

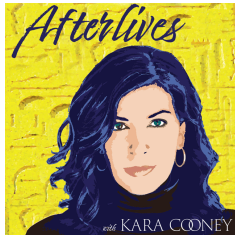
Afterlives with Kara Cooney

Episode #7: Ancient Egypt Spooky Edition, Part 2 – True Crime

Kara Cooney & Jordan Galczynski

Kara and Jordan discuss crime in ancient Egypt. Were there serial killers in ancient Egypt or are they a modern phenomenon? What was their justice system like? What happened to those who dared to murder the king? Find out what we know about the darker corners of ancient Egyptian society in this murderous episode.

- Here is [The Atlantic article](#) that argues that serial killers are way more prominent than believed (the FBI argues that less 1% are serial).
- [The Invention of Murder: How Victorians Reveled in Death and Detection and Created Modern Crime](#) by Judith Flanders
- A recent book by Debbie Felton, a professor of Classics at UMass Amherst, [Monsters and Monarchs: Serial Killers in Classical Myth and History](#) (shout out to the Peopling the Past podcast [post](#)) argues that there is plenty of ancient evidence that serial killers stalked the ancient world just like they do now.
- Read about Rose Campbell's work on the bodies found in the silo at Edfu: [Communities in Life and Death at Tell Edfu, Egypt](#)
 - Clarification: While Kara and Jordan discussed this evidence as if the individual's death was 'conclusively' linked to traumatic injury, the 'parry' fractures mentioned were healed prior to death. This does not, however, rule out completely that the individuals died due to soft tissue trauma or disease.
- [Book of Gates \(Hour Nine\)](#) depicts bodies floating in the river.
- On [crime and punishment in ancient Egypt](#) (general article)
- For more on burial and inheritance at Deir el Medina see: Jac. J. Janseen, and P. W. Pestman. "[Burial and Inheritance in the Community of the Necropolis Workmen at Thebes \(Pap. Bulaq X and O. Petrie 16\)](#)." *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 11, no. 2 (1968): 137–70. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3596283>.
- More on crime in ancient Egypt
 - McDowell, A. G. 1999. *Village life in ancient Egypt: laundry lists and love songs*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
 - Vernus, Pascal 2003. *Affairs and scandals in ancient Egypt*. Translated by David Lorton. Ithaca, NY; London: Cornell University Press.
 - Tyldesley, Joyce 2000. *Judgement of the pharaoh: crime and punishment in ancient Egypt*. London: Weidenfeld and Nicholson.
- Case study: [Paneb](#)
 - Paneb is discussed in both the McDowell and Vernus books listed above.
 - For the two Late Ramesside Letters that talk about the plot to kill 2 Medjay (P. Berlin 10487 and 10488) see: Thorpe, Susan 2018. [Military duties and an assassination plot: the extra dimension found in ancient Egyptian letters](#). *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt* 54, 175-185.
 - [P. Salt 124](#): lists 'crimes' by Paneb addressed to the vizier by a man who wanted Paneb's job
 - For a discussion of the ancient Egyptian word n(i)k, see page 76 of Vernus, Pascal 2003. *Affairs and scandals in ancient Egypt*. Translated by David Lorton. Ithaca, NY; London: Cornell University Press.
- Regicide in ancient Egypt
 - Teti

