

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,000

This is a temple for gods.

2

00:00:03,000 --> 00:00:06,000

Look at the size of this place.

3

00:00:08,000 --> 00:00:11,000

So Nefertiti was not just a queen of Egypt.

4

00:00:11,000 --> 00:00:13,000

She was a king.

5

00:00:15,000 --> 00:00:17,000

What ultimately happened to her body?

6

00:00:17,000 --> 00:00:20,000

She may actually be lying in a glass case.

7

00:00:22,000 --> 00:00:25,000

You believe 100% that Cleopatra's here?

8

00:00:27,000 --> 00:00:29,000

Yes, no doubt.

9

00:00:31,000 --> 00:00:34,000

My brain has exploded here. It's crazy.

10

00:00:37,000 --> 00:00:39,000

Snake, snake, snake, snake.

11

00:00:39,000 --> 00:00:41,000

Something is underneath.

12

00:00:41,000 --> 00:00:43,000

Incredible. I've seen this whole scene before.

13

00:00:44,000 --> 00:00:45,000

Is that a head?

14

00:00:45,000 --> 00:00:47,000

It's a head of the queen.

15

00:00:47,000 --> 00:00:49,000

Get the hell out of here.

16

00:00:49,000 --> 00:00:50,000

We're getting data.

17

00:00:50,000 --> 00:00:52,000

Incredible. She'll live forever.

18

00:00:53,000 --> 00:00:54,000

That's a skull.

19

00:00:54,000 --> 00:00:55,000

That's a human skull.

20

00:00:55,000 --> 00:00:57,000

Oh my God.

21

00:01:07,000 --> 00:01:08,000

Egypt.

22

00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:12,000

It was the richest, grandest empire in ancient history.

23

00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:14,000

And thousands of years later,

24

00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:16,000

we still marvel at its weathered monuments

25

00:01:16,000 --> 00:01:19,000

and depictions of iconic pharaohs.

26

00:01:19,000 --> 00:01:21,000

But many people overlook the fact

27

00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:24,000

that some of Egypt's greatest rulers were women.

28

00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:30,000

Hatshepsut, Nefertiti, and Cleopatra.

29

00:01:30,000 --> 00:01:33,000

Three of the most powerful women who ever lived.

30

00:01:33,000 --> 00:01:36,000

And yet their fates are shrouded in mystery

31

00:01:36,000 --> 00:01:38,000

or lost to the sands of time.

32

00:01:40,000 --> 00:01:43,000

But now, a new generation of archeologists

33

00:01:43,000 --> 00:01:45,000

may change all that.

34

00:01:46,000 --> 00:01:50,000

Nefertiti, she is remembered as history's most beautiful queen.

35

00:01:50,000 --> 00:01:53,000

But was she also a controversial pharaoh?

36

00:01:53,000 --> 00:01:56,000

And could she be the mother to King Tut?

37

00:01:57,000 --> 00:01:59,000

Her body has never been identified.

38

00:01:59,000 --> 00:02:03,000

But many believe that an anonymous mummy in the Egyptian museum

39

00:02:03,000 --> 00:02:05,000

may be Nefertiti herself.

40

00:02:05,000 --> 00:02:08,000

And a bold new experiment may finally put a face

41

00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:10,000

on this legendary leader.

42

00:02:11,000 --> 00:02:13,000

Then there's Hatshepsut.

43

00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:17,000

Matriarch of Egypt's most powerful dynasty

44

00:02:17,000 --> 00:02:19,000

who was nearly erased from history.

45

00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:22,000

But what was the true source of her death?

46

00:02:23,000 --> 00:02:25,000

What was the source of her power?

47

00:02:25,000 --> 00:02:27,000

And why isn't she a household name?

48

00:02:27,000 --> 00:02:29,000

Recent finds and an ancient quarry

49

00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:32,000

may finally tell her true story.

50

00:02:34,000 --> 00:02:36,000

Finally, we have Cleopatra,

51

00:02:36,000 --> 00:02:38,000

the last monarch of Egypt

52

00:02:38,000 --> 00:02:41,000

whose tomb has never been found.

