



ASP of Ascension

B.R. Myers

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Nefertari “Terry” Hughes has three rules for surviving high school:

- #1 Don’t attract attention.
- #2 Don’t get involved.
- #3 Don’t make trouble.

A year after the accident that left her crippled and took her mother’s life, sixteen-year-old Terry just wants to keep her head down and survive her new high school. When she catches the eye of cute basketball star Zach—who happens to be the boyfriend of mean girl Allison—all hopes of flying under the radar are gone.

She is thrust even further in the spotlight when Fraser, the editor of the school newspaper, learns Mr. Hughes is the renowned archaeologist overseeing the new Egyptian display at the museum, which is rumoured to include Cleopatra’s sarcophagus. Fraser’s research leads to the fifty-year-old mystery of a girl who vanished while on a school trip to the museum along with an artefact that may be Cleopatra’s asp.

When Mr. Hughes falls into a coma and his co-worker claims it’s the curse of Cleopatra, the stakes become too high for Terry to ignore. Terry must work with Fraser and her new candy loving friend Maude to find out what happened fifty years ago in hopes of saving her father before time runs out.

Rated T - Teen 13 and up: May contain violence, crude humour, suggestive themes and/or strong language.

ASP of Ascension Details

Date : Published July 21st 2015 by Fierce Ink Press Co-op Ltd

ISBN : 9781927746622

Author : B.R. Myers

Format : Paperback 338 pages

Genre : Mystery, Young Adult, Fantasy, Mythology, Romance

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From Reader Review ASP of Ascension for online ebook

Susan Angela Wallace says

Asp of Ascension by b r Myers.

Nefertari hughes or as she would like to be known as Teri.

Her dad is the famous Guthrie Hughes who is a egyptologist.

Her dad is to set up a exhibit to save a museum.

A good read with good characters. Although slow I managed to read it.

I liked her mum and dad. full of twists. Teri was my favourite character.

I give it 4*. Netgalley and Digi writing.

Michelle says

You can see this full review and more at Book Briefs: <https://bookbriefs.net>ASP of Ascension is the first in the young adult Nefertari Hughes Mystery series by B.R. Myers. I really enjoyed ASP of Ascension and I am really digging the cover of the book. It reminds me so much of an Egyptian version of the old school Nancy Drew book covers. Which I completely love. I also love all things Egypt so I found this book particularly interesting. It centers around a very important and secret exhibit coming to a small town, and a curse surrounding it- Cleopatra sarcophagus!

Terry, short for Nefertari, starts at a new school because her dad, who is a famous archeologist, is bringing a secret exhibit to town. I really liked Terry. I found her trips with her parents to be fascinating, and as painful as it was for her, I really enjoyed the glimpses into her past that we got. Espically that fateful trip into the fourth chamber where she was injured, and she lost her mom. Not to mention all of the curse business. I loved that I think the most.

The only thing that I found a bit hard to believe was how famous her dad seemed to be. The kids at the school all seemed to be very up on him and his discoveries, which I found a bit odd. I certainly didn't know about different archeologists and their discoveries when I was in high school, but then again it was a small town, so who knows. Other than how star struck people seemed to be by Terry's dad ASP of Ascension. It is a really fun story. Perfect for fans of Nancy Drew, The Mummy and Egyptian mythology. I can't wait to read the next Nefertari Hughes Mystery!

This review was originally posted on Book Briefs

Lexie says

Overall I enjoyed this book.

Some things I didn't enjoy largely centered around how disjointed the plot felt. The first third is largely Terry acclimating to her new school and what it means to be a (mostly) normal teenager in America. Having spent her first fifteen years globetrotting with her archeological parents Terry doesn't quite understand the politics of being a high schooler and doesn't want to understand them. Grieving for what happened to her mother,

feeling a distance growing between her very busy father and herself, dealing with the aftermath of her injury and stuck in a town whose museum is mostly closed off, she's quite adrift.

Honestly speaking if the book had mostly focused on her adjusting and making friends, with a light mystery involved I would have been more content. The summary however makes the mystery seem much more important than I felt the book treated it. Her father fell into a coma, a curse, and a fifty year old mystery to solve all makes the high school stuff pale in comparison. Once the mystery plot actually began I could have cared less about her boy troubles, her mean girl troubles or her issues with understanding American teen culture.

I feel like some of it could have been spread throughout subsequent books (especially her boy drama), to avoid having the plot seem cramped.

