



Detecting the Past:

Mysteries & Murders at the Time of the Pyramids, Parthenon, & Roman Empire



compiled by Monica Williams



Corby, Gary.

The Pericles Commission.

Nicolaos (Nico) is out for a walk in ancient Athens. A body literally flies out of the sky and lands at his feet. The body is that of Ephialtes, who brought democracy to ancient Greece. Pericles, Ephialtes protege, tasks Nico to find the killer. Nico has always wanted to be a politician, and he sees this as his big chance. Can the son of a sculptor keep up with the intricacies of Greek politics? The story has some noir elements, (think a young Sam Spade in a toga). A smart mystery with a sense of humor.

Davis, Lindsey.

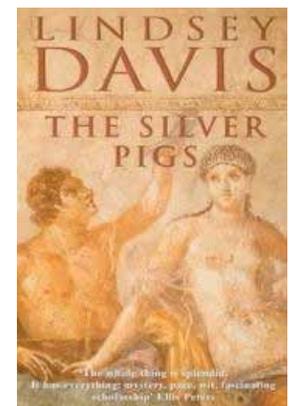
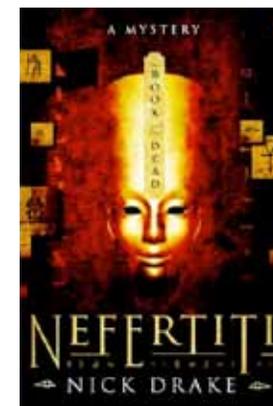
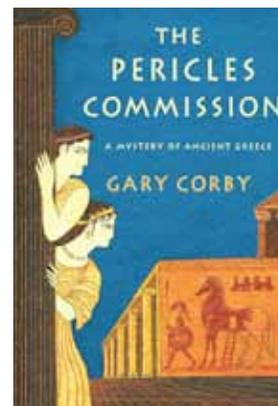
The Silver Pigs.

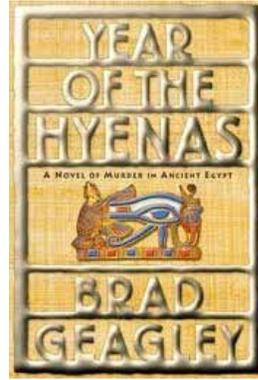
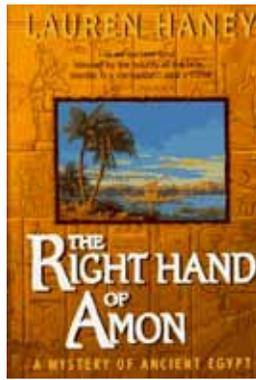
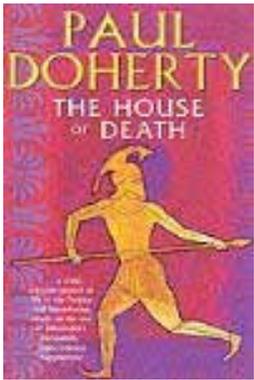
Marcus Didius Falco is an "informant" living in Rome during the reign of the Emperor Vespasian. He is accosted in the Forum by Sosia Camillina, a damsel in distress. She is fleeing for her life, and Falco decides to help her. Sosia is weighted down by more than trouble. She is carrying imperial ingots- the "silver pigs" of the title. Falco, in the course of his investigation, rescues the niece of a senator. She is later murdered, and Falco is hired to investigate her death. He ends up working in the British silver mines, but all roads eventually lead to Rome.

Doherty, Paul.

The House of Death.

Alexander the Great is at the Hellespont waiting to attack Darius III. While waiting, he makes many sacrifices to ensure a great victory. He has several problems. His guides are being murdered, there are spies in the camp, and his generals cannot be trusted. Alexander summons his trusted childhood friend, Telemon the physician, to investigate. Telemon is tasked with finding the Persian spy Naihapt, who is believed to be the murderer. The historical details add to this entertaining read.





Drake, Nick.

Nefertiti: The Book of the Dead

Rai Rahotep, chief detective in the Thebes Medjay (mercenary police) division, is summoned under cover of darkness and in great secrecy to the palace of King Akhenaten. Queen Nefertiti is missing, and it falls to Rahotep to find her. If he does not find the missing queen, his whole family will die. Rahotep is given help in the form of Mahu, an ambitious courtier, and two additional Medjay officers. A body is found dressed in the queen's garments, but the case is not so easily solved. The investigation takes Rahotep into the hallowed halls of the palace and into the crowded back streets of Thebes.

Geagley, Brad.

Year of the Hyenas.

Semerket, former Clerk of Investigations and Secrets, is tasked to find a killer. The victim was an elderly priestess. Semerket is not known for being respectful to those in authority, nor is he frequently sober. For those conducting the investigation he is perfect. They do not want him to solve the case, but Semerket knows there is more than meets the eye. His investigations yield a huge web of corruption that may threaten the reign of Ramses III and destroy the kingdom.

Haney, Lauren.

The Right Hand of Amon.

Lieutenant Bak is commander of the Medjay Mercenary Police in the frontier city of Buhen. Egypt's only female Pharaoh, Hatshepsut, reigns. Bak is selected to oversee the guards who will be protecting the sacred golden statue of Amun, as it travels up the Nile. The statue is being brought to Thebes to help heal the son of a powerful tribal king. The Nile contains more than crocodiles. One of the guards is mysteriously murdered, and his body found floating in the river. Bak must find the culprit.

Macbain, Bruce.

Roman Games.

Sextus Verpa, a wealthy Roman citizen, has been murdered. His slaves are the main suspects in his stabbing. The Emperor Domitian orders Pliny the Younger to investigate. The Roman Games have begun, and the entire city shuts down to celebrate, including the courts. Pliny has fifteen days (the length of the Roman games) to find the killer, or all of Verpa's slaves will be found guilty and executed. Pliny is joined in his investigation by Martial, a young poet. They uncover a plot that involves Jews and Christians and some Egyptian cultists. Will they find the murderer before the games end?

Robinson, Lynda S.

Murder in the Place of Anubis.

Egypt is still recovering from the reign of Pharaoh Akhenaten, who had tried to create a new monotheistic religion. His son, young Tutankhamen, is now pharaoh. Hormin, a scribe, is found murdered at the Temple of Anubis in one of embalming rooms. The young pharaoh assigns his "Eyes and Ears", Lord Meren, to find the murderer. Hormin had many enemies, and Meren's investigation takes him from the palace to the terrifying Place of Anubis to find a killer.

Roberts, John Maddox. *SPQR I: The King's Gambit.*

Decius Caecillus Metellus is a member of Rome's civil detective force. The streets of Rome are menaced by gangs who prey on both plebeians and patricians. An ex-slave is found garroted, and a foreign merchant is found disemboweled. Their murders attract little attention in the Roman hierarchy, but Decius decides to investigate. The murders are linked to a complex system of corruption that could bring down the government.

Stanley, Kelli.

The Curse Maker.

Roman physician Arcturus and his beautiful wife Gwynna travel to Bath, England for a vacation. When they arrive at the sacred spring, they find a body floating in the water. The deceased was a "curse maker", whose curses came true. More bodies begin piling up, and it appears that Arcturus himself has been cursed. Will Arcturus be able to break the curse, before he becomes its next victim?