53

00:02:42,000 --> 00:02:44,000

I'll join two archeological teams

54

00:02:44,000 --> 00:02:47,000

at a forgotten temple and beneath the waves

55

00:02:47,000 --> 00:02:50,000

on a hunt for her long lost grave.

56

00:02:51,000 --> 00:02:55,000

So get ready for an adventure through time and history

57

00:02:55,000 --> 00:02:57,000

as we head to the land of the pharaohs

58

00:02:57,000 --> 00:03:00,000

to rediscover the great women of Egypt.

59

00:03:06,000 --> 00:03:08,000

My name is Josh Gates.

60

00:03:10,000 --> 00:03:14,000

With a degree in archeology and a passion for exploration,

61

00:03:14,000 --> 00:03:18,000

I have a tendency to end up in some very strange situations.

62

00:03:18,000 --> 00:03:20,000

It's just straight down!

63

00:03:20,000 --> 00:03:22,000

Unbelievable!

64

00:03:22,000 --> 00:03:25,000

My travels have taken me to the ends of the earth

65

00:03:25,000 --> 00:03:28,000

as I investigate the greatest legends in history.

66

00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:30,000

We're good to fly, let's go.

67

00:03:30,000 --> 00:03:33,000

This is Expedition Unknown.

68

00:03:49,000 --> 00:03:52,000

Egypt has been called the land of the pharaohs,

69

00:03:52,000 --> 00:03:55,000

an endless landscape of sand and sun.

70

00:03:56,000 --> 00:03:59,000

In most places, time is measured in years,

71

00:03:59,000 --> 00:04:02,000

but here in Egypt, I said no camels.

72

00:04:04,000 --> 00:04:06,000

I really, I was so specific.

73

00:04:06,000 --> 00:04:09,000

They hate me, and I don't care for them very much.

74

00:04:11,000 --> 00:04:13,000

Can we do this? Can we work together? Is it possible?

75

00:04:13,000 --> 00:04:15,000

I know, I'm heavy.

76

00:04:16,000 --> 00:04:18,000

Let's get through this, we can do it.

77

00:04:18,000 --> 00:04:20,000

Come on, here we go.

78

00:04:20,000 --> 00:04:22,000

Okay, where was I?

79

00:04:26,000 --> 00:04:29,000

In most places, time is measured in years.

80

00:04:29,000 --> 00:04:33,000

In Egypt, it's measured in kingdoms and dynasties.

81

00:04:35,000 --> 00:04:37,000

And beneath these shifting sands

82

00:04:37,000 --> 00:04:41,000

are the remains of one of humanity's most glorious civilizations.

83

00:04:45,000 --> 00:04:49,000

Egypt has been in the civilization business for 5,000 years,

84

00:04:49,000 --> 00:04:53,000

pioneering ideas like the calendar, astronomy, paper,

85

00:04:53,000 --> 00:04:56,000

irrigation, makeup, and even breath mints.

86

00:04:56,000 --> 00:04:58,000

Look it up.

87

00:04:58,000 --> 00:05:01,000

As an empire, ancient Egypt gets going around 3100 BC

88

00:05:01,000 --> 00:05:04,000

under the reign of the pharaoh Menes.

89

00:05:04,000 --> 00:05:06,000

More pharaohs have been built

90

00:05:06,000 --> 00:05:08,000

in the ancient times,

91

00:05:08,000 --> 00:05:11,000

and the pharaohs have been the first to build

92

00:05:11,000 --> 00:05:13,000

the pharaohs' own kingdom.

93

00:05:14,000 --> 00:05:16,000

More pharaohs follow in three periods

94

00:05:16,000 --> 00:05:18,000

known as the Old Kingdom,

95

00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:20,000

the Middle Kingdom,

96

00:05:20,000 --> 00:05:22,000

and the New Kingdom.

97

00:05:22,000 --> 00:05:24,000

Eventually, lots of outsiders invade and conquer,

98

00:05:24,000 --> 00:05:26,000

including Alexander the Great,

99

00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:28,000

who ushers in the Greeks,

100

00:05:28,000 --> 00:05:31,000

until finally the whole thing falls to Rome.