I was quite pleased with how the mystery resolved itself as I had guessed at pieces of it, but not the overall motive. Myers tosses a couple red herrings out that should keep most readers guessing. As a lover of ancient Egypt I enjoyed the bits that spoke about her and the search for her tomb, as well as the pains Myers takes to discuss how taking artifacts impact the country they're taken from. It's always nice to see social consciousness in a book.

So as I said, overall I enjoyed the book. The next book (Diadem of Death) has Terry traveling once more and running into an old friend (which in as any lover of genre knows this NEVER bodes well).

Robin says

Truly enjoyed this book which was a combination of mystery, fantasy and contemporary.

Angela Misri says

Asp of Ascension is like Night at the Museum mixed with the humour of Mean Girls with a dollop of darkness from Should I Stay.

B.R. Myers introduces us to Nefertari Hughes (or Terry as she understandably prefers to be called). She's every girl who went to high school and tried their best to ride through the middle of the crowd with their elbows in (so me for sure) with the added baggage of the traumatic loss of her mother.

What sets Terry apart (much to her dismay at times) is her archaeologist parents who have passed on to her their love and understanding of ancient Egypt. What makes Terry special however is that she is starving for real relationships and has no idea how to be in one. Whether it is with she and Maud (a fantastic character who I wish I'd had the balls to be in high school) or with Zach, the prototype jock who turns out to be so much more than that.

I was pleasantly surprised at how much I laughed reading this book, remembering parallel moments in my own life. I know that Terry is the hero of this story, but I have to say, I fell in love with Maud and her little family. Myers does a great job of bringing the corridors of high school to life and the dialogue rings true of the age group too. I happen to LOVE all things having to do with pharaohs so reading about Egypt and

Cleopatra is just icing on the cake of a great read.

DelAnne Frazee says

Title: Asp of Ascension - The Nefertari Hughes Mystery Book 1

Author: BR Myers

Publisher: Blue Moon Publishers

Published: 4-25-2017

Pages: 354

Genre: Mystery, Thrillers, & Suspense

Sub-Genre: Young Adult; Fantasy & Supernatural; Action & Adventure; Sorcery

ISBN: 9781988279527

ASIN: B0722HSDZY

Reviewed For NetGalley and Blue Moon Publishers

Reviewer: DelAnne

Rating: 4.25 Stars

In the year since her mother Naomi's death in the same cave-in that crippled Nefertari "Terri" Hughes's leg have moved to Devonshire to recuperate and grieve. Terri is attending a new high school and her father, Gunther Hughes, begins setting up the new special Cleopatra display at the local museum. Trying to lay low and go unnoticed goes the way of the dodo when star athlete Zack takes an interest in her. Then strange things begin happening and Terri's father falls into and unexplained coma.

An unusual and captivating story that pulls readers in. Myers has woven a tale that combines bits of insight into the ancient past while taking those of us who had left high school in our past right back to being sixteen again. Trying to find our way to adulthood and survive the transition. With characters we can identify with and a well written plot. Filled with Drama, adventure and suspense, but lightened with a touch of humor.

My rating for "Asp of Ascension is 4.25 out of 5 stars. Great for history lovers as well as teens and young adults. Also older readers will find it a captivating read.

Amazon Link: [https://www.amazon.com/dp/B072FH7MN2/...](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B072FH7MN2/)

B&N Link: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/asp-...>

GoodReads Link: <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2...>

The Reading Room Link: <https://www.facebook.com/permalink.ph...>

Twitter Link: <https://twitter.com/DelAnne531/status...>

Susan says

Nefertari "Terry" has been disabled and her mother killed in an archeological dig. Her father a famous archeologist has moved them back to the United States where he has been offered a job to oversee the new Egyptian display at the museum. Terry just wants to be invisible at school but isn't able to when she catches the eye of a boyfriend to the meanest girl in school. Fraser is the editor of the school newspaper and wants a scoop for his newspaper. He asks Terry to give him the scoop on the Egyptian display. He has heard a rumor that Cleopatra's sarcophagus will be shown. He researches for the article, when he discovers a fifty year mystery of a girl disappearing while on a school trip to the museum along with an artifact that might be Cleopatra's asp. Was the girl ever found? When Terry's father falls into a coma, it is said to be Cleopatra's curse that has caused it. What did cause it? Terry, Fraser and her friend Maude need to try to find out what happened to the missing girl in order to save her father. Will Terry find out?

The author has written a great first novel of a series-to-be. It is mysterious, romantic and at times a little bit scary. I found it easy to identify with Terry and her friends. It also shows what bullying can do to others. There is a section at the end that has questions that could be used for classroom discussion. The history and myth usage is excellent. I need to read the next book as I am hooked!