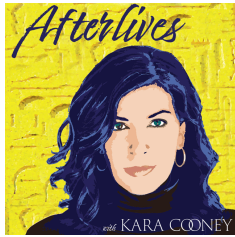


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- Naguib Kanawati, *Conspiracies in the Egyptian Palace: Unis to Pepy I*. Routledge, Oxon and New York, 2003.
- Correction at 32:36: The beginning of the 6th dynasty is Teti, Userkara, and Pepi. Read more: [6th Dynasty succession](#)
- Read more about Weni and his autobiography [here](#). A translation of the text: "The Autobiography of Weni" in *Ancient Egyptian Literature* by M. Lichtheim, vol.1, pp.18ff.
- Kanawati discusses the role of [Vizier Rawer](#) in the conspiracy in the book listed above.
 - [damnatio memoriae](#)
- Amenemhet I
 - [The Tale of Sinuhe](#) can be read in anthologies of ancient Egyptian literature, including Lichtheim, M. *Ancient Egyptian Literature: A Book of Readings*. University of California Press, Los Angeles, 2006.
 - [Instruction of Amenemhat](#) can be read in *Ancient Egyptian Literature* by M. Lichtheim, vol.1, pp. 135-138.
- [Ramses III](#)
 - Eric H. Cline and David O'Connor, eds. *Ramses III: The Life and Times of Egypt's Last Hero* (University of Michigan Press; 2012).
 - [Overview](#) of the Turin Judicial Papyrus. See also Buck, A. de. "[The Judicial Papyrus of Turin](#)." *The Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* 23, no. 2 (1937): 152-64.
 - Hawass, Zahi; et al. (2012). "[Revisiting the harem conspiracy and death of Ramses III: anthropological, forensic, radiological, and genetic study](#)". *BMJ*. **345** (e8268).
 - A news story that mentioned that one of his toes was cut off was published in [Smithsonian Magazine](#).
 - Documentary on the murder of Ramses III: [Revenge of the Harem](#) (National Geographic)
 - [Prince Pentawer](#) and Unknown Man E
 - [Archaeology Magazine](#) article by Bob Brier
 - See also: Brier, Bob, "Unknown Man E, A Preliminary Examination", *Bulletin of the Egyptian Museum*, Volume 3, Supreme Council of Antiquities, American University in Cairo Press, 2008, pp.23-7.
 - On Tiye's role in the conspiracy (CA harem article)
 - Collier, Mark; Dodson, Aidan; Hamernik, Gottfried (2010). "P. BM EA 10052, Anthony Harris, and Queen Tyti". *The Journal of Egyptian Archaeology*. **96**: 242-247. doi:10.1177/030751331009600119. JSTOR 23269772.
 - Cooney, K. M., C. Landis, and T. Shayegan, "The Body of Egypt: How the Harem Women Physically Connected a King with His Elites," in Ben-Marzouk, N., D. Candelora, and K. M. Cooney (eds.) *Ancient Egyptian Society: Challenging Assumptions, Exploring Approaches* (forthcoming 2022).
- The American Research Center in Egypt has put together a wonderful visual explanation of the [Beautiful Feast of the Valley](#).



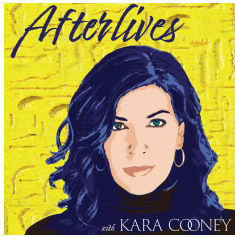
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- For more on the Ramesside family origins see this ARCE article: [The Rise of the Ramessides: How a Military Family from the Nile Delta Founded One of Egypt's Most Celebrated Dynasties](#)

- [Setnakht](#)
- Hans Goedicke's article (see p. 92) on the idea that P. Harris I and the Turin Judicial papyrus were not government documents but were religious texts: Goedicke, Hans. "[Was Magic Used in the Harem Conspiracy against Ramesses III? \(P.Rollin and P.Lee\)](#)." *The Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* 49 (1963): 71–92.
- Temple of [Medinet Habu](#)
- You can see harem scenes from Medinet Habu in the Oriental Institute's Epigraphic Survey publication on the Eastern High Gate: [OIP 94. Medinet Habu, Vol. VIII: The Eastern High Gate with Translations of Texts](#).
- Theban Mapping Project: [tomb of Ramses III](#)
- [Osorkon III](#)
- Walter Scheidel's book in which he discusses the assassination of rulers: [Escape from Rome](#) (Princeton University Press, 2019)
- For *kenbet* courts and the common Deir el Medina oath "may my nose and ears be cut off and let me be sent to Nubia" see the previously listed sources on crime and punishment in ancient Egypt:
 - McDowell, A. G. 1999. *Village life in ancient Egypt: laundry lists and love songs*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
 - Vernus, Pascal 2003. *Affairs and scandals in ancient Egypt*. Translated by David Lorton. Ithaca, NY; London: Cornell University Press.
 - Tyldesley, Joyce 2000. *Judgement of the pharaoh: crime and punishment in ancient Egypt*. London: Weidenfeld and Nicholson.
- [Overview](#) of the tomb robbery papyri
 - Peet, T. Eric. "[The Great Tomb Robberies of the Ramesside Age. Papyri Mayer A and B. I. Papyrus Mayer A](#)." *The Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* 2, no. 3 (1915): 173–77.
 - [Peet, T. E.](#), *The Great Tomb Robberies of the Twentieth Egyptian Dynasty*. New York: Hildesheim, 1997.
- For impalement in ancient Egypt, again see the sources previously cited on crime and punishment. Additionally, [here is a paper by Ahmad abo el Magd on "Impalment in Ancient Egypt."](#)
- [Overview](#) of the Bronze age collapse. See also:
 - [Cline, E. H. 1177 B.C. The Year Civilization Collapsed](#). Princeton University Press, 2015.
 - [Crisis in Context: The End of the Late Bronze Age in the Eastern Mediterranean](#) by A. Bernard Knapp and Stuart W. Manning
- On ancient Egyptian oracles:
 - Blackman, Aylward M. "[Oracles in Ancient Egypt](#)." *The Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* 11, no. 3/4 (1925): 249–55.
- Here is an [article](#) on [The Eloquent Peasant](#) and ancient Egyptian justice
 - A translation can be found in anthologies on ancient Egyptian literature, including: [Lichtheim, M. Ancient Egyptian Literature, Volume I: The Old and Middle Kingdoms](#). University of California Press, 2006.



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