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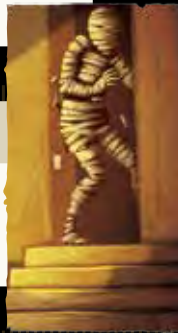
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## Before reading

# Curse of the Movie Mummy



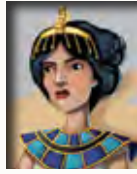
### Characters



Tara



Troy



Lacey  
Carling



Geeta

### Tricky words

ch1 p3	Egyptian	ch2 p8	Pharaohs
ch1 p4	ancient	ch3 p12	glimpse
ch1 p4	designer	ch4 p17	muffled
ch1 p4	gorgeous	ch4 p18	disguise

### Story starter

Troy and Tara were twins who had acted in lots of films. They were in Egypt making a film about a mummy who put a curse on anyone who disturbed his ancient tomb. Tara was playing an Egyptian princess. She had to wear an ancient gold necklace ... but strange things kept happening on the film set.



# Curse of the Movie Mummy

## Chapter One

The twins were waiting to film their first scene. Tara was playing a young Egyptian princess. Troy was playing her servant. The film was about a mummy who put a curse on anyone who disturbed his ancient tomb.

There was a problem. The film camera



Troy looked around the tomb. "I can't believe we are filming in a real ancient Egyptian tomb," he grinned.

"Look at this beautiful necklace," said Tara, pointing to her neck.

"It is worth a lot of money," said Geeta, the costume designer. "It is solid gold. It's called the Necklace of the Nile."

"It's gorgeous. I wish I could keep it and take it home with me," giggled Tara.



A famous actress called Lacey Carling was standing nearby. She was playing an Egyptian queen in the film.

"I should be wearing the necklace, not you," she snapped. "After all, I am a famous movie star."

"Don't take any notice," whispered Troy, "she's just jealous."

"The necklace is an ancient Egyptian treasure," explained Geeta. "It was found in this tomb."

"Wow! That's amazing," said Troy. "Imagine someone wearing it nearly five thousand years ago."



“It’s weird to think that the necklace was buried in a tomb,” said Tara.

Troy stuck out his arms as if they were wrapped in bandages like a mummy.

“Perhaps the necklace is cursed,” he said in a spooky voice.

“Stop it! You are giving me the creeps,” shivered Tara.

“If there is a curse, it might explain why the film camera is broken,” said Troy.

## Chapter Two

Strange things kept happening on the film set. Two more cameras broke and the actor playing the mummy tripped over a box and broke his leg.

Troy and Tara went to see Geeta in the costume store. She was in a terrible state.



“The mummy costume is missing,” she said. “I’ve looked everywhere, but it has vanished.”

“It is weird that these strange things keep happening,” said Troy.



“Do you think there really is a curse?” asked Tara, biting her fingernails. Troy was reading all about ancient Egypt on the internet. He put on a spooky voice again. “Listen to this,” he said, reading from the screen:

**“For hundreds of years some people have believed The Curse of the Pharaohs. The Pharaohs, who were the ancient kings of Egypt, were buried in tombs with their treasure.”**



Lacey Carling crept up behind the twins and listened to what Troy was saying. “The curse says that bad luck will fall on anyone who disturbs the tombs,” said Troy. “We’re disturbing the tombs by filming here!” cried Tara. “We must be under a curse!” “Exactly!” said Troy in his creepy voice.



“Well, I’m going to my caravan and I’m not coming out again,” cried Lacey Carling. “I am a famous movie star and I’m far too important for anything bad to happen to me.”

“Oh, Troy. Now you’ve frightened her!” groaned Tara.



“I didn’t even know she was there,” said Troy.

Lacey Carling stayed in her caravan for the rest of the day.

“She’s terrified to come out in case the curse is true,” said Geeta. “We can’t film this afternoon anyway. The cameras are still broken and nobody seems to be able to fix them.”

“Then I am going to explore the tombs,” said Troy. “Perhaps I can find out if there really *is* a curse.”



