

To Wake the Dead

By Richard Laymon

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To Wake the Dead By Richard Laymon

An ancient beauty...

Amara was once the Princess of Egypt, the beautiful wife of Mentuhotep the First. Now, 4000 years later, she and her coffin are merely prized exhibits of the Charles Ward museum. Her lovely face and strong, young body are no more. If you were to look at her today you would see only a brittle bundle of bones and dried skin. But looks can be very deceiving...

A missing mummy...

Barney, the museum's night watchman, is the first to make the shocking discovery that the mummy's coffin has been broken open. He immediately assumes it's the work of grave-robbers who care nothing about the sanctity of the dead. But Barney doesn't have a chance to do anything about it. Then two security guards come upon the open coffin and they too believe that the mummy has been stolen. What else could sane men think? By the time they realize the unbelievable truth, it's far too late for them to do anything...ever again.

The walking dead!

Now Amara is once again freed from the cramped confines of her coffin, free to walk the earth, free to stalk her prey. Free to kill. Nothing can satisfy her deadly bloodlust. And no one can stop her. You cannot kill what is already dead.

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To Wake the Dead By Richard Laymon Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2172877 in Books
- Brand: Leisure Books
- Published on: 2004-11-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.14" h x 4.38" w x 6.74" l, .44 pounds
- Binding: Mass Market Paperback
- 386 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Published last year in the U.K. as Amara, this exuberantly entertaining horror novel is grade-A Laymon, certainly his strongest to be issued stateside since his death in 2001. (When the market for his novels dried up here in the 1990s, this critically neglected author continued to publish and to sell well both in the U.K. and Australia.) As is often the case with Laymon, three plot strands loop through the narrative, braiding at novel's end to garrote the reader. The three are the murderous rampage of a resurrected female mummy in southern California (this plot line also includes an exciting first-person reminiscence set in 1926 Egypt by the man who excavates the mummy from its tomb); the nighttime meditations of a lonely young blind woman in California; and the ordeals of assorted victims kidnapped to an underground prison where they are sexually abused, sometimes slain, by unseen predators when the lights go out. The plot thread involving the mummy is the least interesting, because the staggering ferocious monster at its core shows as little character as the mummies of old Universal horror flicks; she's simply a force to be fought, though Laymon raises plenty of goose pimples here. The meditations of the blind woman sound a sad note that reverberates throughout and deepens the surrounding horrors; and truly amazing-inventive and transgressive-are the scenes set in the underground chamber, tours de force of pitch-black horror. Like all good Laymon novels, this one hurtles from start to finish-never mind the large cast and tripartite plot-and as in all Laymons, the sex, violence and violent sex will leave even jaded readers gasping. Bring on the popcorn. Laymon is back.
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About the Author
Richard Laymon has an MA in English Literature from Loyola University, LA. After a variety of jobs, he now works full-time as a writer and lives with his wife and daughter.

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Erich Arnold:

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