101

00:05:31,000 --> 00:05:34,000

But the story of ancient Egypt is still being discovered.

102

00:05:34,000 --> 00:05:38,000

Even here, at a place everybody thinks they know.

103

00:05:39,000 --> 00:05:41,000

The Pyramids of Giza.

104

00:05:42,000 --> 00:05:46,000

4,500-year-old monuments to death and immortality.

105

00:05:46,000 --> 00:05:49,000

This is the Great Pyramid of Khufu.

106

00:05:49,000 --> 00:05:52,000

It is the only one of the remaining original Seven Wonders

107

00:05:52,000 --> 00:05:54,000

of the ancient world,

108

00:05:54,000 --> 00:05:56,000

and until the 19th century,

109

00:05:56,000 --> 00:05:59,000

it was the tallest man-made structure on the planet.

110

00:06:03,000 --> 00:06:06,000

Soaring 480 feet above the desert floor,

111

00:06:06,000 --> 00:06:09,000

the Great Pyramid contains 2 million blocks,

112

00:06:09,000 --> 00:06:12,000

each averaging about two and a half tons.

113

00:06:12,000 --> 00:06:15,000

And just beyond are the Pyramids of Kafre and Menkara.

114

00:06:17,000 --> 00:06:19,000

But if you ride behind the pyramids,

115

00:06:19,000 --> 00:06:22,000

you see things from a different perspective.

116

00:06:22,000 --> 00:06:26,000

I guarantee that every photo you've ever seen of the pyramids

117

00:06:26,000 --> 00:06:28,000

just features the Big Three.

118

00:06:28,000 --> 00:06:31,000

But in fact, there are nine pyramids here at Giza,

119

00:06:31,000 --> 00:06:34,000

and incredibly, six of them are dedicated to women,

120

00:06:34,000 --> 00:06:36,000

including this one.

121

00:06:40,000 --> 00:06:43,000

And just the fact that queens and princesses

122

00:06:43,000 --> 00:06:46,000

had their own pyramids totally defies

123

00:06:46,000 --> 00:06:49,000

our modern expectations about the influence

124

00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:52,000

and the power of women in the ancient world.

125

00:06:52,000 --> 00:06:54,000

And perhaps the best example of that

126

00:06:54,000 --> 00:06:56,000

can be found right over this hill.

127

00:07:04,000 --> 00:07:06,000

I don't think there's any monument in the world

128

00:07:06,000 --> 00:07:09,000

more mysterious looking than the Great Sphinx.

129

00:07:09,000 --> 00:07:12,000

It has been standing guard here for more than 40 centuries.

130

00:07:12,000 --> 00:07:15,000

As a work of art, it is unparalleled.

131

00:07:15,000 --> 00:07:18,000

It is carved out of the solid bedrock,

132

00:07:18,000 --> 00:07:20,000

the body of a fearsome lion.

133

00:07:20,000 --> 00:07:23,000

The head is human, most likely the pharaoh Kafre,

134

00:07:23,000 --> 00:07:25,000

whose pyramid stands directly behind it.

135

00:07:25,000 --> 00:07:28,000

Now, the lower area of the Sphinx is off limits to the public.

136

00:07:28,000 --> 00:07:30,000

But today I've been given special access

137

00:07:30,000 --> 00:07:32,000

to get up close and personal.

138

00:07:32,000 --> 00:07:35,000

But the world's most famous is the Great Pyramid.

139

00:07:35,000 --> 00:07:37,000

The world's most famous feline. Come on.

140

00:07:44,000 --> 00:07:47,000

When you view it from above or from the side,

141

00:07:47,000 --> 00:07:50,000

what most people don't see is what's actually hidden at the base.

142

00:07:54,000 --> 00:07:56,000

This is known as the Dream Stella.

143

00:07:56,000 --> 00:08:00,000

It was erected a full thousand years after the Sphinx was carved.

144

00:08:00,000 --> 00:08:03,000

And it tells the story of an Egyptian prince

145

00:08:03,000 --> 00:08:06,000

who came to rest here in the shadow of the Sphinx.

146

00:08:06,000 --> 00:08:09,000

And while dreaming, the Sphinx spoke to him

147

00:08:09,000 --> 00:08:12,000

and told him that one day he would become a great leader.

