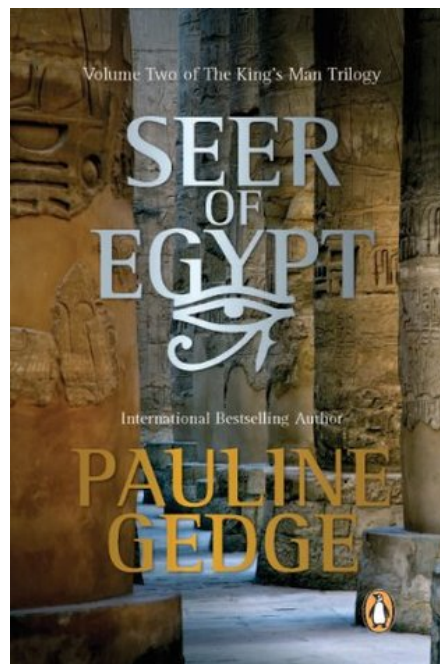




Seer of Egypt: Volume Two of The King's Man Trilogy

Pauline Gedge

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Huy has risen from lowly origins to become the Seer of the King. Yet Amunhotep's patronage is both a blessing and a curse to Huy, who feels imprisoned by the gift Thoth has imposed on him and by the life he must live to keep it. Though rewarded with wealth and influence, Huy longs for the pleasures of those he sees around him, especially love, which seems forever lost to him. But when the King calls for his help, Huy has no choice. The life he knew is coming to an end, but his contribution to Egyptian history is just beginning.

Seer of Egypt: Volume Two of The King's Man Trilogy Details

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From Reader Review Seer of Egypt: Volume Two of The King's Man Trilogy for online ebook

Craig says

I am loving this trilogy! it moves at a quick pace and so many characters in really adore. I will begin reading Book 3 immediately.

if I could critique any part of the book, it would be the one or two periods in which there was a huge leap in time without what I felt proper explanation.

Another frustrating aspect was the naming convention for that time and place in history. After a time there ends up being many Hudson to keep track of. Even worse is the number of Amunhoteps and Thothmoses.

This isn't really a slight against the author. it is simply a heads up to potential readers.

Tricia Syz says

Very satisfying read. Found it a bit trying to keep track of the many characters with very foreign names, but was completely taken by the the story of the relationships between the seer, the king and the kings mother. Would definitely recommend it.

Lorina Stephens says

A good continuation of the story of Huy, base-born son of Egypt who reluctantly becomes a conduit for the gods and tool of temporal leaders.

In this second book, the story drags somewhat, the narrative winding through esoteric philosophies; Gedge's ability, however, to create tight characters and brilliant environmental detail still render the book highly readable.

Denise says

I've read all of Pauline Gedge's novels on Egypt but I must say this is her BEST one yet! I couldn't put it down as each part of the story unfolded. Huy (the seer of ancient Egypt as introduced in THE TWICE BORN) is older now. He's growing richer by the day thanks to the added property and business ventures that he's acquired and developed over the years. Life on his estate has settled down to a regular rhythm of working, resting and visiting his friends and family. But this tranquility is soon to be interrupted as multiple disruptions occur in his personal and religious life. There is a political storm brewing and soon Huy will be caught up in the corruption and intrigue of the Pharaoh's court, a dangerous liaison with a royal personage, and the wrath of the gods. Add to that a promise made years before will demand Huy's personal attention on top of all his other woes and you have the makings of a suspenseful book with real life, breathing characters from an ancient world!

Ted Hopkins says

A slight let-down from the first book in the trilogy, this is still a very fine read. The story continues through Huy's adult years into middle age just as he gets called onto the stage of real history. In spite of his remote backwater location, Huy's reputation grows along with his own struggles within himself. The conflict within the story consists of Huy's inner turmoil over his gift and his relationship with Egypt's gods. This turmoil makes for absorbing reading.

Deborah Pickstone says

Pauline Gedge can do no wrong! Her writing is simply wonderful and her research painstaking.

JR Foster says

Nice follow-up to the Twice born, but slower paced, Im looking forward to the last of this story with the Kings Man, Im hopeful that the final will exceed the other 2!

Rubab Mirza says

An excellent book. Though it dragged a bit and there was a lot of repetition; it was an amazing read.

C.W. says

The second in Gedge's compelling trilogy about ancient Egypt's most famous and enigmatic seer.

