

MUMMY DEAREST

by Craig Sodaro

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STORY OF THE PLAY

For the students on a trip with the Smudgenose Student Archaeological Digs, the trip to Egypt's Valley of the Dead has yielded a lot of experience and many artifacts, but little excitement. That all changes when one of the girls finds a scroll she hopes to bring back as a souvenir. But when Benny, the guide, reads the scroll for her, they find out it's a curse.

Soon, strange things start happening: Queen Nefutari's mummy, whose tomb the kids had been exploring, suddenly begins to walk. Then the headmistress, Eubella Smudgenose, is murdered in the very manner prescribed in the curse. The first-time-on-a-big-case inspector who arrives can't seem to get his ducks in a row and keeps calling back to headquarters for advice. Meanwhile, evidence is lost and destroyed and another murder occurs.

The inspector and his deputy decide the mummy is responsible and set out to capture Queen Nefutari. But the queen has other plans – like taking care of two of the girls as she would her own children. The students have to band together to figure out who's really responsible for the murders and they've got choice suspects: the world renowned explorer with two exotic clients, the aging professor, the grouchy camp cook, the guide whose English is pretty much limited to "Oh, golly!", the inept inspector, or one of their own.

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(11 female, 8 male, 3 either)

ROCKY: a high school student.
PROFESSOR GRAVENSTOP: an archaeologist, fifties.
NELL: another student who enjoys the trip.
EDDIE: another student.
LILLI: another.
MOMS MALONEY: the camp cook.
COOKIE: a student who loves cookies.
DALILAH: another student.
BENNY: the guide.
Benny's assistants:
 BEARER ONE
 BEARER TWO
 BEARER THREE
TOODLES: a nervous student.
JESSA: a student who hates everything.
EUBELLA SMUDGENOSE: head of Smudgenose Student
 Archaeology Expeditions, forties.
TEDDY SMUDGENOSE: her brother, forties.
CALGARY CARTER: a well-known explorer, twenties.
ELVA SMIRNOV: a Russian lady, twenties.
ANNETTE JOLIE: a French lady, twenties.
QUEEN NEFUTARI: a mummy, three thousand years old.
INSPECTOR SAREEN: a policeman on his first big case.
OFFICER MARCUS: his deputy.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

- Scene 1 Noon at the Smudgenose Field Camp.
Scene 2 That night.
Scene 3 The following morning.

ACT II

- Scene 1 That evening.
Scene 2 Later that night.
Scene 3 Midnight that night.

SETTING

The play takes place in the deserts of Egypt at the Smudgenose Field Camp in the middle of the Valley of the Dead. In the background we see a pyramid and several palm trees along with sand dunes. Two tents stand on stage, one left and one right. These are fairly large and set so that an actor entering a tent can exit in that direction without being seen. Table stands at center, with benches here and there about the set. An old well with a stone wall about three feet high and a bell attached to it stands down far left. Artifacts from the dig sit about here and there along with a few boxes and crates.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: The Smudgenose Field Camp, about lunch time. MOMS enters, left, holding tablecloth. She looks at table disgustedly, then grabs one of the artifacts and is about to toss it into a large crate as PROFESSOR enters right.)

PROFESSOR: *(Hysterically.)* NO!

(MOMS screams and tosses the artifact into the air. PROFESSOR catches it just in time as NELL, COOKIE, LILLI, EDDIE, DALILAH, and ROCKY enter right.)

ROCKY: Two points for the save, Ozzie!

PROFESSOR: *(Haughtily.)* Professor Gravenstop to you, Mr. Rhoades!

ROCKY: Rocky to you, Ozzie!

NELL: *(Admonishingly.)* Rocky, maybe you ought to go back and find Toodles and Jessa. I think we lost them.

EDDIE: Let's keep it that way!

NELL: You go too, Eddie. Rocky might need some help.

LILLI: Gosh! I'll go! I'm not scared!

ROCKY: Who's scared! C'mon, Eddie.

(LILLI moves right to exit with EDDIE and ROCKY.)

EDDIE: No airheads allowed! *(ROCKY and EDDIE exit right.)*

LILLI: Gosh! I'm no airhead. *(To GIRLS.)* Am I?

PROFESSOR: Mrs. Maloney, what were you trying to do?

MOMS: Clear the table for lunch! But every time I turn around, you've got junk all over it!

PROFESSOR: *(Caressing artifact.)* But this is from the tomb of Queen Nefutari!

MOMS: I don't care if it's from Grant's Tomb! You wanna eat, you keep your junk off the table!

NELL: But it's a priceless artifact.

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MOMS: *(Picking up other artifact.)* Sure it's priceless.
Nobody in their right mind would pay a cent for this stuff!

(MOMS tosses artifact to COOKIE.)

COOKIE: Hey! Careful! It took us eight hours to get this out
of the tomb!

DALILAH: And who knows what mysterious powers it might
possess.

MOMS: The only mysterious power is that crazy camp
stove. It goes off whenever it feels like, and I'm getting fed
up with it!

COOKIE: Speaking of fed, you got any cookies around,
Moms?

MOMS: Here, you get the tablecloth on and I'll get the
cookies!

*(BENNY races on left, followed by BEARER ONE, TWO and
THREE.)*

BENNY: Oh, golly! Oh, golly gee!

NELL: What's wrong, Benny?

BENNY: The glop on the stove is burning up! Oh, golly!

BEARER ONE: Very nasty smell!

BEARER TWO: Smoke everywhere!

BEARER THREE: Gravy bubbling up down the sides.

MOMS: See what I mean? You get me a decent stove,
Professor, or I'm outta here!

(MOMS races off left, PROFESSOR following.)

PROFESSOR: *(Exiting.)* Mrs. Maloney, be reasonable!
Where else could you have the excitement of digging up
all these graves?

(The PROFESSOR has exited.)

BENNY: Oh, golly! She could have started a terrible fire.

End of Freeview

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