148

00:08:12,000 --> 00:08:15,000

And the dream turned out to be prophetic.

149

00:08:15,000 --> 00:08:18,000

Because he became one of Egypt's great pharaohs,

150

00:08:18,000 --> 00:08:20,000

Tutmost IV.

151

00:08:20,000 --> 00:08:23,000

But his reign and indeed his very existence

152

00:08:23,000 --> 00:08:25,000

would never have been possible

153

00:08:25,000 --> 00:08:27,000

without one of his extraordinary ancestors,

154

00:08:27,000 --> 00:08:29,000

a ruler named Hachepsur,

155

00:08:29,000 --> 00:08:32,000

whose legacy was almost erased from history.

156

00:08:34,000 --> 00:08:37,000

To investigate why one of Egypt's most powerful rulers

157

00:08:37,000 --> 00:08:39,000

was nearly forgotten,

158

00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:41,000

I sell my camel to a nearby glue factory

159

00:08:41,000 --> 00:08:43,000

and fly over 300 miles south

160

00:08:43,000 --> 00:08:45,000

to one of Egypt's ancient capitals.

161

00:08:45,000 --> 00:08:47,000

Back then it was known as Thebes.

162

00:08:47,000 --> 00:08:49,000

Today it's known as Luxor.

163

00:08:53,000 --> 00:08:56,000

To learn why Hachepsut, one of the greatest queens in history,

164

00:08:56,000 --> 00:08:58,000

is nowhere to be found in history,

165

00:08:58,000 --> 00:09:02,000

I walk to a nearby temple that redefines the word huge.

166

00:09:04,000 --> 00:09:07,000

Thebes

167

00:09:12,000 --> 00:09:14,000

These are the hallowed halls of Karnak,

168

00:09:14,000 --> 00:09:17,000

a place of immensity and eternity,

169

00:09:17,000 --> 00:09:21,000

a maze of blocks and effigies where man and gods meet.

170

00:09:21,000 --> 00:09:25,000

This is one of the largest religious structures on earth,

171

00:09:25,000 --> 00:09:29,000

a collection of temples dedicated to the Egyptian gods.

172

00:09:29,000 --> 00:09:31,000

Talk about a showstopper.

173

00:09:31,000 --> 00:09:33,000

I'm a pretty well-traveled guy,

174

00:09:33,000 --> 00:09:36,000

and I can tell you there are only a handful of places on earth

175

00:09:36,000 --> 00:09:39,000

that can reduce me to awestruck silence.

176

00:09:42,000 --> 00:09:45,000

At the center of the site is the Great Hypostyle Hall,

177

00:09:45,000 --> 00:09:49,000

a jungle of columns in the shape of soaring papyrus stalks.

178

00:09:49,000 --> 00:09:52,000

Karnak is more than 3500 years old,

179

00:09:52,000 --> 00:09:54,000

and one of the reasons it's so huge

180

00:09:54,000 --> 00:09:57,000

is that it was added onto by many different rulers,

181

00:09:57,000 --> 00:10:00,000

including Egypt's mysterious queen Hatshepsut.

182

00:10:02,000 --> 00:10:04,000

To get the full story of who she was,

183

00:10:04,000 --> 00:10:06,000

I meet up with Baha Gaber,

184

00:10:06,000 --> 00:10:09,000

the director of the Karnak Archaeological Site.

185

00:10:09,000 --> 00:10:11,000

Do you still marvel at this place

186

00:10:11,000 --> 00:10:13,000

for as many times as you've probably walked through here?

187

00:10:13,000 --> 00:10:16,000

Yes, every day, every hour.

188

00:10:16,000 --> 00:10:19,000

In the West, I think most people

189

00:10:19,000 --> 00:10:22,000

probably have never even heard the name Hachepsut.

190

00:10:22,000 --> 00:10:24,000

So why should we have heard her name?

191

00:10:24,000 --> 00:10:28,000

She was one of the great builders in the ancient world.

