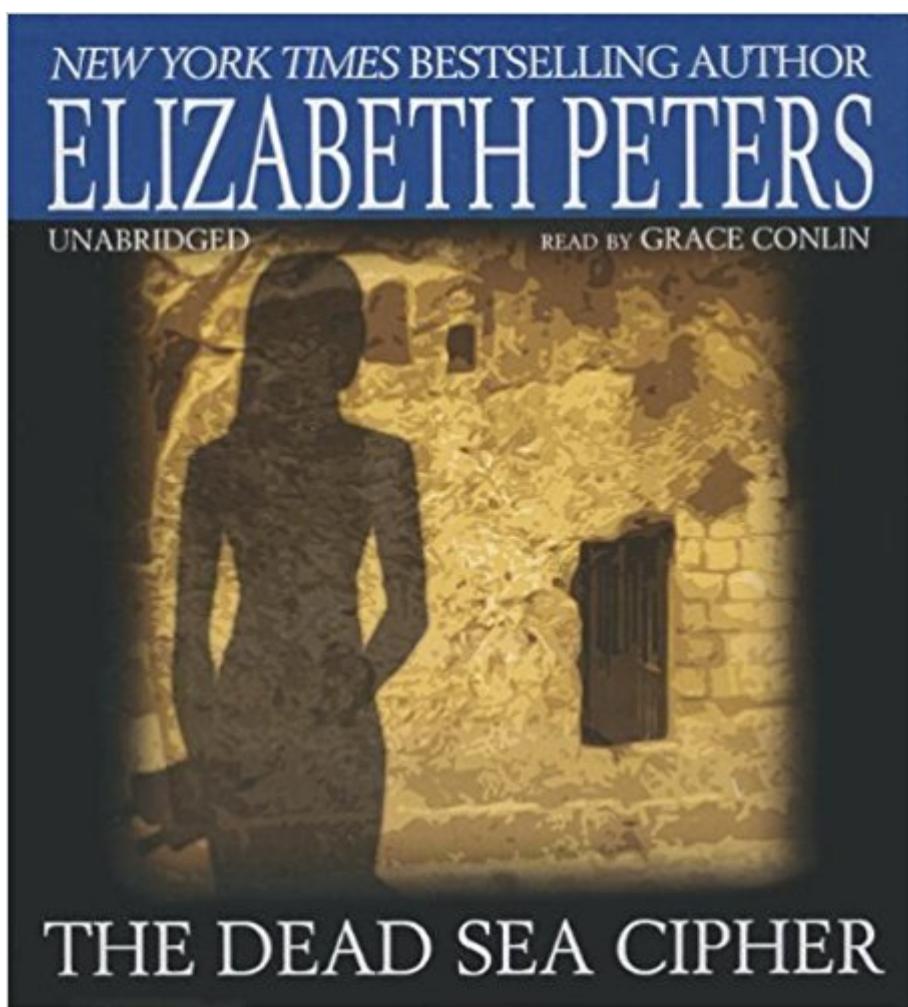


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# The Dead Sea Cipher



## **Synopsis**

It was the start of a grand adventure in a land of antiquity: a rare opportunity to visit biblical places rich in tradition and shrouded in mystery. But in the middle of Beirut, a world away from everything she knows, Dinah Van der Lyn suddenly hears angry voices through the wall of her hotel. The voices are followed by a crash and cries for help--in English. The brutal shattering of an evening's stillness becomes a prelude to terror. Without warning, Dinah is drawn into something unholy transpiring in the sacred city. Her search for the answers hidden in the shadows will take her to the fabled cities of Sidon, Tyre, Damascus, and Jerusalem. And as she races through ancient, twisting streets, teeming with secrets and peril, she is forced to trust an enigmatic stranger, a man who may be leading her to safety--or to her doom.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Elizabeth Peters (1927-2013) was a New York Times bestselling author whose novels were often set against historical backdrops. She earned a PhD in Egyptology at the University of Chicago. She also wrote bestselling books under the pseudonym Barbara Michaels.

A travel log with romance, espionage and archaeology. What could be better. As always, Peters writes a very good story with believable characters, good dialogues, and historical details. Very good.

I love her archaeological mysteries!

I have enjoyed the Elizabeth Peters books for many years. Now that she is no longer with us I am trying to obtain the ones I gave to friends or to the library.

I read this book as a result of two other interests converging. I am a fan of Peters' Amelia Peabody books and also a fan of Robert M. Price's books on religion and its influence on popular culture. One of the latter, "Secret Scrolls", is an overview of novels that have lost gospels as a plot point. Peters' "The Dead Sea Cipher" was one so I decided to give it a try. It's a fairly typical Peters' effort. It is more or less equal parts mystery, romance, humor, history lesson, and travelogue. The book is quite entertaining and absorbing although having been written in the late '60s somewhat dated. The characters are interesting and believable. The mystery is not exactly Christie-esque in complexity but serviceable enough. The action sequences are also well done. Pace is a little on the slow side because Peters likes to work in a lot of history and travelogue as the setting moves from Beirut to Damascus to Jerusalem to the Dead Sea but this is handled fairly efficiently. The book's only flaw (as Price pointed out) is that the reader never actually does find out what all the fuss is about. One might argue that this is not what the book was ultimately about but still the reader is bound to be a little frustrated if he has any interest at all in biblical matters. I read the Kindle edition. The only flaw is that the chapters are not marked on the progress bar so the reader doesn't have an immediate indication how far he has to read to finish a chapter. Otherwise, no issues. I recommend that the reader bookmark the cipher when it appears so he can easily refer back to it as the characters puzzle it out over the subsequent chapters. Recommended. Fairly standard Peters fare but that is well above average.

It's just OK. It's not up to the usual Elizabeth Peters quality that I have grown so fond of. It seemed very predictable and the characters were weak. I'm not sure I would recommend this book.

Love Elizabeth Peters! This is a good, fun read without too much violence or nastiness.

The book was in good condition and arrived in a timely manner. I always like Elizabeth Peter's stories but have only read her Amelia Peabody books until now.

This was a fun story but I wish we could see more of Amelia Peabody and her progeny in new books.

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