

Synopsis

A gorgeously illustrated story about a family of Egyptian embalmers that will enthrall kids with its mummy-making details and brilliantly painted pages. From artist and Egypt specialist Tamara Bower comes her third, gorgeous book about Ancient Egypt. Using the classic style of Egyptian art, the book is painstakingly accurate in facts and illustrative style. Artifacts, funerary customs, kid-loving gory details of the mummification process, hieroglyphs, and details of life in ancient Egypt are told through the eyes of Ipy, whose father is embalmer to the King. Yuya, father of the Queen, has died and Ipy must help his father in the mummification process. Yuya is an actual mummy and the discovery of his tomb is an entertaining story in itself, with the archaeologist Theodore Davis fainting at the sight of so much gold, and the portly Gaston Maspero getting stuck while trying to climb into the tomb. Yuya's tomb was a spectacular discovery in the Valley of the Kings that was later overshadowed only by the discovery of King Tut, Yuya's great-grandson. The book features sidebars of hieroglyphs and their meanings, a map, and an afterword telling more about the life of Yuya, of the burial process, and ancient Egypt in general. While there are a number of children's books on mummies, none are told from the point of view of the embalmers themselves, and none are illustrated with the meticulous eye of Tamara Bower.

Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages

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Product Dimensions: 11.3 x 0.4 x 9.8 inches

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #631,162 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Africa](#) #58 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Africa](#) #217 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Ancient Civilizations](#)

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

Summary: Paneb is the head of a family of embalmers; his young son Ipy is being trained to follow in his footsteps. When Yuya, father of Queen Tiye, dies, Paneb and Ipy oversee a lengthy process of embalming and burial. Each step is important in preserving the body for the afterlife, and there are many rituals that go with each part of the process. The Egyptian religion is described, with beliefs about what happened to people after they died. There's also a section on the embalming process, with pictures of the tools and the people performing their jobs drawn in ancient Egyptian style. A lengthy endnote describes the discovery of Yuya's tomb in the early 20th century; there are also a few photos and drawings of items found in the tomb. 40 pages; grades 3-8. Pros: Written and illustrated by an expert on ancient Egypt, this book is clearly a labor of love designed to impart a great deal of information about many aspects of Egyptian culture, both through the text and the illustrations. The end note, three pages of small type, is a bit daunting, but very interesting and informative. Cons: The section on the embalming process (e.g., brain removal through the nose) may not be everyone's cup of tea.

Great book by a very insightful and knowledgeable author, who is also an amazing artist with first hand experience with Egyptian archaeology.

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