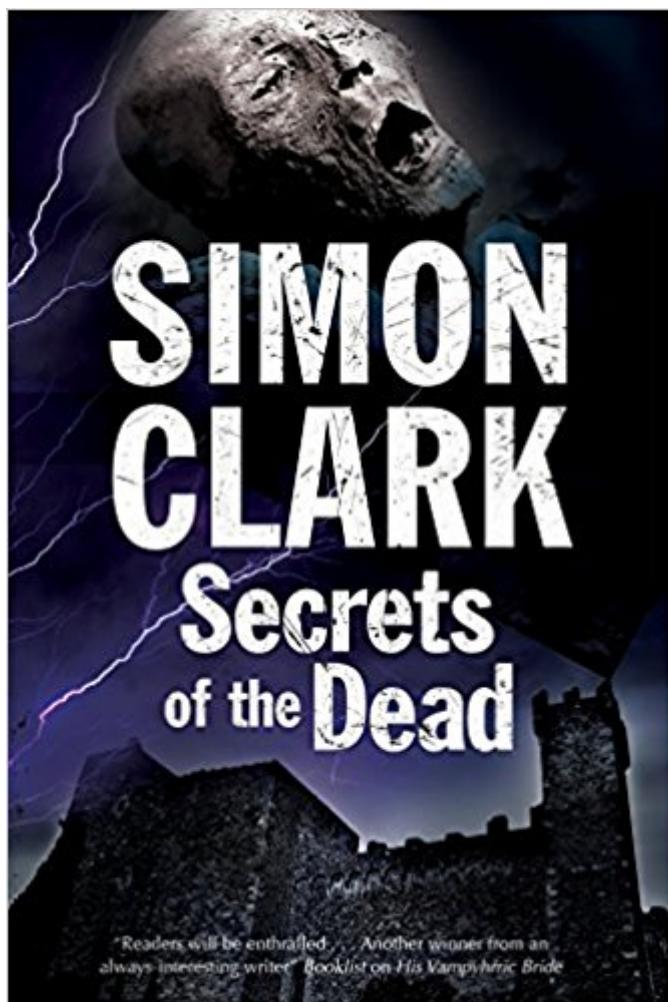


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Secrets Of The Dead: A Novel Of Mummies And Ancient Curses



Synopsis

Tombs are sealed shut for a reason. Opening them can have terrifying consequences . . . John Tolworth is delighted when he is hired to help investigate a collection of mummified bodies found in the notorious Gold Tomb in Egypt. Not only is he intrigued by the work, but the collection is stored in an ancient castle in Devon, where John spent his childhood. He looks forward to revisiting the area, and to showing his family the place he grew up. But when John and his family arrive at Baverstock Castle, John starts to remember things. Things he had forgotten. What happened the last time he was there? And why is Philip Kemmis, the former owner of the castle, and John's childhood companion, now a raving madman? As the mummified bodies begin to reveal their ancient secrets, John begins to think the unthinkable . . .

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Clark's plain prose adequately evokes the bodily horror of mummification and the unquiet dead" (Publishers Weekly)
"Another fine novel from this very readable writer" (Booklist)

Tombs are sealed shut for a reason. Opening them can have terrifying consequences . . .

good read.

I couldn't figure out why I didn't have a stronger reaction, one way or the other, to this book. And then I figured it out. An author can go vampire, or zombie undead, or all Lovecraft Cthulhu mythos,

or creepy ghostly apparition. Or he can go mummy. But once you settle on mummies you are pretty well confined to the time honored mummy conventions. So, your heroes study them, the mummies sneak around at night, there may be curses. Reanimation is a real possibility. There can be a revenge angle, or an object of power, or a treasure hunt aspect. You can tie them to sly political or sexual or class or social problem messages, or they can just lurk about with their outstretched arms. I'm being sort of a wiseguy, but I think the point is fair. Well, this is a really, really good mummy tale. The characters have a reasonable amount of depth and occasionally do interesting or unexpected things. The secondary characters have some style and there are some side plots and incidental characters that add real appeal or interest to the story. The author does odd and unsettling characters very well. Atmosphere is a particular strong suit, as is pacing, and the author is especially good at scary night scenes. There is action and some violence and threats of even greater violence but this isn't a gore fest. The mummy science is interesting but we don't get reams of Egyptian history or the usual almost mandatory lectures about how bodies were mummified. So, the author can tell a ripping yarn, and the writing is quite up to the task of selling that yarn. The plot is intelligible, if a bit bumpy, and the pacing is very good. If you really like mummy horror stories, you should be happy with this book. If you aren't a fan, well this is still a good and interesting enough read, but it probably won't turn you into a convert. Please note that I received a free advance ecopy of this book in exchange for a candid review. Apart from that I have no connection at all to either the author or the publisher of this book.

I haven't enjoyed a supernatural book as much as this one in a LONG time! Suspenseful....providing wonderful character descriptions and eerie events to keep you reading without bogging you down with too much detail.

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