192

00:10:29,000 --> 00:10:32,000

The greatness of a pharaoh is measured in monuments,

193

00:10:32,000 --> 00:10:35,000

and among Karnak's greatest contributors was Hachepsut,

194

00:10:35,000 --> 00:10:37,000

a queen of the 18th dynasty

195

00:10:37,000 --> 00:10:40,000

who came to power around 1479 BC

196

00:10:40,000 --> 00:10:44,000

after the death of her husband and half-brother Tutmos II.

197

00:10:44,000 --> 00:10:47,000

She oversaw Egypt's golden age

198

00:10:47,000 --> 00:10:49,000

and a period of unprecedented construction,

199

00:10:49,000 --> 00:10:52,000

and one of the most impressive things she built

200

00:10:52,000 --> 00:10:55,000

is right here in the middle of Karnak.

201

00:10:55,000 --> 00:10:58,000

Wow, look at that!

202

00:10:58,000 --> 00:10:59,000

How big is it?

203

00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:00,000

Almost 100 feet.

204

00:11:00,000 --> 00:11:01,000

Incredible.

205

00:11:01,000 --> 00:11:05,000

This is the tallest standing obelisk in the ancient world,

206

00:11:05,000 --> 00:11:08,000

meant to symbolize the union of heaven and earth,

207

00:11:08,000 --> 00:11:11,000

a kind of spiritual antenna to the gods.

208

00:11:14,000 --> 00:11:16,000

What's inscribed on it?

209

00:11:16,000 --> 00:11:18,000

The names and the titles of the queen Hachepsut.

210

00:11:18,000 --> 00:11:21,000

And what about the more complex stuff at the top?

211

00:11:21,000 --> 00:11:24,000

To see the inscription, obviously, we can't climb 100 feet up.

212

00:11:24,000 --> 00:11:27,000

But lucky for us, Hachepsut built two obelisks

213

00:11:27,000 --> 00:11:29,000

that are identical.

214

00:11:29,000 --> 00:11:32,000

The other one fell over so we can read the inscription.

215

00:11:32,000 --> 00:11:33,000

Great.

216

00:11:33,000 --> 00:11:34,000

Let's go.

217

00:11:34,000 --> 00:11:37,000

Nearby, we find the twin to the ancient obelisk,

218

00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:41,000

which gives us a closer look at its shocking inscriptions.

219

00:11:41,000 --> 00:11:43,000

What are we seeing here?

220

00:11:43,000 --> 00:11:46,000

Queen Hachepsut standing with the god Amun Ray.

221

00:11:46,000 --> 00:11:47,000

This is Hachepsut here?

222

00:11:47,000 --> 00:11:50,000

Yes, she has a false beard, short-keld.

223

00:11:50,000 --> 00:11:53,000

The beard is something that is traditionally thought of as masculine,

224

00:11:53,000 --> 00:11:55,000

but here she is donning this fake beard.

225

00:11:55,000 --> 00:11:57,000

Yes, because she wasn't just a queen.

226

00:11:57,000 --> 00:11:59,000

She was a pharaoh.

227

00:11:59,000 --> 00:12:01,000

A proper pharaoh of Egypt.

228

00:12:01,000 --> 00:12:02,000

Exactly.

229

00:12:02,000 --> 00:12:06,000

She has been called the first truly powerful woman in history.

230

00:12:06,000 --> 00:12:09,000

She not only ascended the throne to become a pharaoh,

231

00:12:09,000 --> 00:12:12,000

but she donned clothing traditionally reserved for men.

232

00:12:12,000 --> 00:12:15,000

She further empowered her female identity

233

00:12:15,000 --> 00:12:18,000

by positioning herself as the offspring of a god.

234

00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:20,000

If you look right here, you will see,

235

00:12:20,000 --> 00:12:21,000

you will see,

236

00:12:21,000 --> 00:12:23,000

Sath-in-git-f,

237

00:12:23,000 --> 00:12:28,000

which means daughter of the god from his body,

238

00:12:28,000 --> 00:12:31,000

daughter, not a son.

239

00:12:31,000 --> 00:12:34,000

So she's still proclaiming herself as a woman,

240

00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:36,000

but she's also saying,

241

00:12:36,000 --> 00:12:37,000

I'm a pharaoh.