## Chapter Three

It was getting dark as Troy went down into the tomb. On his way out he saw something very strange. A tall figure dressed in white dashed across the entrance to the tomb.

Troy had only caught a glimpse of the figure but that was enough. “A mummy!” he gasped.



Troy's legs felt like jelly as he ran up the steps and out of the entrance of the tomb. The mummy was gone. It seemed as if it had vanished into thin air. Over by the caravans, Troy could see Tara. She was talking to Geeta. Troy ran towards them.



“Promise you won't laugh? I think I just saw a mummy!” panted Troy. “We don't have time for your jokes,” snapped Tara. “Something terrible has happened.”



“The Necklace of the Nile is missing,” explained Geeta.

“The one that Tara wears in the film?” gasped Troy. “That is worth loads of money!”

Everyone in the film was called to a meeting. Even Lacey Carling came out of her caravan.

“We have to find the missing necklace,” said Geeta.

“It must have disappeared because of the curse,” said Lacey Carling.



“Perhaps somebody stole the necklace,” suggested Troy.

“If we are looking for a thief, I know who it is,” said Lacey Carling. She pointed her finger straight at Tara.

“Me?” cried Tara. Her jaw dropped in disbelief.

“I heard you saying you wanted to keep the necklace,” said Lacey Carling.

“That was a joke,” said Troy. “Tara didn’t mean it.”

Everybody was staring at Tara as if she really *was* a thief.





## Chapter Four

Later that night, Troy led Tara towards the tombs.

“Come on. I have a plan,” he said.

“What about the curse?” whispered Tara, as they tiptoed down the dark steps.

“I don’t think there is a curse, and I don’t think there’s a mummy either. At least, not a real one!” said Troy.

He shone his torch into the darkness.

“If there isn’t a mummy, then who is that?” cried Tara, as a white figure shot past them.



“Let’s find out,” said Troy.

He grabbed hold of the mummy’s arm.

“Let go of me,” cried a muffled voice from behind the bandages.



“This isn’t a real mummy. It is just someone hiding inside a costume,” said Troy. He pulled off the mummy’s mask. The twins gasped as they saw who was hidden beneath the disguise.

“Lacey Carling!” they cried.

“First, you made sure the actor had an accident, then you stole his mummy costume,” said Tara.

“Then you crept out of your caravan and stole the necklace,” said Troy.

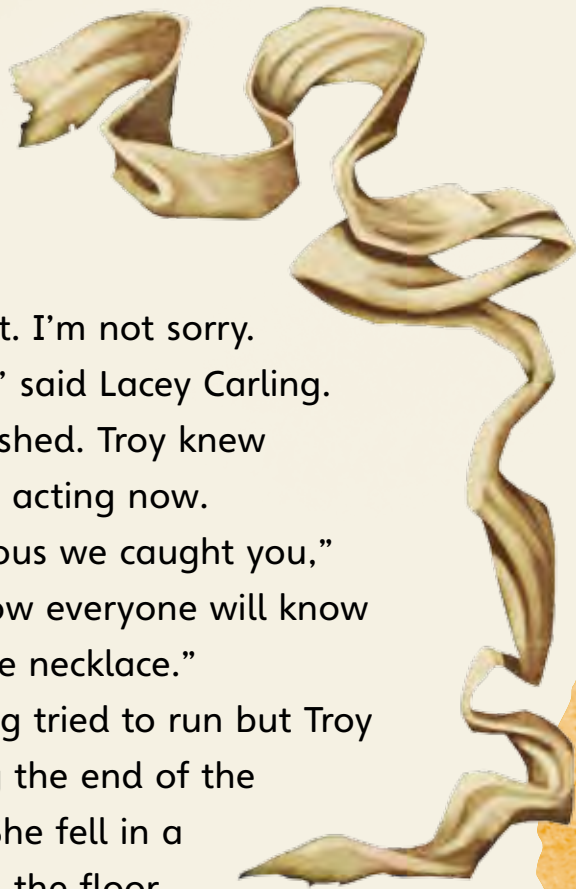
“I bet you made those other horrid things happen too,” said Tara.

