

NOVEL EGYPT

STORIES THAT TRAVEL



LITERARY TOURS
IN EGYPT

literarytoursegypt.com



WELCOME TO NOVEL EGYPT
STORIES THAT TRAVEL...



Hi There!

I'm Carol El Hawary, the founder of [Literary Tours in Egypt](#). Reading is one of my favourite ways to travel the world, be it a new title or an old favourite, opening a book is a way to start a journey into the unknown.

My own life adventure took me from Scotland's streets to the bustling historic centre of Cairo. There I combined my passion for literature and love of my new home to create Literary Tours in Egypt.

As an avid Agatha Christie reader, I began Literary Tours by [tracing the paths of Death on the Nile](#) and her other Egypt-based crime stories. Using sleuthing skills and knowledge of Egypt, I started weaving tours to celebrate Hercule Poirot with local and international fans.

Literary Tours in Egypt now hosts [more than a dozen Egyptian tours](#) celebrating the works of British writers and international novelists. As everyone's favourite Belgian (not French!) detective says,

'There are very wonderful things to be seen in Egypt, are there not?'

And there are very wonderful things to read, too.

Carol x

A woman wearing a straw hat, a light-colored t-shirt, and polka-dot pants stands in an ancient Egyptian temple. She is looking at a large column covered in hieroglyphs. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. The woman has a blue backpack on her back.

EGYPT'S LITERARY CONNECTIONS...

Many authors have been inspired to pen books about this majestic country, be it non-fiction titles unravelling Egypt's vast history and contemporary struggles, or genre fiction played out against the only remaining wonder of the Ancient World.



For crime readers looking to unpick a mystery in a setting reminiscent of the golden age of travel, this spectacular country really is the jewel of the Nile. Alongside Agatha Christie, the queen of crime fiction, many contemporary crime writers have set their bestsellers here.

We hope this reading list inspires you to discover more about this desert-based destination and set sail along the Nile for your own Egyptian adventure.

OUR TOURS

Our unique luxury tours offer you the chance to explore a place that has borne a wealth of literary works. Egypt is as much the main character as the human protagonists in many novels. Explore its ancient sites and busy streets to find out why.

DEATH ON THE NILE



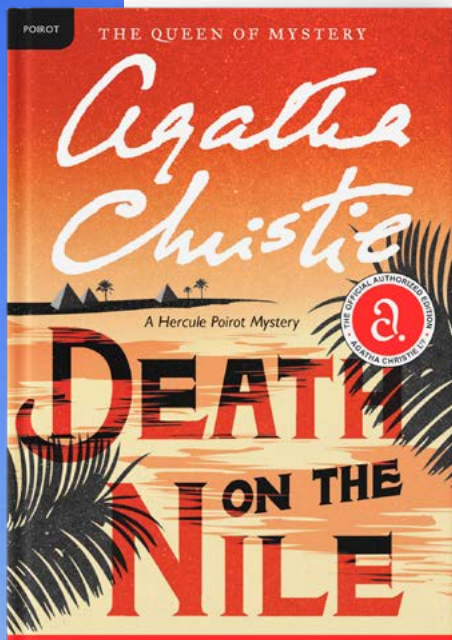
Discover where Literary Tours in Egypt began on our signature Death on the Nile tour. Though it's been 85 years since Agatha Christie's iconic story was published, her twisting plots continue to fascinate readers.

If you land on the book side of the film vs book debate, our Death on the Nile tour is a perfect way to play out Christie's most-famous mystery. After traversing the archaeological sites, cruise along the Nile in five-star luxury and visit the hotels where Christie wrote her thrilling story.

A large pyramid in the desert under a clear blue sky, with two people riding camels in the foreground. The pyramid is the central focus, with its golden-brown stone blocks clearly visible. The sky is a deep, clear blue. In the foreground, two people are riding camels across the sandy desert. One person is wearing a white thobe and a white ghutra, and the other is wearing a white thobe and a red ghutra. The camels are facing right.

OUR TOP CRIME PICKS...