242

00:12:37,000 --> 00:12:38,000

So she was a badass.

243

00:12:38,000 --> 00:12:39,000

Yes.

244

00:12:39,000 --> 00:12:40,000

We can say that.

245

00:12:40,000 --> 00:12:41,000

We can say that.

246

00:12:41,000 --> 00:12:43,000

Okay, so if she's so powerful,

247

00:12:43,000 --> 00:12:45,000

why don't we know her name?

248

00:12:45,000 --> 00:12:46,000

To understand that,

249

00:12:46,000 --> 00:12:49,000

we have to cross to the city of the dead,

250

00:12:49,000 --> 00:12:51,000

to the other side of the river Nile.

251

00:12:51,000 --> 00:12:52,000

City of the dead.

252

00:12:52,000 --> 00:12:53,000

Uh-huh.

253

00:12:57,000 --> 00:12:59,000

Stay tuned right after tonight's show

254

00:12:59,000 --> 00:13:01,000

for Egypt After the Hunt,

255

00:13:01,000 --> 00:13:04,000

an exclusive special featuring amazing new discoveries

256

00:13:04,000 --> 00:13:05,000

from our expedition,

257

00:13:05,000 --> 00:13:07,000

and much more.

258

00:13:10,000 --> 00:13:13,000

I'm in Egypt on a mission to find out why Hechepsa,

259

00:13:13,000 --> 00:13:15,000

a powerful female pharaoh,

260

00:13:15,000 --> 00:13:17,000

is all but forgotten by history.

261

00:13:17,000 --> 00:13:20,000

So I follow my expert guide, Baha Gaber,

262

00:13:20,000 --> 00:13:21,000

down to the riverbank,

263

00:13:21,000 --> 00:13:24,000

where we board a traditional boat known as a falooka

264

00:13:24,000 --> 00:13:26,000

to learn more about the lost queen.

265

00:13:26,000 --> 00:13:28,000

We're making the crossing in a vessel

266

00:13:28,000 --> 00:13:31,000

named after another woman of legend.

267

00:13:33,000 --> 00:13:37,000

The Nile really is the reason this whole civilization is here, right?

268

00:13:37,000 --> 00:13:38,000

Of course.

269

00:13:38,000 --> 00:13:40,000

Without the Nile, it would be no Egypt.

270

00:13:40,000 --> 00:13:42,000

It would be just desert.

271

00:13:44,000 --> 00:13:46,000

The boats all sail the same river

272

00:13:46,000 --> 00:13:48,000

that has been the lifeblood of Egypt,

273

00:13:48,000 --> 00:13:50,000

sustaining the agriculture, transport,

274

00:13:50,000 --> 00:13:54,000

and industry of the people here for over 5,000 years.

275

00:13:54,000 --> 00:13:56,000

It's also the physical manifestation

276

00:13:56,000 --> 00:13:59,000

of one of humanity's most powerful metaphors,

277

00:13:59,000 --> 00:14:02,000

the line between life and death.

278

00:14:02,000 --> 00:14:03,000

We're in Egypt.

279

00:14:03,000 --> 00:14:08,000

The river Nile divided the land into the east and the west.

280

00:14:08,000 --> 00:14:09,000

The east won the sunrise,

281

00:14:09,000 --> 00:14:11,000

so this is the side of living,

282

00:14:11,000 --> 00:14:14,000

and the west, where the sun sets,

283

00:14:14,000 --> 00:14:16,000

it means the side of the dead.

284

00:14:16,000 --> 00:14:18,000

All right, let's go to the land of the dead.

285

00:14:21,000 --> 00:14:24,000

The name probably isn't helping real estate prices around here,

286

00:14:24,000 --> 00:14:28,000

but it's where one of Hechepsut's most enduring structures remains.

287

00:14:30,000 --> 00:14:32,000

Crossing over to the western shore,

288

00:14:32,000 --> 00:14:34,000

we continue on foot to our first stop.

289

00:14:36,000 --> 00:14:39,000

And it is spectacular.

290

00:14:39,000 --> 00:14:43,000

Welcome to the Mercer Temple of the Queen Hatshepsut.