Disclaimer: I received an arc of this book free from the author/publisher from Net-galley. I was not obliged to write a favorable review, or even any review at all. The opinions expressed are strictly my own.

Shay Williams says

I am an adult who happens to enjoy the Young Adult genre. It's refreshing to read a book that isn't overloaded with sex so instead it has to rely on a good plot.

The ASP OF ASCENSION reminds me in a way of my time in high school. I wasn't dealing with disappearances and all that but I did change schools often and my rules were quite similar to Terry's. I enjoyed watching as Terry starts to work her way through the grief at the loss of her mother and begins to make friends.

The secondary characters are well portrayed and add much to the story from Maude's optimism to Fraser's cluelessness. Some of their circumstances were worth a chuckle, others made me rather annoyed at the cruelty of people.

I would recommend ASP OF ASCENSION to any reader who enjoys young adult and mysteries. And it is rated T for a reason. There are violent scenes along with some risque dialogue.

*** I received this book at no charge from NetGalley in exchange for a fair and honest review. All opinions expressed within are my own.

Dani - Perspective of a Writer says

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4.5 stars rounded up to 5 stars because of the Egyptian connection!

Nefertari may have been given the name of a queen but she doesn't feel like one so she insists she be called the more common Terry. With her mother dead and her leg crippled this 16 year old must re-enter the world of high school when her archaeologist dad gets a job with a museum. Life is complicated when she is paired with Zach the star basketball player and mean girl Allison takes exception to it. When her father falls into a coma and it is blamed on an Egyptian curse Terry with the help of her new friends, Maude and Fraser will uncover a 50 year old mystery and figure out what happened to the missing asp.

The cover has this retro feel that I kind of dig but at the same time made me pause at reading it but I love any fiction to do with archaeologists and Egypt so this premise sounded really fun. Plus it turned out to be really fun to read too! Terry really felt like a real teenager to me. Sometimes she was a bit of a coward and sometimes she was so gutsy that I worried she would survive. Her backstory was set up such that I totally believed that she hadn't really had close friends yet and that her philosophy would be to keep her head down. Many times this is a sticking point for me that I just have to ignore but this time I was pleasantly surprised. Strong storycraft is very important in crafting a sound and compelling mystery so I was excited to find Asp of Ascension having it in even the fine details. Character wise Terry was a great combination of regular girl who had unusual circumstances in her life. I really loved that she wore a brace and had a crippled leg. Also it was fun how knowledge of Cleopatra was important to the story and Terry was a bit of an authority on it due to her mother's research.

So a really great protagonist is joined by two of the funnest and most compelling friends I have met in contemporary teen fiction: Maude and Fraser! Gosh I really loved them. The candy loving Maude was bold and proud while also having to deal with a serious bully problem. I loved that she was Hispanic and how we got to see her entire background with her grandma and mother. Any girl would be blessed to have a friend like Maude. I really took to her from the moment she put that sticker over the word whore. Fraser is your classic reporter wannabe but somehow he made you feel like he was a real reporter even in high schooler... I loved how he first approached Terry to get a scoop for his school newspaper and it developed into more than just a story. I loved the way he talked and how he was constantly referencing Scooby-doo! In fact he quite reminded me of Fred! I really liked how these two were separate from her relationship with Zach. They weren't all friends then partnered up but legitimately grew closer because of their friendship with Terry who grew closer to Zach due to the secrets she knew about him.

I liked Zach too. I guessed his troubles right off but they were a compelling part of his relationship with

Terry. I liked how he mirrored Terry as a regular guy but with some unusual fame in his life. I loved how Terry saved him and it happened in a believable way (if in unusual circumstances). The prince was a really great touch! As was the Egyptologist Dr. Mullaca. Also the museum director who had a crush on her dad and the creeper stalkery teacher who adored Egyptology. The characters in this story really made the book for me due to the fact no character was wasted and everyone had their moments in the limelight.

The narrative was really strong too if a little morose. Understandably so though with all Terry has gone through the last year.

"She stared at the space between her sneakers. There was a hole in her spirit, and it was growing every day. Soon she'd be so hollow, the wind would pick her up, rip apart her limbs and scatter her all over the world."

Well what about the plot? Loved it! It is a little high school but it does have to do with a group of teenagers. I liked the mystery a lot with the old missing persons case and the missing artifact. I liked how Terry was not a stupid girl and figured things out in steps. She was a bit naive and believed how things appeared but doesn't all teenagers do that?! The kids all had some growing to do and I loved how those moments layered over one another in a very real and compelling way. There is an aspect of the supernatural that is unexpected in the story. As well as an end result that was shocking in how spot on it was.