“A book has got smell. A new book smells great. An old book smells even better. An old book smells like ancient Egypt.” Ray Bradbury

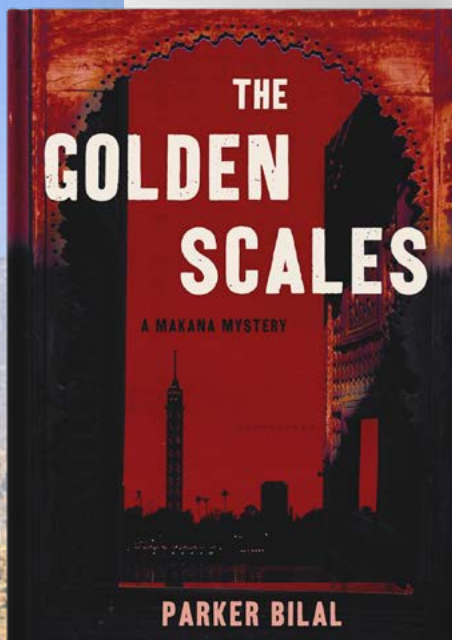


DEATH ON THE NILE

AGATHA CHRISTIE

This classic mystery novel, published in 1937, is an intriguing tale of deception and loss. Set during the glamorous 1930s, *Death on the Nile* sees the inimitable Hercule Poirot investigate an Aswan-based affair as a murder takes place on a river steamer.

The tranquillity of a Nile cruise is shattered by the discovery that Linnet Ridgeway has been fatally shot. She was young, stylish and beautiful, a girl who had everything – until she lost her life. Poirot's vacation becomes a busman's holiday as he must solve this gripping whodunnit.

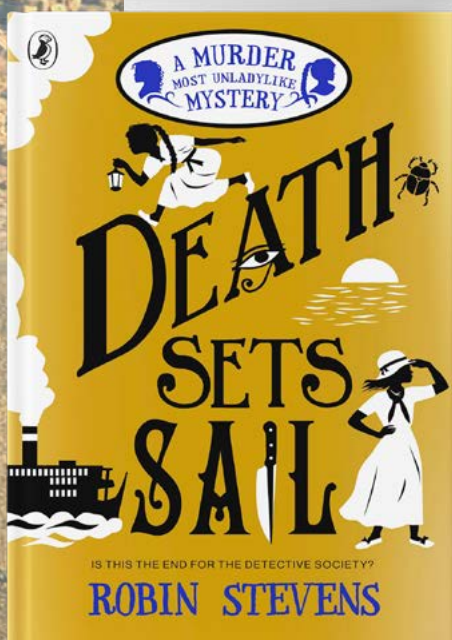


THE GOLDEN SCALES

PARKER BILAL

In exile from his native Sudan, former police inspector Makana is scratching out a living as a private investigator in Cairo. At home in his rickety Nile houseboat, he receives a call from the notorious mogul Saad Hanafi.

The Cairo soccer team owner's star player, Adil Romario, has vanished. Makana soon sees himself embroiled in the city's treacherous underworld, where extremists, gangsters, and his own painful memories threaten to bring down Hanafi's empire and the city itself.



DEATH SETS SAIL

ROBIN STEVENS

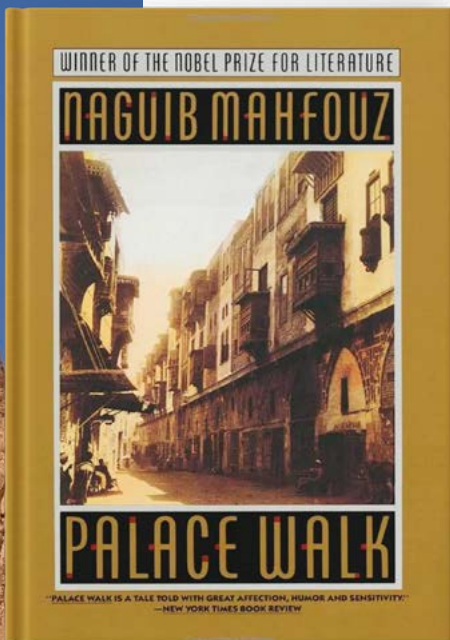
Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are sailing down the Nile about to begin their Egyptian escapades. Hoping to see some ancient temples and a mummy or two, they instead find themselves travelling aboard a crime scene.

Also voyaging on the SS Hatshepsut is a mysterious society – the Breath of Life. This group of sophisticated English ladies and gentlemen believe themselves to be ancient pharaohs reincarnated. Three days into the cruise their leader is found dead in her cabin, stabbed during the night.



