



Mother of a King

Katie Hamstead

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Nefertiti has forced Naomi to flee Amarna with Malachi and the three children. But even under the protection of Naomi's family in Thebes, Nefertiti still hunts her and Tut. Nefertiti sends assassins to kill them, and while Naomi fights to protect the children, Malachi fights to keep her safe.

With three children in tow, one of which isn't her own, she is labeled the harlot outcast wife of the pharaoh and is shunned. She isn't safe among her own people, and flees from being stoned to death. Although her family protects her, she must find a way to survive.

While Naomi struggles to keep herself and Tut alive, old adversaries return as Smenkhkare takes advantage of Akhenaten's ailing health. Naomi must rely on Horemheb's promise to protect Tut's birthright, but her feelings for Malachi could cause more problems with Horemheb than she expects.

Mother of a King Details

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Dena says

Aw inspiring

I just keep falling in love with the feisty Kiya. I liked that she was loved and desired. I liked the fact that she included her happiness within her duty. I realized how the deaths and ages coincided with the story and it kept my amazement because of the cultural differences. I just loved how the author told the story without us (the readers) thinking that it is wrong or disguising. I just fell in love with everything it was quite remarkable.

Jenks says

Amazing ! I'm so glad I found these books worth every penny .

This one was more emotional than the first . I actually found my heart wrenching at tut being left alone and found the writing beautiful , tut has always been described as the deformed boy king . But this story really hit home how young he was and how his innocence and childhood was stolen. I hated that Naomi left him at the palace alone and found myself screaming how can you leave your child ??? Just take him home and forgot the throne?!

I am fully invested in the characters and can not wait to read the final book but I will be disappointed it is all over.

I hope the author writes more set in this time period she is amazing at it !

Summer says

Another great book in the Kiya series! Naomi (Kiya) is now on the run, forced into hiding to protect herself and her child, the true pharaoh, Tut. This book takes us to Naomi's Hebrew roots. She has returned to her people, her family, and she wants nothing more than to live a safe, normal life with the man she loves. I love how well Hamstead builds the ancient worlds, the Hebrew life such a stark contrast to Kiya's days as an Egyptian Queen. This story follows Naomi as she raises Tut and starts a family of her own.

I read an interview with the author in which she commented how this book was more difficult to write, since she had to cover a large span of time (Tut growing from a toddler to the age at which he could take the throne). I think Hamstead did a wonderful job progressing the plot, growing the characters, and pulling us in deeper without disrupting the flow of the story.

I love this book just as much as the first (see my review of Kiya #1 here: <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>). Once I started reading, I couldn't stop!

Donna says

This is definitely a book 'not to be missed'. This is a continuation of Kiya's story. She is now Naomi. Hebrew woman. Labeled a harlot, a woman rejected by Pharaoh Akhenaten. We learn about her struggles after leaving the Egyptian court. Kiya returns to her home as Naomi. She has her children and the daughter of her dear friend. The jealous Nefertiti is still trying to kill her and her son, Tut, heir to the Egyptian throne.

Naomi is a strong woman. A woman who faces adversity and shines. This is a book not to be missed. If you liked the first story of Katie Hamstead's trilogy, you will love the second book. We see fantastic character development. I loved reading of Naomi's trek through life. Her relationships with others around and with her children.

I look forward to the next book in the trilogy.

Monique says

Originally posted here
<http://moniquesmobooks.blogspot.ca/2011/02/review-naomi-queen-of-hearts.html>

I received a copy of this novel from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

This time in Kiya's journey she's running for her life, always unsure of when one of Nefertiti's assassins will be come for her and her son's life. Along with Malachi and her children she goes into hiding with her family, and goes back to her Hebrew roots as well as her name. At first things are hard but with the help of her very supportive family she manages to finds happiness. Although Naomi worries that it won't last forever. She know that eventually Horemheb will come looking for Tut, her son, so that he can one day become the Pharaoh of Egypt.

Another wonderfully written story by Katie Hamstead. This was a very emotional and intriguing tale that showed a different side to Naomi . She was much more family oriented in Thebes and very nurturing. I learned that Naomi made an excellent mother and I loved reading about her time spent with her family. I also enjoyed her growing romance with Malachi. He was a brave man completely devoted to Naomi's safety and happiness. The only flaw I would say he has is that he can be tad bit jealous of Horemheb, which causes him to overreact. Other then that he's perfect.

Love triangles aren't a favourite concept of mine because I always feel bad for the one that doesn't get the girl. However in this story I don't really feel all that bad for Horemheb. Where Malachi is warm and loving, Horemheb is cold and dark. Even though he does the honourable thing and obviously has feelings for Naomi I still think he's a giant asshat. But I do love the tension that he brings to the story, it adds a little spice.

In closing I will mention that I was always interested with what was happening, there was never a boring moment for me and I read late into the night telling myself "just a few more pages". If you like historical fiction then you should definitely give this book a try.

I give this a 4 ½ out of 5 stars.