Carey says

This series fictionalizes the life of Huy, who was a famous seer and healer in Ancient Egypt. He was born into a peasant family from a small town in Egypt's fertile Delta region. Volume One of this series, The Twice Born, relates Huy's childhood and the shocking event that would shape his entire life to come. As a small boy his wealthy Uncle paid for Huy to attend a well known school. While he was there, Huy was taunted by some of the other students due to his peasant birth. One day a fellow student hit Huy in the head with a throwing stick. Huy was knocked out and fell into a deep pool of water. He drowned. While he was unconscious (make that dead), he had a strange dream in which the Gods of Egypt asked him to read and understand the Book of Thoth, Ancient Egypt's spiritual text, that was closely guarded by the priests. He awakens five days later in the house of the dead. His body has been awaiting the embalmers and his whole family is in mourning for him. The Gods have exacted a terrible price for Huy's life, they have given him the "gift" of seeing the future and healing the sick. Use of his "gift" leaves him with a terrible headache and has made him permanently impotent, but Huy does his best to put his new talent to use for the benefit of the poor people of Egypt.

When Seer of Egypt opens, Huy has moved into a small estate that Pharaoh has given him. He lives with his childhood friend, Ishat, who he has trained as his scribe. Huy is deeply in love with her but can never be a true partner to her, or give her the children she longs for. Together they care for the huge amounts of people who come seeking Huy's help and advice.

Huy has built a nice life for himself, with good friends and trustworthy servants. But he is not happy, he cannot have a true life partner and he worries constantly for the future of Egypt. Ishat eventually leaves his home to marry his best friend. Huy is heartbroken but goes on as best he can in his solitary, lonely, but successful life.

Eventually Huy realizes that he is shirking his promise to the Gods to understand the Book of Thoth. He hasn't even thought about it in many years, indeed he has done his best not to think of it at all. But he is beginning to see patterns in his visions. There are several occasions when he has a vision of danger to a friend or loved one. When he warns the person and encourages them to avoid the danger, the scenario always plays itself out anyway, but another innocent life is affected instead. The Gods always extract their due. He sees dire portents for the land of Egypt, too. He struggles, trying to decide what it is that the messages are trying to tell him.

Years pass and Huy is entrusted with the second Prince's education for a few months each summer, at Huy's estate. He grows to love the boy, who is like the son that Huy will never have. When the Prince becomes Pharaoh, Huy is ordered to the Palace to be at the new King's right hand. With his future assured, Huy is in position to become one of the most powerful men in Egypt.

I have been a Pauline Gedge (and an Ancient Egypt) fan since I read her novel, *Child of the Morning*, many years ago. She was my first taste of Historical Fiction set in Ancient Egypt and I have loved it ever since. I have read all of her previous books and was thrilled to receive this one for review. I did enjoy it but I found it to be a little bit slow in places. It is like a bridge between the breathtaking events of *The Twice Born* and the concluding volume that will deal with the later years of Huy's life, when he gained great power and renown. While this novel has the author's wonderful descriptions of Ancient Egypt, from the peasant towns of the Nile to the palaces of the Pharaohs, it covers a period of over twenty years of Huy's life and there are sections where not very much is happening.

I do recommend it, as well as the rest of the Egypt novels by Pauline Gedge. But definitely read Volume One first so you have Huy's whole story and then you won't mind accompanying him through his middle years, probably the last peaceful time that he will have in his long life. (Did I mention that his "gift" also seems to keep him from aging? It is very sad for him to see his friends and loved ones aging, sickening, dying, while he stays looking like a fit twenty-something.) The author has created a fascinating character in Huy and I felt for him in his continuing struggle with a "gift" that is both a blessing and a curse. I'm looking forward to the final volume in this interesting series.

If you would like to try a Pauline Gedge book that stands alone, I would point you to *Child of the Morning*, my favorite of all her books, or *Lady of the Reeds*, another wonderful novel.

Christine says

An easier read than book one, and the story has progressed nicely. Again, it left me wanting for the final book.

Chris says

Gedge's *Seer of Egypt* is more of a character study than an actually adventuring book. There is not much in the way of action. There is, however, much about cost and life choices, and the penalties of those choices. It is a look into questions surrounding fate.

Update March 2013

Still like it, and I find myself enjoying the small things in the book more. Ishat is one of the coolest characters ever.

Miriam says

Not as great as some of her earlier books like the King of the two lands-trilogy or the book on Hatshepsut but the parts of the books that concern the Book of Thot goes way deeper than mere entertainment and action and makes these books rather different from all of her previous books, almost as a different voice. These parts I would have loved to read in a different setting and genre all together.

One major drawback of this trilogy are the endless repetitions. It seems that Gedge are set on informing every reader who by chance has forgotten what happened in the last book, or the last chapter for that matter every essential detail again and again just to make sure you got it. As this is not the kind of trilogy where you skip the first or second book and jump right in at the end this seems annoying, like a lack of faith in the readers ability to get the point or remember the key points of the books.