“You have found me out. I am so sorry,” wept Lacey Carling.

Troy looked hard at Lacey. Then he remembered what a good actress she was.

“I don’t think you’re sorry at all,” he said. “You were just jealous because Tara was wearing the necklace. You wanted it for yourself.”





“You’re right. I’m not sorry. I’m furious!” said Lacey Carling. Her eyes flashed. Troy knew she was not acting now. “You’re furious we caught you,” he said. “Now everyone will know you stole the necklace.” Lacey Carling tried to run but Troy was holding the end of the bandages. She fell in a big heap on the floor. “Got you!” said Troy. “It’s time for you to tell everyone the truth.”

## Quiz

### Text detective

- p7 What had gone wrong on the film set?
- p8 What evidence is there that Tara is worried?
- p15 How does Lacey Carling try to persuade people Tara stole the necklace?
- p18 Why does Lacey Carling really stay in her caravan?
- p19 Why does Troy not believe Lacey Carling?

### Word detective

- p12 Find a word that means ‘to see something briefly’?
- p13 How does the simile make you think Troy is scared?
- p13 Which verb tells you Troy is out of breath?
- p16 Find the subordinate clause in the sentence starting ‘What about ...’.

### What do you think?

How clever was Lacey Carling’s plan to steal the necklace? Could she have got away with it if Troy and Tara hadn’t suspected her?

**HA! HA!**

**Q:** Why did the mummy go to the doctor?  
**A:** Because he was coffin.



## Before reading

### Talk of the Curse

#### Characters

- **Sid** – an acting coach
- **Troy** – a young actor
- **Tara** – a young actor

#### Setting the scene

Sid is helping Tara and Troy rehearse their lines in the film script. Tara and Troy want to talk about all the things that have gone wrong on the film set. Sid admits that any film Lacey Carling is in always has bad luck.

### Talk of the Curse

**Sid:** Let's start with the scene where the Princess calls her servants.

**Tara:** I get out of my chariot and say:  
“Bow to me! I am the Princess. You must bow down to me.”

**Troy:** *(bowing down)* And I bow right down to the ground and say ... Ouch!

**Tara:** Ouch? That's not what I've got written in my script. Where does it say that?

**Troy:** It's not in the script. This is real. Look, my hand is bleeding. I cut it on a stone when I was bowing to you.

**Tara:** It must have been a very sharp stone.

**Troy:** *(in a spooky voice)* Or was it the curse of the mummy?

**Sid:** Don't be silly you two, there is no curse.



**Tara:** Then why do things keep going wrong?  
Two cameras have broken.

**Troy:** An actor tripped over a box in the tomb  
and broke his right leg.

**Tara:** And now Troy has cut his hand.

**Troy:** It's spooky! It must be the curse!

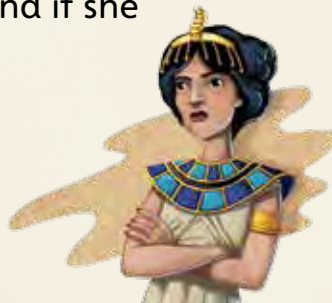
**Sid:** Those things could have happened any  
time. They are just accidents.

**Tara:** So you don't think it has got something  
to do with us filming in the tombs?

**Sid:** No. I don't think there is a curse, but  
I'll tell you one thing. Any film Lacey  
Carling is in always has bad luck.

