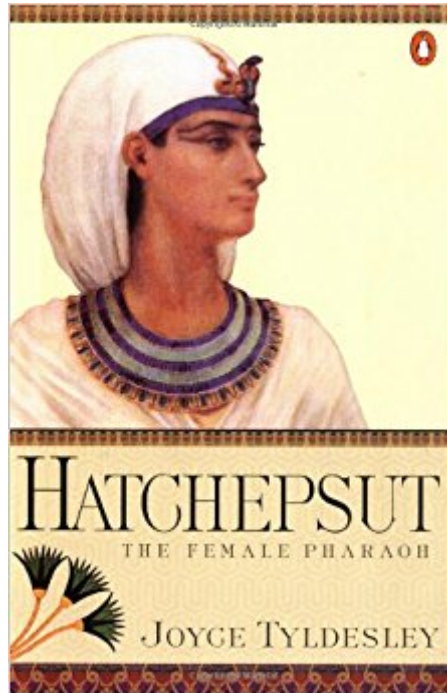




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Hatchepsut: The Female Pharaoh



Synopsis

Egypt's Queen—or, as she would prefer to be remembered, King—Hatchepsut ruled over an age of peace, prosperity, and remarkable architectural achievement (c. 1490 b.c.). Had she been born a man, her reign would almost certainly have been remembered for its stable government, successful trade missions, and the construction of one of the most beautiful structures in the world—the Deir el-Bahri temple at Luxor. After her death, however, her name and image were viciously attacked, her monuments destroyed or usurped, her place in history systematically obliterated. At last, in this dazzling work of archaeological and historical sleuthing, Joyce Tyldesley rescues this intriguing figure from more than two thousand years of oblivion and finally restores the female pharaoh to her rightful prominence as the first woman in recorded history to rule a nation.

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Customer Reviews

Egyptian Queen Hatchepsut, who died in 1482 B.C. after more than 20 years of peaceful rule, proclaimed herself pharaoh during her reign. She depicted herself, in temple paintings, as a man who hunted, fished and even sported the pharaoh's hallmark false beard. Was she, then, as many historians have speculated, a cross-dresser or merely power-hungry and eager to outshine the half-brother whom she married, King Tuthmosis II? There's absolutely no evidence to suggest she "came out" as a transvestite, concludes English archeologist Tyldesley, and the fact that Hatchepsut retained her female name "suggests that she did not see herself as wholly, or even partially, male." In this highly conjectural biography, Hatchepsut emerges as a conformist queen consort who, once her husband died, blossomed as a pragmatic ruler, bringing Egypt an oasis of stable government,

impressive architectural restoration and adventurous foreign trade and exploration from Phoenicia to Sinai. This biography will be of interest primarily to specialists. Illustrated. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

An absorbing scholarly biography, based on a meticulous review of the archaeological record, of a remarkable woman who ruled as pharaoh for 20 years in Egypt's Eighteenth Dynasty (c. 1490 b.c.). Although an important pharaoh whose rule was notable for internal order and other significant achievements, Hatchepsut has suffered, Tyldesley (Archaeology/Liverpool Univ.) argues, from an unjust obscurity, born mostly from her enemies' determined efforts to obliterate her memory and from a consequent paucity of archaeological evidence about her. The daughter of Tuthmosis I and widowed by her half-brother and husband, Tuthmosis II, Hatchepsut became queen regent for the infant Tuthmosis III, whose mother was a member of the royal harem. As Tyldesley relates, Hatchepsut was a model regent at first, but in the seventh year of the reign she became pharaoh, assuming the title King of Egypt (there was no term for queen) and taking on the symbolic masculine aspects of her role, including the traditional false beard. Tyldesley contends that, contrary to a common interpretation, Hatchepsut's behavior was not that of an obsessed power-grabber, but of a typical pharaoh; she allowed Tuthmosis III to obtain the traditional pharaonic military education, she ruled with him as co-regent, and her long rule was characterized by economic prosperity and extensive monument-building, the traditional preoccupations of New Kingdom monarchs. Tyldesley argues that evidence of military conquest during Hatchepsut's reign is slender and questionable, but asserts that there were solid achievements in the realms of trade and exploration. The author speculates on the relationship between the queen and Senenmut, one of several brilliant administrators who made her reign possible. Finally, Tyldesley concludes that Hatchepsut died a natural death (in contrast to arguments that Tuthmosis III orchestrated her death). Tyldesley works closely from surviving texts and fragmentary monuments to recreate vividly an outstanding woman of the ancient past. -- Copyright ©1996, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book provides a valuable reassessment of the reign of Hatchepsut - and places her firmly as one of Egypt's great monarchs and certainly the greatest female King. For a King she was - Joyce Tyldesley makes the point that there was no formal Egyptian word for Queen. There was King's Wife and God's Wife, but no 'Queen' - so Hatchepsut took the radical lateral approach of adopting a male persona and became a King. As with much of ancient Egyptian history, we are left to interpret