OUR TOP EGYPTIAN AUTHORS

“The writer interweaves a story with his own doubts, questions, and values. That is art.” Naguib Mahfouz

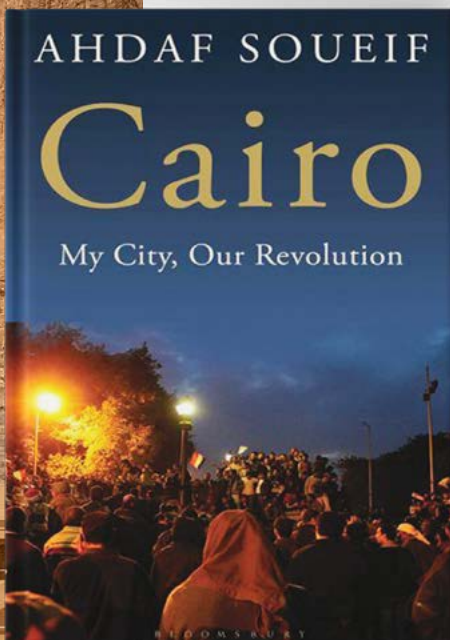


PALACE WALK

NAGUIB MAHFOUZ

The Palace Walk is the first in The Cairo Trilogy by the Egyptian novelist and Nobel Prize winner Naguib Mahfouz. The action begins in World War I and follows the lives of al-Sayid Ahmad Abd al-Jawad and his family.

Written in a social realist style, Mahfouz details the family patriarch's behaviour and its impact on his immediate family. While he sets strict rules of Muslim piety and sobriety in the household, he permits himself officially forbidden pleasures.

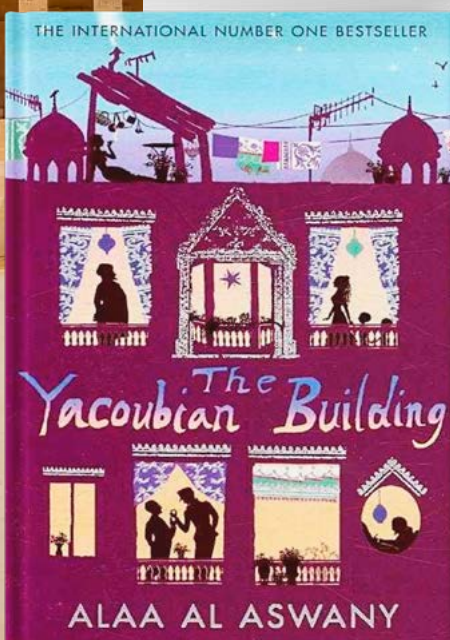


CAIRO: MY CITY, OUR REVOLUTION

AHDAF SOUEIF

Intertwining stories from private history and public records, Soueif tells the story of the Egyptian Revolution of 2011. Like thousands of others, she called Tahrir Square home for 18 days reporting events to the world media and doing whatever she could to help.

The People took to the square to torch the headquarters of the hated ruling National Democratic Party and form a human chain to protect the Antiquities Museum. Demanding an official handover of power to the military, the People demonstrated the will of the Egyptian population.