**Tara:** What do you mean?

**Sid:** Lacey Carling is someone who likes  
to get her own way, and if she  
does not get what  
she wants ...



**Troy:** Things start to go wrong for  
other people.

**Sid:** Exactly. She has a lot of enemies.

**Tara:** What does she do?

**Sid:** In her last film, everyone got very bad  
food poisoning.

**Troy:** Surely that could just have been  
bad luck?

**Tara:** Or it could have been bad food!

**Sid:** The chef got the sack. It was just after  
he had accidentally spilled soup  
in Lacey Carling's lap.

**Tara:** So you think Lacey Carling did it? You  
think she wanted the chef to get  
the sack?

**Troy:** So she must have put something bad  
in the food and it gave everyone  
food poisoning.

**Sid:** I should be careful what I say. Lacey Carling knows I am no fan of hers.

**Tara:** You don't want to be one of her enemies.

**Troy:** *(in his spooky voice again)* You could meet with a bad accident.

**Tara:** Now you are just being silly.

**Sid:** Quite right. Let's get back to your lines. Let's start with ... Argh!

**Tara:** Sid? What's wrong?

**Troy:** You have turned as a white as a mummy!

**Sid:** Look! Someone has written something in my script.

**Troy:** Let me see. *(Troy reads.)* Death shall come to him who tells lies ...



**Tara:** What does it mean?

**Troy:** It's like a mummy's curse.

**Tara:** Someone wants you to keep quiet, Sid.

**Sid:** And it's written in blood.

**Tara:** No. It's not blood. It's red lipstick!

## Quiz

### Play detective

- p23 Why is Tara surprised when Troy says 'Ouch!'?
- p23 Find a word that means 'a wish for someone to be harmed'.
- p23 What is the evidence that Troy likes to scare people?
- p26 Find a simile. Why is it very suitable for this play?
- p27 Who do you think wrote the curse in Sid's script?

## Before reading

### A Mummy's Thoughts

#### Setting the scene

The poem describes the thoughts of an ancient mummy in a tomb in Egypt.

#### Poem top tip

The poem has a regular rhyme scheme which helps to bring out the jokey style of some of the lines. Pause after the dots in the last line and practise different ways of saying the last two words.

## Quiz

#### Poem detective

- ▶ What is the evidence that the poet is writing a funny poem about a mummy?
- ▶ Work out which lines rhyme. How does rhyme add to your enjoyment of the poem?
- ▶ What information about the process of mummification is in the poem?
- ▶ Why are the words 'dry old' particularly good choices in this poem?

## A Mummy's Thoughts

I lived in Egypt long ago,  
I'm a dry old mummy.  
I have no eyeballs in my head,  
No guts inside my tummy.

I'm a dry old mummy  
Wrapped up in toilet rolls.  
They even wrapped my nose up.  
I have no nostril holes.

They have pulled my brain out.  
They pulled it with a hook.  
I'm glad I have no eyeballs.  
I didn't want to look.

I'm a dry old mummy  
Wrapped up in toilet rolls.  
I have no eyeballs, guts or brain.  
Or any nostril holes.

I want to live, to run around,  
I have jokes I want to tell.  
But inside my toilet rolls  
I know I'm dead ... Oh well!

*by Lou Kuenzler*



## Before reading

# The Curse of Tutankhamun

### Find out about

- ▶ Tutankhamun, the Pharaoh of ancient Egypt
- ▶ What was buried in King Tut's tomb
- ▶ The curse of the lost tomb

### Tricky words

p31 Egyptians

p34 sealed

p32 buried

p36 archaeologist

p32 Afterlife

p36 mysterious

### Text starter

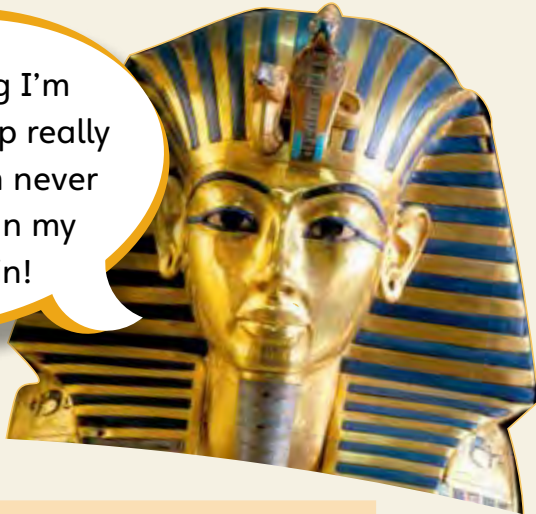
Tutankhamun became Pharaoh of Egypt when he was only nine years old. He died mysteriously, aged just eighteen. His body was made into a mummy and buried with piles of treasure in a sealed tomb. In 1922 a British archaeologist called Howard Carter discovered the lost tomb.