what we can from whatever records have survived the millennia, even more difficult when there had been a concerted effort to remove this renegade from the list of Kings. But there is enough evidence left, particularly in her magnificent mortuary temple of Djoser-Djeseru (Holy of Holies) - military affairs aren't to the fore (although there are scraps of evidence recording successes in Nubia and elsewhere during Hatchepsut's 20 year reign). Rather it seems it was the extraordinary record of the trading mission to Punt and the construction and shipping of two mighty obelisks to Karnak which were the proudest achievements. The author describes the twin obelisks (representations of the first beams of light to illuminate the world, with their tips sheathed in gold to sparkle and shimmer in rays of the Egyptian sun) - and their manner of extraction from the quarry, a combination of fire and water to crack the rock and then the hard labour with teams of men rhythmically bouncing balls of hard dolerite against the granite. Hatchepsut's great (and enigmatic) counsellor, Senenmut, is also brought to the fore. Was he more than a counsellor (a lover perhaps?) and was there a fall from grace (with pointed-vandalism of his tomb)? Hopefully new evidence will emerge over the years to further illuminate this fascinating ruler and her times. For Kindle users - pleasingly, the many photos, maps and illustrations have carried well into the Kindle version.

Greatly enjoyed this bio. 8 chapters broken down to key subjects that showed who she was, what she accomplished and what she meant. What I like about the writing style is the questions the author posed by bringing the analogies to modern times. The Queen who become king,,,not just semantics but a true paradigm shift that apparently was either condoned during her lifetime or attacked at the end and afterwards. There is still a great deal to learn who she was, what she did and what went on in Egypt during this time-250 years before King Tut. The author's style is very good and I am glad I read this.

The book is highly readable and certainly interesting in content about the first Pharoanic female "who would be king." The problem with it lies in the evidence or, more accurately, lack thereof. Because there is so very little known about Hatshepsut and her time, writing a book that isn't almost entirely speculative is rather difficult and becomes, by necessity, more of a historical novel than a discussion of historical fact. Redundancy is also unavoidable as the author tries to present the very little information that we have in enough pages to fill a book. All the content could have been condensed quite easily into a chapter rather than a book. Having said that, it IS fun reading, and the lack of evidence certainly allows the reader's imagination to take over and recreate a past that may or may not have existed. Hatshepsut the ruler certainly lived, but much more than that, we just can't

know at this time, so that this author's guesses are as good as any other Egyptologists.

I absolutely adore this book! Joyce brings to life a historical figure shrouded in mystery, and she presents the facts, as well as theories, surrounding the life of this strong, assertive woman. Nicely written!

A very interesting and readable book for all non-Egyptologists who have at least some knowledge of 18th dynasty happenings in Egypt. . Sometimes the names of the many kings get a bit confusing. Quality of illustrations is rather poor. A very recommendable book with easy to read text.

Very thorough and informative, with what seems like balanced arguments and limited, but warranted speculation. Served well as my primary source for a history paper.

I bought this book because I'm doing research for a novel. It is very thorough and the author is clearly knowledgeable about Egyptology. The author has personally emailed me regarding her book and my upcoming novel based upon the life and reign of Pharaoh Hatchepsut. If you're interested in the first great female leader this is a great biography. I believe this story will make a great movie someday.

This used hardback was in perfect condition at about 15% the original price. I had bought it years ago, but never got around to reading it. Now I'm enjoying it so much. I'm a history-phile, and this is a great story very well written.

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