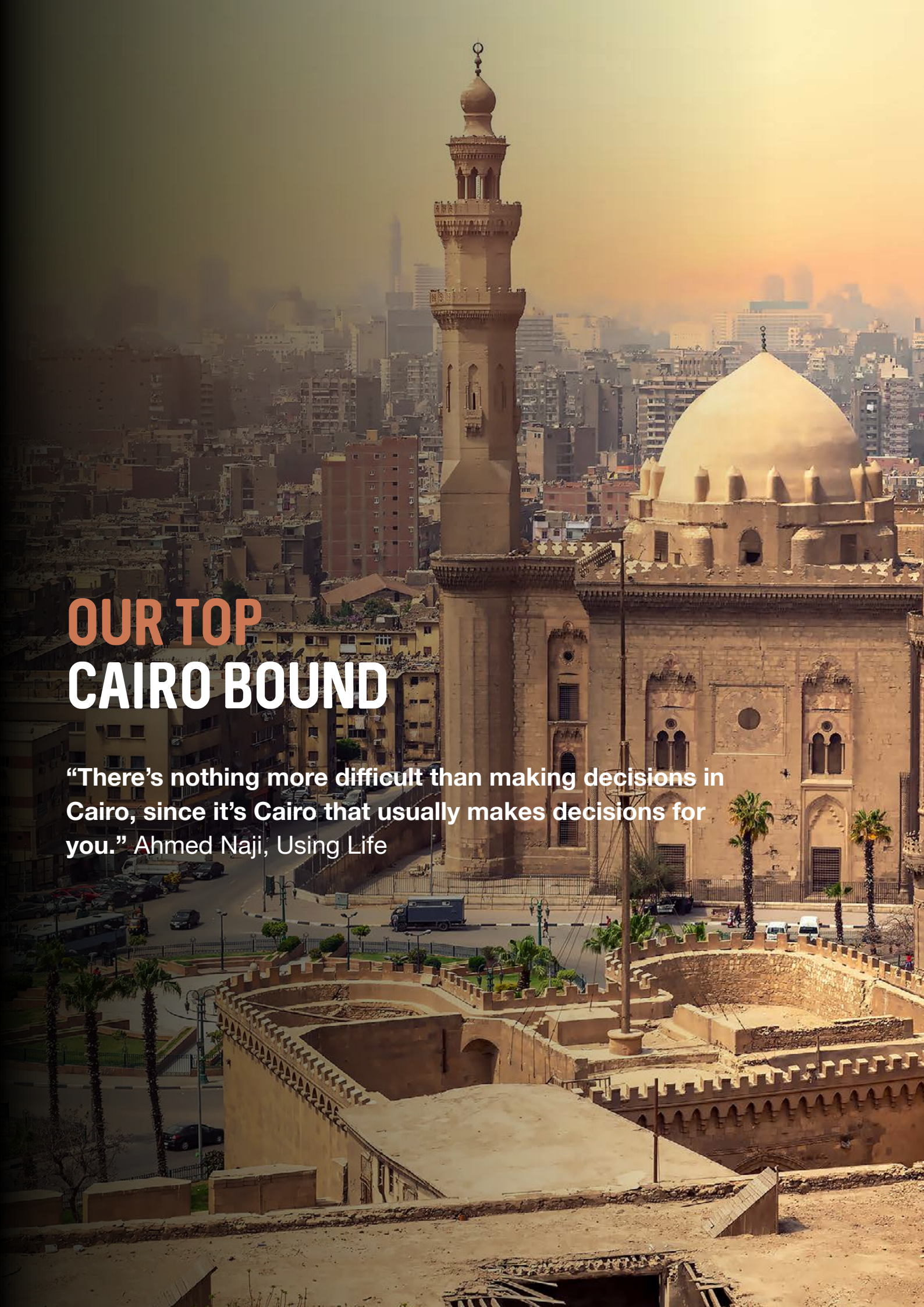


THE YACOUBIAN BUILDING

ALAA AL ASWANY

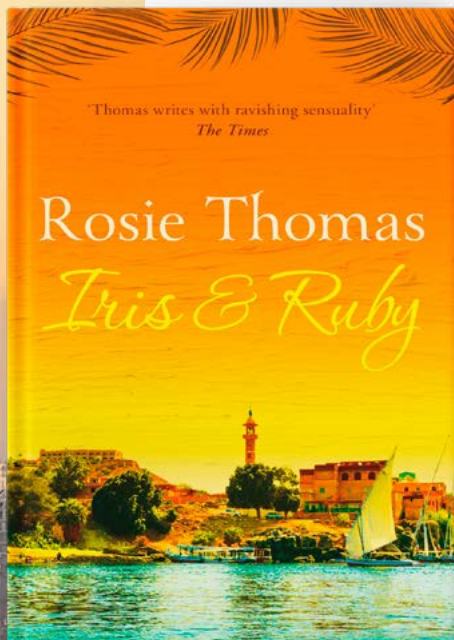
The Yacoubian building – once grand, now dilapidated – stands on one of Cairo's main boulevards. The exploits of its 12 main residents play out within the faded glory of a building full of passion and stories.

In the thin walls between the rooms, religious fervour sits alongside promiscuity as the modern world clashes with traditional culture. Taha, the doorman's son, has both career and romantic aspirations beyond the Yacoubian that are dashed due to corruption. His entwined story unfolds with devastating consequences.