# The Curse of Tutankhamun

(say *toot-an-car-moon*)

## Who was Tutankhamun?

Tutankhamun, or King Tut, became Pharaoh of Egypt when he was just 9 years old.



Now I'm king I'm going to stay up really late ... and I'm never going to clean my teeth again!

### Fact

The ancient Egyptians cleaned their teeth with rocks or fish bones.

King Tut didn't rule for long. He died when he was 18 years old.

## Tut's Tomb

When King Tut died, his body was made into a mummy. The ancient Egyptians believed that the king's spirit could use his body again in the Afterlife.

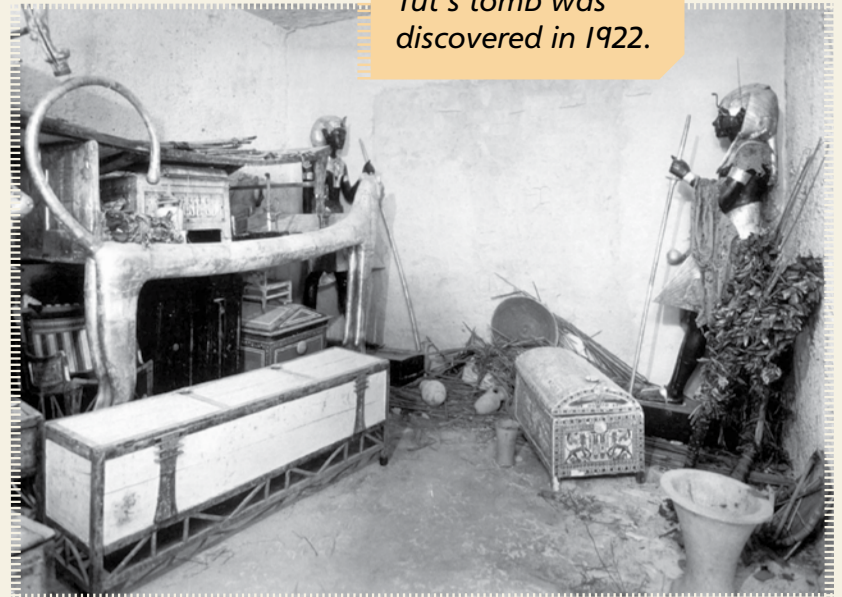
King Tut was buried with lots of gold and treasure. The ancient Egyptians believed that the king could take this treasure with him to the Afterlife.

King Tut was buried with:

- lots of swords, spears and daggers
- a gold snake
- some fruit and wine, in case he was hungry or thirsty
- six chariots
- some eye make-up.

There were also gold necklaces and jewels in the layers of wrapping on the mummy. The ancient Egyptians believed that the jewels could help King Tut on his way to the Afterlife.

*Tut's tomb was discovered in 1922.*



Argh!



### Fact

The Egyptians made their cats into mummies when they died.



## Tomb Robbers

Pharaohs' tombs were sealed to keep grave robbers away from all the treasure. Some of the tombs had false doorways and hidden rooms to make it difficult for robbers to discover the treasure. Often a curse was written outside the tomb to frighten people away. It didn't work. Many of the Pharaohs' tombs were robbed. The robbers were often the same people who had built the tombs. They knew the way in.



King Tut's tomb was robbed soon after he died but the robbers didn't take many treasures. One robber wrapped eight gold rings in a cloth, but he dropped them as he ran away. Perhaps he was frightened by the curse written outside King Tut's tomb.

It said:  
*Death shall come on swift wings to him who disturbs the peace of the king.*

After that, the tomb was left alone for hundreds of years.