If everything was so great then why 4.5 stars and not 5? Well while I loved the plot and the characters made the book for me I could see the outcome of all of the foreshadowing. I don't know of one of these moments that didn't jump out at me. I like to be surprised at least once like I'm meant to. This book didn't have that for me... I don't think it will be bothersome to others as there are quite a number of little twists! Don't be turned off by the cover*, this is a must read, especially for Egypt lovers!

BOTTOM LINE: Supernatural coming of age mystery with plenty of Egyptian mythology!

(*I wish the cover had been a more modern rendition of a retro feel rather than seriously copying cover art of a bygone time...)

Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for providing me with an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

You can find this review and many others on my book blog @ Perspective of a Writer. See my special perspective at the bottom of my reviews under the typewriter...

Michelle (FabBookReviews) says

There is something very comforting about curling up with a good and winding mystery novel, isn't there? During my reading of *Asp of Ascension*, I couldn't help but be reminded of the mysteries I read growing up and that great *experience* of reading those mysteries: sitting down with Encyclopedia Brown, or Nancy

Drew, or the Hardy Boys, a new Lois Duncan or a new Caroline B. Cooney...putting pieces together, trying to stay one step ahead and solve the mystery...

Terry Hughes, our protagonist, is an intriguing teen heroine/sleuth to follow. She's not brash like Veronica Mars, and her drive for solving mysteries is not innate. Terry can come across as cold indifferent, but as we learn, her personal history packs serious heartache and emotional damage. As Myers has written the novel in third person- which is not so common for YA- I found the trek of getting to know Terry (along with the major secondary characters like classmates Maude, Fraser and Zach) a slower process but a rewarding one. I think Myers excelled at portraying Terry as an uncomfortable and grieving teen, thrown into situations she doesn't want to be in, but so strong in making a go of everything. Terry's friendship with classmate Maude (amazing character), in particular, is done so well; a supportive and warm friendship that is genuine to its core.

Though *Asp of Ascension* has multiple arcs carrying on at once, Myers pulls it off very well. Without giving away spoilers here, I will say that a few smaller ingredients of the larger mystery felt a bit rushed and thus certain secondary characters read as too easily one dimensional. However, the major mystery surrounding the possible sarcophagus of Cleopatra and her missing asp is layered, well-paced and interestingly tied in with a decades old mystery surrounding a local missing girl. My one tiny quibble with the story's major arc is that I don't think the slightly supernatural elements introduced were necessarily needed (it does work, but the novel may have also worked just as well as a straightforward contemporary mystery!).

Overall, *Asp of Ascension* is an entertaining and engrossing young adult mystery. It will likely appeal to readers and fans of YA series such as Deadly Cool, Heist Society, The Liar Society, or authors such as Myra McEntire, Rosemary Clement-Moore and Mariah Fredericks. Furthermore, readers who enjoy Egyptian history, pharaohs, and novels that talk about the fascinating life of Cleopatra might also find themselves drawn to this title!

I received a galley courtesy of Fierce Ink Press in exchange for an honest review.

Steven R. McEvoy says

This book was my introduction to the writings of B.R. Myers, but it will certainly not be my last! As far as young adult books go this one has a lot going for it. Good plot, intriguing mystery, slight romance, but not too much. Overall it is fairly clean content, a little kissing but that it is. Some violence but mostly just a great adventure with learning about friendship mixed in. And some incredible characters. I was attracted to this book by the cover and the description. The description begins with:

"Nefertari "Terry" Hughes has three rules for surviving high school:

- #1 Don't attract attention.
- #2 Don't get involved.
- #3 Don't make trouble.

A year after the accident that left her crippled and took her mother's life, sixteen-year-old Terry just wants to keep her head down and survive her new high school. When she catches the eye of cute basketball star Zach - who happens to be the boyfriend of mean girl Allison - all hopes of flying under the radar are gone."

Nefertari - Terry just wanted to get through high school, or at least until she could convince her father to let her do online tutors like she did while her and her parents were on archaeological dig in Egypt. But now they are back in the states, her father is preparing a new exhibit at a small museum, Terry is in high school and her mother is dead.