★ ★ ★ ★ 1/2

Elien says

This review and more on So Bookalicious

I read the previous book KIYA: Hope of the pharaoh last summer and I was pleasantly surprised by it. So I was eager to find out what happened next to Kiya, her friends and her family. The book takes of right after we left the first book. But you don't have to read the first book in order to understand this one. The author gives the backstory in the beginning and refers to some point of the previous book throughout the story.

Kiya has fled Amarna with her kids for her own safety and that of her family. Back home she faces some troubles, some of the townspeople won't shun her because she once was and still is an Egyptian princess. Nefertiti still wants her and Tut dead. And most important she wants Malachi but she knows she can't have him as long as Akhenaten is still alive.

Just like in the first book Naomi (Kiya) is a strong woman with her own mind. But at times she lost the independence but I guess that's normal since it's set about 3000 years ago. It was also interesting to see Tut grow up like a normal boy although he's aware that he's going to be the future pharaoh of Egypt. So many things happened in this book that it was almost impossible to put it down. That is not until you know what happens next. Besides all the drama and the romance there is also a lot of humor in this book.

The only thing that bothered me at times was the writing style, at times I felt like the story was told in a descriptive way instead of in a narrative way. Anyway it's hard to explain and I can't quite remember if I had the same experience in the first book. But I really liked this one and I would recommend KIYA: Mother of a King to anyone who loves historical fiction, especially Egyptian historical fiction.

Mara Valderran says

This is the problem with starting a really good book: You can't put it down and finish it within the span of two days.

KIYA: Mother of a King was everything Hope of the Pharaoh was and more. Katie Hamstead really took everything up a notch, especially the tension as Tut took his place as pharaoh and the love triangle from book one came to a head. There were times I wanted to slap both Malachi and Horemheb.

I love that we get to see that Naomi's strength--her heart--is also her biggest weakness in this book. She's compassionate and loving, and it is hard for her not to show love to those she holds dear, even when it means putting her morals on the line.

Queen Kiya and Naomi are supposed to be two separate people, but it seems like we are getting to see more and more of how much the two have in common, even if it easier for others (and sometimes Naomi herself) to view them as different people. Kiya is clever and charismatic, to the point of being able to seduce anyone in the room just with her presence, but we get to see how those traits were there with Naomi as well when the

annual festival comes around.

New foes are introduced, and surprising new friends. Kiya had a big impact on Nefertiti's daughters in a very contrasting way. One wishes to be more like her while the other hates her almost as much as Nefertiti does. The differences are very refreshing and it is nice to see how someone can be raised to hate someone and up idolizing them instead.

This book is full of intrigue and action, while balancing it out with romance and the every day heartbreaks and joys of family life. I'm sad that the next book will be the end, but I'm excited about what comes next.

AnaPIN says

In this second book of the trilogy we find a stronger Naomi, fighting for protecting her son and the daughter of her dear friend. She faces prejudice and rejection from her people. But also she struggles with love and duty.

It's a great second book moving forward the story of a strong woman in the middle of war of power. I really love how Katie Hamstead makes us see a woman that is so intelligent and that can and will do everything for the ones she loves. She'll never accept anything without knowing why and will always struggle to see what's best for her family.

Of course you will see more about Horemheb my favorite character and we'll see an unexpected side of him. Really you don't want to miss this book and get ready for the third and last of the series.

Galea Rain says

Kiya has fled to her home village to avoid assassination by Nefertiti and taken back her Hebrew name of Naomi. With her are her three children, including Tut, and her protector Malachi.

This book was amazing. I could not put it down! It captured my attention so well that I didn't even realize two hours had gone by and I was almost finished with the book. The story was so exciting and well written, especially with all the familiar Egyptian names. The romance was very intense.

Naomi is usually very conflicted about her feelings throughout the book. First she falls for Malachi but is still married to the Pharaoh, Akhenaten. But later in her life, an old flame reappears in her life and Naomi must fight how she feels about Horemheb. He makes it known he will do anything to win her, no matter what. Naomi must decide to follow her heart or do what is right, all while avoiding assassination, raising the future king, and restoring honor to her name.

The romance is not the only exciting part to the story. Watching Tut grow up and take the throne is also exciting especially after spending his whole life in hiding from those who want to see him dead. He becomes the Pharaoh at so young and yet when he speaks as king you wouldn't even know just how young he truly is, until he sees his mommy of course.

There are so many things happening that you will not be able to put the book down until you know what happens next. This is actually the second in a series but you do not need to read the first to understand what

is going on. The author gives you the backstory rather quickly and tends to go through the details at many points throughout the book as the characters recall the memories of the first book.

On top of all the drama and romance, there is actually a lot of humor in the book that really makes it shine. When you have to put the book down due to laughing too hard, you have found a good book. I highly recommend Kiya: Mother of a King to anyone who loves romance and Egyptian historical characters, especially King Tut.

A Voracious Reader (a.k.a. Carol) says

4.5

*Book source ~ Many thanks to Curiosity Quills for providing a review copy in exchange for an honest review.