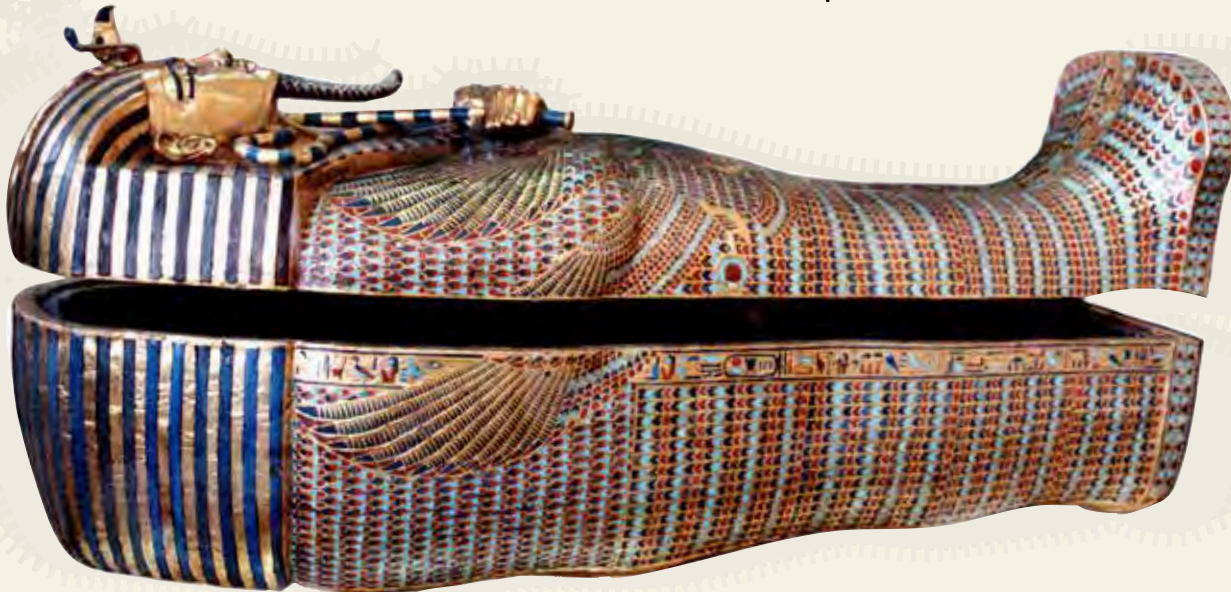
## The Curse

In 1922, a British archaeologist called Howard Carter discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun. All the treasures, including Tut's mummy, were sent to different museums.

That is when the trouble really started! In the next seven years, eleven of the people who had helped to discover the tomb died in mysterious ways.

Some people think that a mould caused some of the deaths. There was a type of mould that grew on the mummies. This mould can kill people if they breathe it in.

The most mysterious death of all was Lord Carnarvon, who had given the money for the expedition. When the tomb was discovered, he was bitten by an insect. He later died of the insect bite. People say that King Tut's mummy had an insect bite in the same place as Lord Carnarvon's bite.



## Was Tut unlucky?

When King Tut's mummy was found, there were cracks in his skull.

Was King Tut killed?

After King Tut died, his uncle became Pharaoh. Did he arrange for King Tut to be killed?



While Tut is alive, I will never be Pharaoh.



Some people believe the skull got the cracks by accident as Tut's body was being wrapped in bandages.

No wonder he needed bandages if he had cracks in his head!



## Quiz

### Text detective

- p31 How old was King Tut when he became Pharaoh?
- p32 Why was King Tut buried with piles of gold and treasure?
- p35 What does the curse on King Tut's tomb mean?
- p36–37 Why might you think the curse on King Tut's tomb worked?

### Non-fiction features

- p32 How does the layout of this page help you to follow the facts?
- p34 What caption would you put next to this picture?

### What do you think?

What was suspicious about King Tut's death? Would you have risked going into the tomb with Howard Carter? Why do we find the Ancient Egyptians so fascinating?

**HA! HA!**

Q: What do you call a mummy who eats cookies in bed?  
A: A crummy mummy!



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