As the reminders are constantly given as internal dialog in the main characters head you get annoyed with him to. It also makes the prose seem constructed and stiff, like an actor afraid that you will miss the point by forgetting the last thing he said.

To bad because the themes are very worthy of a great book and a great author, as Gedge previously has proven to be.

Kavita says

We see more of Huy in this second instalment. Now an adult, Huy is catering to the needs of the poor with his special gift. He makes friends with the servants he employs to serve in his ever-growing household. Ishat decides to move on, and Huy finds that his life has more drastic changes in store for him. The King appears to have forgotten him for years until he is called to discuss a prophetic dream. And finally, Huy is put in charge of a surprising young Prince, whom he had predicted would be king.

The details are what makes this book a delight to read. The story provide some twists and turns in this one. Even though we follow Huy most of the time, we get to see the other characters in a deeper way. I found this second book much better than the first, though there is still a lot of philosophising. But religion takes a backseat as Huy goes about his daily life, trying to help the common people.

The only thing I didn't like is the monologues Huy has with himself. This is where I find the writing lacking. This device was boring because it meant constant repetition of Huy's thoughts, which were going around in circles, anyway. I agree with the other reviewers that repetition was a big problem in this book and ended up being filler in many parts.

While I liked *Seer of Egypt* better than *The Twice Born*, I am giving both of them three stars, because *Seer of Egypt* does not manage to rise above that and *The Twice Born* is not bad enough for a lower rating. But I still insist *Seer of Egypt* is the better book.

Eva says

Pauline Gedge has done it again! Marvelous book! Could not put it down. Some parts in it made me really emotional and overall whole book(straight from the beginning -from Book 1) is written with the life wisdom it can be applied in our times. I am looking forward to read Book 3. I am utterly spellbound.

Keith says

The second book in this series was great too, though I was I disappointed that part 2 of this book saw a nearly 20 year skip in the lives of the main characters.

Outis says

Filled with filler. Very much a middle book. It would feel like it was paid by the word if it wasn't trying to keep you interested in the sequel.

If you're reading this, you ought to know about the series strengths. Now, as to the book's weaknesses... There's a lot more about Anuket than about the Book in this installment. And the book's momentous event ends up going nowhere. If you wanted to read historical fantasy rather than a soap, you'll have to be patient. The book's got setup and foreshadowing alright but doesn't deliver. Instead, it drags. Warning: as you might be fearing already, the last book doesn't deliver all that much either.

One of my main problems with this book is how author keeps condescendingly reminding us of who that character is or of what happened in the first book. And she's not very good at dropping in exposition elegantly to begin with. The first time, I moved on. But it happened over and over again and got real annoying after a while.

Another warning: unlike the first book, royalty slowly becomes central to the story and so the series loses part of its uniqueness. I don't need to tell you how important royalty will be in the third book. Not only is the title a giveaway, this is the story of a historical character.

Marge Perko says

Still working through this amazing trilogy...on to the last book! This second book suffered from a malady sequels suffer: over-explanation of the first book's events. Still, what happens to Huy as he rises status and the estimation of the royal family...well, it's heart-breaking. You will feel how the threads of his familiar world - and the comfort of his friends and family - slowly unravel in this book.

Jennifer Weber says

always enjoy pauline's books...now, to call our local bookstore for book 3 in the series!!!

Carrie Slager says

beginning.

If you're a lover of fast-paced plots filled with excitement and romance, this is not a good book for you. But if you love good characters, authentic historical details and vivid imagery, Seer of Egypt is a book that you must read.

Although its plot is not fast-paced by any stretch of the mind, its plot is quicker than that of the first book, The Twice Born. Since Huy is an adult now and becoming more used to his 'gift', things really pick up, especially when Pharaoh Amunhotep II summons him to court. Huy is forced to make a choice between lying and upsetting the balance of Ma'at or likely being executed, so he makes the choice 99.9% of readers would make. But in doing so, he sets the stage for Egypt's decay by helping the sun god achieve prominence over Amun. Of course, Anubis is not pleased (to put it mildly) and Huy pays dearly for not trusting in the protection of the gods, but is given a second chance.

Huy is an amazingly brave, yet flawed character that most people can sympathize with. His life is certainly not easy, what with his forced virginity and his opium addiction that gets worse as the novel progresses, but he sticks with what he knows is his duty. He also finds himself alone when his best friend Thothmes marries his oldest friend, Ishat. Yet he finds comfort in bringing up the future Pharaoh Amunhotep III, which certainly keeps readers interested and on their toes.

I give this book 4.5/5 stars, rounded up to 5 stars for Goodreads rating purposes.