OUR TOP CAIRO BOUND

“There’s nothing more difficult than making decisions in Cairo, since it’s Cairo that usually makes decisions for you.” Ahmed Naji, *Using Life*

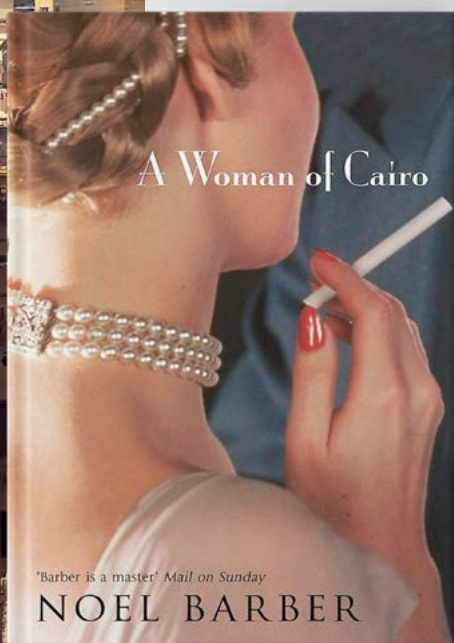


IRIS AND RUBY

ROSIE THOMAS

The unexpected arrival of her willful teenage granddaughter, Ruby, brings life and disorder to 82-year-old Iris Black's old house in Cairo. Having been driven away from England by a fraught relationship with her own mother, Ruby now seeks refuge in the cosmopolitan Cairo streets.

Iris shares her fading memories of a lost lover in World War II, which come to shape the future in unexpected and dangerous ways. The interwoven past and present draw Iris and Ruby closer than they could have imagined.

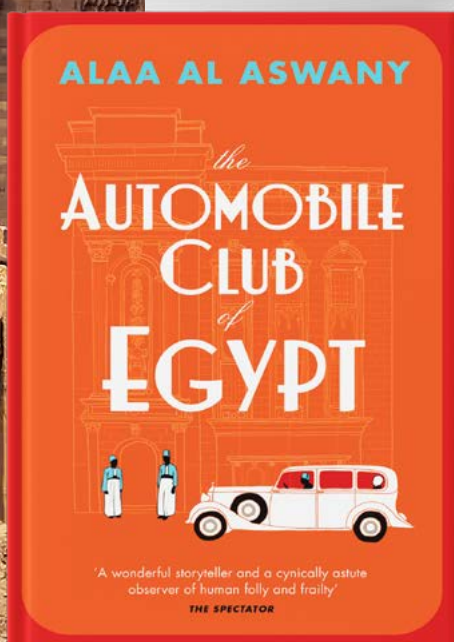


A WOMAN OF CAIRO

NOEL BARBER

Barber's classic novel is a gripping family saga set against the backdrop of the not-so-distant rumblings of World War II and nationalist forces in Cairo. As the children of diplomats, Serena Pasha and Mark Holt have grown up in a magical world of champagne breakfasts and midnight picnics at the pyramids.

Their lives have been linked since childhood, but they grow ever closer as adults. Yet Serena's hand has been promised not to Mark, but to his brother, Greg. Their love is tested to its limits as conflict threatens the very fabric of the country as they know it.



THE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF EGYPT

ALAA AL ASWANY

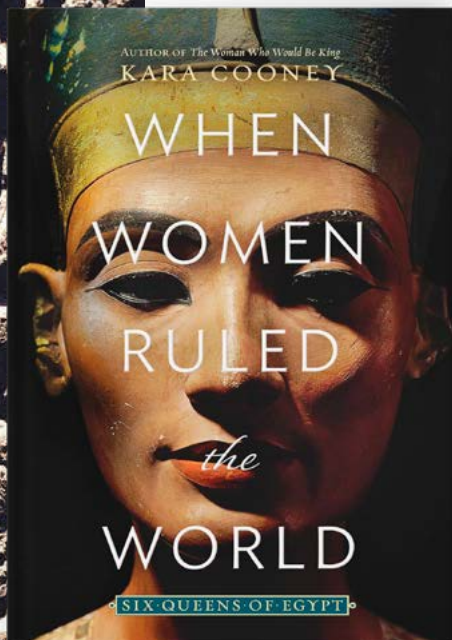
Exploring a stratified Egyptian society on the brink of monumental political change, Al Aswany depicts respected landowner Abd el-Aziz Gaafar and his family who have fallen on hard times. He moves his family to Cairo and takes a menial job at the Automobile Club.

In British-occupied Egypt, this luxurious lodge is a hotspot for Europeans. Here, Egyptians appear only as fearful servants and Abd el-Aziz's pride gets the better of him. Subjected to awful punishment, his actions have repercussions for his family and their already uncertain futures.



