition to Egypt by Peabody and her family--her husband, Prof. Emerson, her son Ramses, and her adopted "children" Nefret and David. The children steal a papyrus from the Egyptian book of the dead from a street thief. This opens up an entirely new plot, in which the "Master Criminal," Sethos, who is Amelia's chief rival, surfaces to cause trouble and havoc in Luxor. Like any work of historical fiction, Ape does a lot of explaining and exposition, for laypersons unfamiliar with Egyptian history. Peters handles this with reasonable skill; her explanations are informative without becoming too tedious. However the plot itself lacks vitality, probably because the characters seem so stale. Amelia in particular is awfully grating and obnoxious; Manuscript H which focuses more on Ramses and Nefret is only relief from the annoying Amelia, rather than meritorious on its own. Overall, the book teaches you a bit about ancient Egypt, but more that you should read a history book rather than a banal novel.--JoeQ

Kurzbeschreibung Prospects for the 1907 archaeological season in Egypt are looking somewhat dull to Amelia. As a result of Emerson's less-than-diplomatic behaviour, they have been demoted to examining only the most boring tombs in the Valley of the Kings - mere leftovers, really. And then, in a seedy section of Cairo, the younger members of the Peabody Emerson clan purchase a mint condition papyrus of the famed Book of the Dead, the collection of magical spells and prayers designed to ward off the perils of the underworld and lead the deceased into everlasting life. But for as long as there have been graves, there have also been grave robbers - and so begins a new adventure into antiquity. The season rapidly switches from dull to deadly as Amelia strives to untangle a web woven of criminals and cults, stolen treasures and fallen women - all the while under the unblinking eye of a ruthless, remorseless killer..deNamed

1998 Grand Master by Mystery Writers of America, Elizabeth Peters is also a doctor of Egyptology whose mysteries have submerged readers in the vivid turn-of-the-century world of Amelia Peabody. In *The Ape Who Guards the Balance* Peters captures the immediacy of uncovering a new Egyptian tomb within the context of a tightly plotted murder investigation involving the entire Emerson Peabody clan. The characters, including Amelia's husband, Radcliffe Emerson, and her gifted son, Ramses, are meticulously drawn. As in previous novels the dialogue is reminiscent of *The Thin Man*. When a man calls out to passing suffragettes, "You ought to be 'ome washin' your 'usband's trousers!" Ramses shoots back, "I assure you, sir, the lady's trousers are not in such sore need of laundering as your own." Peters also toys with differing narrative perspectives, and Ramses emerges as a possible successor to his mother's legacy of crime solving. *The Ape Who Guards the Balance* begins in 1907 in England where Amelia is attending a suffragettes' rally outside the home of Mr. Geoffrey Romer of the House of Commons. It seems Romer is one of the few remaining private collectors of Egyptian antiquities, and a series of bizarre events at the protest soon embroil Amelia in grave personal danger. Suspecting that the Master Criminal, Sethos, is behind their problems, the Emerson Peabodys hasten to Egypt to continue their studies in the Valley of Kings where they soon acquire a papyrus of the Book of the Dead. As with past seasons, however, their archaeological expedition is interrupted. The murdered body of a woman is found in the Nile. Ramses, Radcliffe, and Amelia all have their theories as to the origin of the crime, but their own lives might soon be at stake if the cult of Thoth and their ancient book is, indeed, involved. Other Peabody mysteries include *Seeing a Large Cat*, *The Hippopotamus Pool*, *The Snake*, *the Crocodile*, and *the Dog*, *The Deeds of the Disturber*, *Lion in the Valley*, *The Curse of the Pharaohs*, and *Crocodile on the Sandbank*. --Patrick O'Kelley.com

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