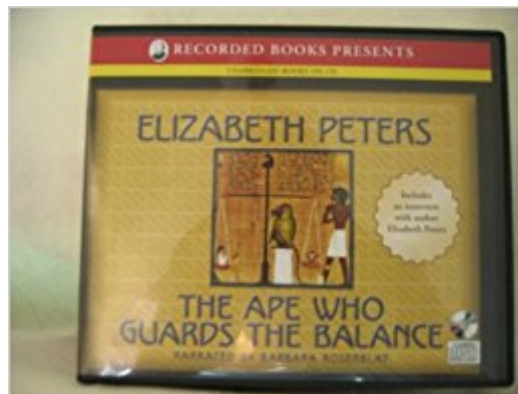




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# **The Ape Who Guards The Balance [UNABRIDGED CD] (Audiobook) (Book 10, The Amelia Peabody Series)**



## Synopsis

Against the romantic backdrop of Edwardian Egypt, the irresistible Amelia Peabody and her charmingly unconventional family prove themselves to be formidable foes of villainy. In *The Ape Who Guards the Balance* Amelia must muster all of her considerable skills of detection to unravel a snarled web of stolen archeological treasures, murderous cults, and fallen women. The Peabody-Emerson family has set sail for Egypt and the 1907 archaeological season. But a mint-condition papyrus of the Book of the Dead falls into their hands, and the prospects for the 1907 archaeological season turn deadly. This captivating best-seller showcases the talent that caused the Mystery Writers of America to name Elizabeth Peters a Grand Master. With Barbara Rosenblat's dazzling narration, you will find yourself held pleasurably in the balance of this exotic mystery. An interview with Elizabeth Peters concludes this audio production.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Against the romantic backdrop of Edwardian Egypt, the irresistible Amelia Peabody and her charmingly unconventional family prove themselves to be formidable foes of villainy. In *The Ape Who Guards the Balance* Amelia must muster all of her considerable skills of detection to unravel a snarled web of stolen archeological treasures, murderous cults, and fallen women. The Peabody-Emerson family has set sail for Egypt and the 1907 archaeological season. But a mint-condition papyrus of the Book of the Dead falls into their hands, and the prospects for the 1907 archaeological season turn deadly. This captivating best-seller showcases the talent that caused the Mystery Writers of America to name Elizabeth Peters a Grand Master. With Barbara Rosenblat's dazzling narration, you will find yourself held pleasurably in the balance of this exotic mystery. An

interview with Elizabeth Peters concludes this audio production.

The many plot twists, red herrings, false leads and unexpected triumphs of "The Ape Who Guards the Balance" has been covered skillfully in other reviews elsewhere so I won't supply a plot synopsis here. It might be better to use this small space to tell why this book and this series is such a special treat to this fan. Ms. Peters gives us romance without being maudlin, action without excessive or graphic violence and mystery without melodrama. (ok, maybe a \*little\* melodrama) Her humor is laugh-out-loud funny and she even manages to insert Egyptian history without dogma, except perhaps when Ramses delivers one of his condescending lectures. But it is the characters we remember most. Intricate, tightly woven plots are the mark of a good mystery, but if we don't care about the characters, who cares where the plot takes us? The characters are well drawn, well thought out and compliment each other. Can you imagine Amelia without Emerson's verbal sparring? It seems Ramses and Nefret are destined to carry on this enlivening tradition: will it be the next book where they admit to each other what we all have guessed by now? Can Sethos really stay his hand from Amelia's most engaging affairs? (Not bloo- er blooming likely.) Ms. Peters has also been able to get around the limitations of the first person narrative by "discovering" additional manuscripts describing the main events but written by other combatants, er, participants. It's great fun seeing the same event described from greatly contrasting viewpoints. Anyone whose interest in Egyptology has been piqued by the recent discoveries of Kent Weeks and Miroslav Verner would be well advised to save the airfare to that troubled region. For a tiny fraction of that cost you can pick up a copy of "The Ape Who Guards the Balance" and enjoy all the mystery, danger and romance and not worry about the local water. What a bargain! I fervently wish Amelia (and Ms. Peters!) a long and fruitful life so that we may enjoy this series for years to come. Especially to the year 1922, when her friend Howard Carter makes (with much help, poking and prodding from the Emersons) the most famous descent in modern archeology: down the sixteen steps of KV62 and into the final resting place of Tutankhamun. I imagine Emerson having preceded him there, sapphire eyes snapping in the torchlight with archeological fever. Bruised, bloodied but not bowed, his torn clothing in disarray. "Don't stand there gawking, Peabody, there's work to be done," as his strong arms circle her waist. "Emerson!" she exclaims, searching the depth of those eyes. "Another shirt ruined!"

If you love any of the Elizabeth Peters Amelia Peabody Books, you will love them all. My favorite series ever! Truly is Raiders of the Lost Ark married with Sherlock Holmes.

Everything Elizabeth Peters is five star

The Emerson/Peabody family take us in a wonderful ride of Egyptian archeology, humor, spies, thieves, murder and mayhem. This is also the time of women suffragettes in England. Amelia also has to deal with prejudices she didn't realize she had regarding Egyptians. It is a satisfying read on many levels, perhaps my favorite in the series. The narration by Barbara Rosenblat is superb.

Typical Ellis Peters - well-imagined, great characters, crisp dialogue, a nice twist or two, and the geographical settings are well-drawn. The story is good, too! Of course, that is what we all expect from Peters, and are never disappointed. Don't buy this book unless you have time to digest it in large chunks. It is not easy to put down for basic functions like eating and sleeping.

I've been listening to the Amelia Peabody series while commuting for the past couple of months and have enjoyed the tapes so very much. I've been lucky enough to be listening to the Barbara Rosenblat version of the series. Samantha Eggar is fine as a reader, but Barbara Rosenblat makes each character distinct and easy to recognize. She has a warm, clear voice, seems completely at ease with this series and has no problem with any of the characterizations Elizabeth Peters throws her way. At the end of the Rosenblat version of "Ape Who Guards the Balance" is an interview with Peters and Rosenblatt which is well-worth listening to.

All of the books (Amelia Peabody) are interesting historically and a delight to get to know her family and their Egyptian workers. There is always a bit of a mystery involved which keeps it interesting.

I love Elizabeth Peters. She was an amazing author who can weave a tale. I hear there is one more story yet to be published and you can bet I will get that one once it's released.

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