

**Title:**

Secrets of a Sun King

**Author:**

Emma Carroll

**Blurb:**

Lilian Kaye is shocked to find a parcel from the famous Egyptologist. The same one found dead that very morning, according to every newspaper in England!

Inside is a key to a story.... about a king whose tomb archaeologists are desperately hunting for.

Lil and her friends must embark on an incredible journey- to return the package to its resting place, to protect those they love and to break the deadly pharaoh's curse.....

**Author background:**

Emma Carroll was born on 26th March 1970. She lives in Somerset with her husband and two Jack Russell terriers. She used to write stories as a child about ponies and pop stars. Later, she became a secondary school English teacher then left teaching to become a full-time writer. Frost Hollow Hall is her most famous book – it was the Northeast Book Award Winner 2013.

**Cultural background:**

In 1922, people in Britain were dealing with the aftermath of the First World War, such as losing loved ones, high unemployment, and inequality. Poor people could not afford medical care and only 40% of women could vote. Howard Carter was a British archaeologist who discovered Tutankhamun's tomb shortly after Egypt gained independence from the British Empire.

**Literary terms:**

**Rich in description** -Cairo 'I could smell Cairo: warm, dusty, animal dung, old apples.' Egypt is a feast for the senses with exotic sights, such as camels and mosques, the constant sound of mosquitoes and the scent of fig trees.

**First person** -The novel is written in the first person. This allows the reader to know the main character's thoughts and feelings, such as 'a strange, shivery feeling came over me. I didn't want to go any further'. The reader lives through the story with the main character. We find out things when she does and have similar reactions. Lil often asks herself a series of questions, such as 'Was the parcel moving? What was that rustling sound? Was the package unwrapping itself?' These create a sense of urgency and add to the mystery as the reader does not know the answers either.

**Structure**- The novel tells the story of Lil in 1922 but it also tells the story of Kyky in 1323 BC. The ancient Egyptian story is told through a series of letters that Lil finds and reads. The author gives information about

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the customs and practices of ancient Egypt in these letters to help the reader visualise and understand the events that happened there.

**Historical fiction** Historical fiction combines historical facts and fiction. In this novel, there are facts, such as Howard Carter discovering Tutankhamun's tomb and rumours of a curse that led to Lord Carnarvon dying from a mosquito bite. There is also fiction, such as the letters describing what happened in Kyky's last days and the explanation of what happened to his heart.

### **Vocabulary examples:**

**heroine** -The heroine of a book is the main female character, who usually has good qualities.

**Archaeologist**

**Excavation**

**Names of Egyptian gods** – Anubis, Osiris

**Tomb**

### **Benefits for our children:**

The book describes the Valley of the Kings in Egypt, giving the children an idea of the terrain and climate of the landscape. It helps them to appreciate and learn how important artefacts are for historians when finding evidence about the past.

The book sequences the events that take place like a puzzle for the children to piece together and question. The vocabulary supports the topic related words used in class which helps them to become more familiar with that era and embed it into their learning.

The story creates a sense of suspense throughout, leaving the children wanting to find out more each time.