At the behest of her husband the Pharaoh Queen Kiya has fled Armana with her children and the daughter of another wife who died protecting her. With only the Hebrew guard Malachi to protect them the journey is perilous as they need to stay off the well-traveled roads and cross the desert to Thebes. Queen Nefertiti and her father Ay will do anything to make sure Kiya and her son Tut, the true heir to the throne, ends up dead. Kiya and crew must make it to her family and stay hidden until the death of the sickly Pharaoh and Tut is old enough to rule. Life in the royal family in ancient Egypt is dangerous and treacherous, but with Malachi and her family as protectors outside of Armana and Commander Horemheb as a protector inside Kiya is determined to persevere for her son's sake.

There is a lot that goes on in this book. It's well-written, the characters are great and the plot is believable for the time period. I know it's historical and that people married young back in the day. I mean, way waaaaay back in the day, but a nine-year-old boy marrying a 20-year-old woman is ewwww. Of course, that's nowhere near as bad as a father marrying his daughter, but it's still hard to read about and not want to call the police. What were these people thinking back then?!

Anyway, why anyone would want to be the Pharaoh and be in constant danger of assassination, backstabbing and deceitful machinations is way beyond me. Is the power of the throne that great of a compensation? Poor Tut doesn't have a choice. He's definitely, even at nine, better than Smenkhkare or Ay though. The story of Kiya and Tut is very creative and since I never really liked history, much more exciting for me to learn than anything that is actually out there about them. Which isn't a whole lot. I'm looking forward to the conclusion.

Charissa says

This book starts out with Kiya, Queen of Egypt, fleeing with the king's Hebrew guard, Malachi so that Nefertiti doesn't destroy Kiya and her son, Tut, the true heir to the throne. Kiya throws off her Egyptian name and costume and becomes Naomi again, a simple Hebrew girl. But with two of her own children from the Pharaoh and another of his concubine's children, she is an outcast among her own people and treated as a harlot for being thrown out by her husband—even though the pharaoh sent her away to save her from

Nefertiti's treacherous designs.

There is lots of tension, heartache, and love in this second book. Naomi struggles with guilt for claiming Malachi's heart, yet staying true to her husband the Pharaoh while he still lives. I can't wait to read the 3rd book when it comes out soon.

Shelby von Wahl says

In this book we meet more of the people in Kiya's life, and her relationships with them, this book was less action-oriented and more emotional, she struggles with what she believes is right and what she wants. We see her warm heartedness as she raises her best friend's daughter and even though she is shunned and reviled by her community she remains strong for her children. She struggles with losses and gains and still manages to keep her son alive and strong, making sacrifice after sacrifice for him and watching him grow. This book is gripping and impossible to put down! five out of five stars for sure!

Faye Irvine says

Love it!

Katie does it again, another homerun! I love a good tale with a strong woman behind it all....I want to tell you more, but YOU, must experience Kiya's life story on your own. Gotta go read the 3rd book now. Happy tales!

Carrie Slager says

[Full disclosure: I requested and received a free ebook copy from the author in exchange for an honest review.]

Somewhere around a third of the way into the book I told myself, "Just finish the chapter, then you should go to bed. You're working tomorrow."

Then at around 50% I told myself, "You should really go to bed now. It's one in the morning."

By 75% I told myself, "Ah, screw it. You'll be tired tomorrow anyway so you might as well just finish the book!"

And so, at 2:30am I finished Kiya: Mother of a King and didn't regret a thing. I was very tired the next day and still had no regrets. That's how good this book is.

The thing is, Mother of a King is very different from Hope of the Pharaoh, the first book. Away from the scheming of the royal court, we get to see Kiya's nurturing side as she finally gets to marry the man she loves. She's back in her hometown with her family and working on starting a new life for herself, away from Akhenaten and the schemes of Nefertiti. Finally, Kiya is gone and Naomi is back in her familiar Hebrew

neighbourhood. Not everything is perfect as she's accused of being a harlot but she faces the adversity well.

There is so much character development in this story. Naomi/Kiya is allowed to flourish for once and be herself. In addition to that, I love seeing Katie Hamstead's take on Tut, especially his transition from royal life as the only heir to the throne to humble boy in a poor section of town. Just like with Hope of the Pharaoh I was really impressed with Horemheb's character. He certainly has his faults (his ruthlessness) but in the end you can tell he still loves Naomi, totally and utterly. Even if she's married to Malachi. I'm a sucker for the tragic unrequited love angle, I know.

I can't in all honesty call the plot fast-paced, but that isn't a bad thing. The truth is that I love that the plot slows down. It gives so much more time for character development. It's never boring (thus the staying up until two in the morning) and it really did pick up at the end. You can really tell the third book is going to be exciting but I did love this little change of pace for the series.

I give this book 5/5 stars.

RICHARD BRADLEY says

Full of Suspense

Well written and suspenseful. Has an abundance of historical facts that transport one to a far different time. Has a continuing thread of romance that keeps you guessing. Life portrayed in an Egyptian palace is eye opening. Take a day off and enjoy this book!
