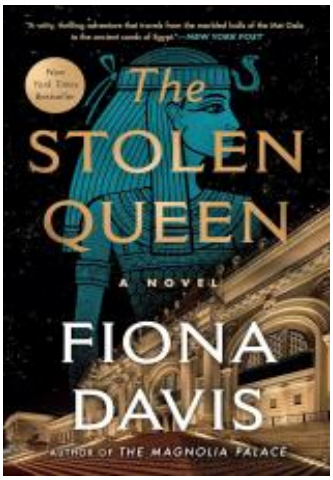
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The Stolen Queen

by Fiona Davis



About the Book

From *New York Times* bestselling author Fiona Davis, an utterly addictive novel that will transport you from New York City?s most glamorous party to the labyrinth streets of Cairo and back.

Egypt, 1936: When anthropology student Charlotte Cross is offered a coveted spot on an archaeological dig in Egypt?s Valley of the Kings, she leaps at the opportunity. That is until an unbearable tragedy strikes.

New York City, 1978: Nineteen-year-old Annie Jenkins is thrilled when she lands an opportunity to work for former *Vogue* fashion editor Diana Vreeland, who?s in the midst of organizing the famous Met Gala, hosted at the museum and known across the city as the ?party of the year.?

Meanwhile, Charlotte is now leading a quiet life as the associate curator of the Met?s celebrated Department of Egyptian Art. She?s consumed by her research on Hathorkare --- a rare female pharaoh dismissed by most other Egyptologists as unimportant.

The night of the gala: One of the Egyptian art collection?s most valuable artifacts goes missing, and there are signs that Hathorkare?s legendary curse might be reawakening. Annie and Charlotte team up to search for the missing antiquity, and a desperate hunch leads the unlikely duo to one place Charlotte swore she?d never return: Egypt. But if they have any hope of finding the artifact, Charlotte will need to confront the demons of her past --- which may mean leading them both directly into danger.

Discussion Guide

1. Who is the stolen queen? What does the book?s title mean to you?

2. We see Charlotte exploring in the Valley of the Kings, as well as managing the careful moving and conservation efforts for the ancient pieces. In what ways, if any, did this book expand your understanding of museum and conservation work?

3. The debate regarding the repatriation of stolen or looted artifacts continues today. How do you feel about institutions like the Met or the British Museum returning antiquities to their country of origin? What if there?s a chance they might be sold to a private buyer or placed in storage? Do these items belong to the country they came from or to humanity in general?

4. Annie has always taken care of her mother, Joyce. How does their relationship shape Annie?s personality and life?

5. The Met?s Egyptian Art collection and the Costume Institute represent two very different divisions of the museum. How are they different? Is there any crossover between them? Which one would you prefer to work in?

6. When Charlotte discovers the entrance to the tomb in Egypt, she has to contend with the skepticism of Zimmerman and selfishness of Leon. In what ways do the men around her impact her work then and later?

7. Compare Charlotte?s romantic involvements: Henry, Everett and Mark.

8. Charlotte is 60 years old and Annie is 19. How does their age difference impact how they interact? In what ways do their ages impact their careers?

9. The history of the female pharaoh Hathorkare (inspired by the real-life ruler Hatshepsut) is debated by scholars. The novel delves into the importance of reclaiming women?s contributions to history. How does that apply to both Hathorkare and Charlotte?

10. Which antiquity described in the book was your favorite. Why?

Author Bio

Fiona Davis is the *New York Times* bestselling author of several historical fiction novels set in iconic New York City buildings, including THE STOLEN QUEEN, THE MAGNOLIA PALACE, THE ADDRESS and THE LIONS OF FIFTH AVENUE, which was a Good Morning America book club pick. She's also the author of SAMANTHA: THE NEXT CHAPTER, the first legacy novel for American Girl. Her articles have appeared in publications like *The Wall Street Journal* and the *Oprah Magazine*.

She first came to New York as an actress but fell in love with writing after getting a master's degree at Columbia Journalism School. Her books have been translated into over 20 languages, and she's based in New York City.

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