OUR TOP
IT'S A FACT

**“They said, ‘You are a savage and dangerous woman.’
I am speaking the truth. And the truth is savage and
dangerous.” Nawal El Saadawi**



WHEN WOMEN RULED THE WORLD

KARA COONEY

This non-fiction book is a riveting narrative that explores how six female remarkable pharaohs were once in control of ancient Egypt's vast landscape. Ruling with impunity as major powerbrokers, queens like Hatshepsut, Nefertiti, and Cleopatra once controlled the state, but how?

Ancient Egypt is unique in its history, providing women with access to its highest political office. Celebrated Egyptologist Kara Cooney examines how these female pharaohs of the Ptolemaic period came to be and the socio-historic context of each rise to power.

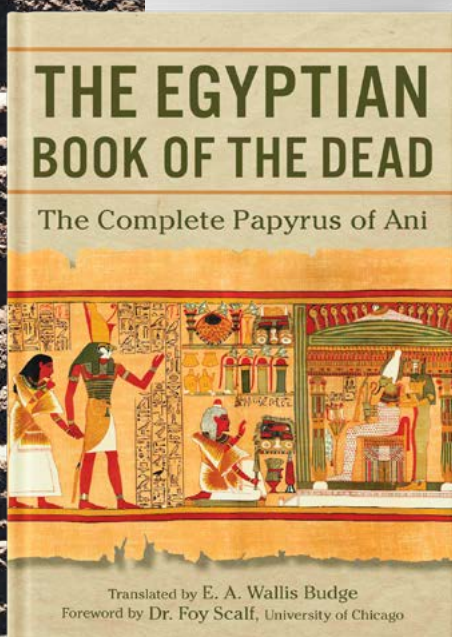


A HISTORY OF ANCIENT EGYPT

IAN SHAW

The Oxford History of Ancient Egypt ranges from 700,000 BC to 311 AD. It portrays the early days of Egypt, from its emergence to the Stone Age and incorporation into the Roman Empire. With vivid essays bolstered by rich colour illustrations, this book is fascinating reading on one of the world's most interesting countries.

From the rise of the pharaohs to Alexander the Great's conquest, the book provides a detailed account of stylistic developments in art and literature, architecture, and funereal practices in the ancient world.



THE EGYPTIAN BOOK OF THE DEAD: THE COMPLETE PAPYRUS OF ANI

OGDEN GOELET AND R.O. FAULKNER

Written more than 3,300 years ago by Ani, the royal scribe of Thebes, this translation of the Book of the Dead by noted Egyptologists includes full-colour illustrations and English translations directly beneath each image.

This tome gives insight into the declarations and spells that the ancient Egyptians believed to help the deceased pass to the afterlife. It is one of the most famous texts in world history, containing philosophical reflections and sacred burial practices.

The background of the image is an interior view of an ancient Egyptian temple. It features several massive, papyrus-bundle-shaped columns supporting a heavy stone ceiling. The walls and columns are covered in hieroglyphs. In the foreground, there are several large, standing statues of pharaohs, some with their heads missing. The lighting is bright, casting long shadows on the floor.

WHAT BOOKS WOULD YOU RECOMMEND?

We hope you enjoyed reading some of our favourite Egypt-based books. If your top Middle Eastern murder mystery isn't here, [get in touch!](#) We'd love to hear from you and expand our shelves.



At Literary Tours in Egypt, we're always hunting for a new crime title to spark our 'little grey cells', as Poirot would say. Whether you prefer an armchair adventure or an on-location investigation, [our literary tours](#) have something for everyone.

[Walk in the footsteps of Agatha Christie](#) and take in the epic sites of Aswan and the Philae Temple. Or cruise down the Nile River to soak up the scenery and pen your own mystery. The ancient secrets of Cairo make it a city like no other. Which book will be your key to unlocking it?

A WOMAN OF CAIRO TOUR



Based on Noel Barber's novel, the Literary Tours in Egypt team takes you on a journey to the Ancient City of Memphis (Men-nefer) and the Necropolis of Saqqara. Across these ancient sites, we trace how true love is sealed alongside the first pyramid in this story of love and political upheaval.



WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS SAY:

“The ‘Women in Cairo’ literary tour was beyond my expectation.”

“The professionalism of the tour operator and her team was superb.”

“The Egyptologist who accompanies the tour has a wealth of knowledge and brings the tour alive. Not only providing facts, but little extra ‘titbits’ that only a true Egyptian would know.”

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