This story has a bit of it all mixed together in just the right amounts. You have the new kid at school. The jock. A mean girl. The editor of the school newspaper. And the Best friend, even if she is a social outcast. And that is just the teenagers. You also have an Egyptian Prince, an Archaeologist, a Museum curator combined with lots of crazy rumours and stories. And at the centre Terry must solve the riddles, and put together the clues, and at every turn it seems like someone else she cares about is in danger. So we have the mystery of a theft 50 years earlier Cleopatra's Armband and the disappearance of a school girl. Two people who are unconscious and the doctor's cannot figure out why. Thugs attack a young man, and at the centre of this swirling storm Terry the girl that wanted to not attract attention or get involved.

I started reading this book without realizing what book in the series it was. I actually thought it was book 2 because of all the reference to the accident that killed Terry's mom and destroyed her knee. After finishing I realized this is book one and the story moves forward from here not back to tell how we got here. But to be honest I wish we had books on each end of this story. We can hope for a prequel someday ...

This book was a great little read. I know a number of people that I will be recommending it to directly. This book does an excellent job as a mystery and also tackling the theme of bullying. There is a great section at the end for study group or class room discussion. As an introduction to a new author this book has hooked me and I know I will be reading more by Myers soon!

Read the review on my blog Book Reviews and More.

Anna Tan says

The new school year doesn't seem promising. Terry's still dealing with the grief of losing her mother, struggling to get used to her crippled leg, plus trying to deal with fitting in at a new school in a new continent. It only gets worse when her father falls into a coma and his creepy colleague insists that she's the only one who can break the curse... by solving the mystery of the ancient Egyptian asp that went missing from the museum 50 years ago.

On the surface, *ASP of Ascension* is typical teenage girl fodder. There's the outcast girl--well, girls--who are awesomely kickass, the handsome basketball star who is paying attention to them, the jealous girlfriend who'll stop at nothing, and a real honest-to-goodness *Prince* (even if he's Egyptian). There's flirting and awkwardness and new love and...

...there's the mystery. The new Egyptian display includes what's rumoured to be Cleopatra's sarcophagus--the very same one Terry's mother died trying to find. Here's where Myers shows her twisty depths. Nothing is what it seems, and not everyone is who they're supposed to be. Everyone has secrets--but which ones are dangerous?

Overall, the novel is a fun read--light enough to keep you entertained, mysterious enough to keep you hooked, and with just the amount of teenage silliness to keep you charmed.

Note: I received a digital review copy of this book via NetGalley.

Yara says

This was a really fun book for me to read. I enjoyed all the ancient Egyptian history coming to life throughout the story, the basketball hottie who is secretly a sweetheart, the funky pink haired sidekick, and the mysterious Egyptian prince working behind the scenes. Terry proves to be a relatable female lead who has regular teenage problems while also dealing with her mother's death and disfiguring accident. I highly recommend this YA mystery.

LittleDeadRedGoddessPersephone says

If Buffy and Nancy Drew had a baby it would be Nefertari Hughes! I found this book by accident but I am so thrilled that I did. I had requested the ARC for the third book in the series without realizing it was the third in the series. I was thrilled to find that the first two books were available through Kindle Unlimited. I am so glad I found them. I loved this first book in the series! As someone who grew up reading the old Nancy Drew novels, everythig Lois Duncan, R.L Stine and my King of YA Christopher Pike ths was made for me.

Nefartari (Terry) Hughes finds herself in the smaller city of Devonshire in New England after Terry and her Mother were involved in a collapse on a dig in Egypt. It also left her leg crippled. Terry's motto have become "Do Not Get Involved". It becomes increasingly harder to not get involved. She starts to become attached to her partners in her history class, outcast Maude and ach the golden boy athlete as well as the class new paper reporter Fraser. Just when Terry starts to feel comfortable her Father is found passed out in the Museum that he works in. In order to save her Father she and her friends set off to solve the mystery!

Every character in this novel stands out but Maude (Terry's best friend) is the stand out for me!

Chrissie Gerber says

This book revolves around Nefertari and the Egyptian myth of Cleopatra. Having lived on Egyptian lands and archeological digs, it was hard for Terry (Nefertari) to adjust to a school environment. She had lost her mother and part of one leg after a cave-in. Her life had changed and she needed to get used to her new situation. Terry was easy to understand and I rooted for her almost instantly.

Her friendship with Maude and Fraser was insane fun, they had this instant chemistry that had nothing to do with romance, even if Fraser liked Terry. Maude was hopelessly in love with him.

Terry also gets a love interest, but this does not overshadow the plot, that is centered around a sarcophagus that Terry's mom found, before the accident. There is depth to the plot that had me hanging on to every word.

B.R.'s writing was strong. The portrayal of the teens was relatable, and I will gladly continue this series to see what happens next. Also, there is no cliffhanger ending, thank goodness...