291

00:14:43,000 --> 00:14:46,000

Look at the size of this place.

292

00:14:50,000 --> 00:14:52,000

This is Der Al-Bari,

293

00:14:52,000 --> 00:14:54,000

one of Egypt's most phenomenal shrines.

294

00:14:54,000 --> 00:14:56,000

It's not a burial,

295

00:14:56,000 --> 00:14:58,000

but a place to make offerings of devotion

296

00:14:58,000 --> 00:15:00,000

to a pharaoh who went against tradition

297

00:15:00,000 --> 00:15:02,000

by seizing her own destiny.

298

00:15:05,000 --> 00:15:07,000

When Hechepsut's husband Tutmos II died,

299

00:15:07,000 --> 00:15:11,000

his son, Tutmos III, was next in line for the throne,

300

00:15:11,000 --> 00:15:13,000

but was too young to assume power.

301

00:15:13,000 --> 00:15:15,000

So in 1478 BC,

302

00:15:15,000 --> 00:15:17,000

Queen Hechepsut became pharaoh

303

00:15:17,000 --> 00:15:21,000

and ruled for 21 years until the day she died,

304

00:15:21,000 --> 00:15:25,000

leading the empire into a golden age of construction and wealth.

305

00:15:28,000 --> 00:15:31,000

So this is not a tomb, this is a mortuary temple.

306

00:15:31,000 --> 00:15:34,000

Yes, this is the statue of the Queen Hatshepsut.

307

00:15:34,000 --> 00:15:39,000

She still has the face of a woman but in the form of the god Osiris.

308

00:15:40,000 --> 00:15:42,000

Osiris was the Egyptian god of the dead,

309

00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:45,000

and the depiction of Hatshepsut as Osiris

310

00:15:45,000 --> 00:15:48,000

makes a powerful statement about her authority as a leader.

311

00:15:48,000 --> 00:15:51,000

I mean, if I put up a temple with 36 statues of Hatshepsut here,

312

00:15:51,000 --> 00:15:54,000

it would be beautiful, it would be tasteful.

313

00:15:54,000 --> 00:15:56,000

Of course.

314

00:15:56,000 --> 00:15:58,000

But it seems egotistical, doesn't it?

315

00:15:58,000 --> 00:16:02,000

Yeah, but a pharaoh wasn't just a ruler, he was a god.

316

00:16:02,000 --> 00:16:03,000

Right.

317

00:16:03,000 --> 00:16:05,000

This is a temple of a god.

318

00:16:06,000 --> 00:16:11,000

Baha brings me inside Hechepsut's temple,

319

00:16:11,000 --> 00:16:13,000

passing by her cartouche,

320

00:16:13,000 --> 00:16:18,000

a three-symbol signature representing life, stability, and power.

321

00:16:18,000 --> 00:16:22,000

This is her stamp, this is her seal, this is how we know it's her sight.

322

00:16:22,000 --> 00:16:23,000

Yes.

323

00:16:23,000 --> 00:16:25,000

This is like the world's first emoji.

324

00:16:25,000 --> 00:16:26,000

Yes.

325

00:16:28,000 --> 00:16:30,000

The vast temple is covered with scenes

326

00:16:30,000 --> 00:16:33,000

depicting the Queen's achievements, which were many.

327

00:16:33,000 --> 00:16:37,000

She commanded what may have been the largest army in the ancient world,

328

00:16:37,000 --> 00:16:41,000

and sent a massive fleet outside of Egypt to the land of Punt.

329

00:16:41,000 --> 00:16:44,000

Her envoy brought back treasure, exotic goods,

330

00:16:44,000 --> 00:16:48,000

and even the world's first successful transplant of foreign trees.

331

00:16:50,000 --> 00:16:53,000

The walls also show her gigantic stone obelisks,

332

00:16:53,000 --> 00:16:55,000

which are depicted here on their sides,

333

00:16:55,000 --> 00:16:59,000

being transported by boat from the southern city of Aswan,

334

00:16:59,000 --> 00:17:01,000

all the way to Karnak.

335

00:17:02,000 --> 00:17:04,000

And how far is it from Aswan to here?

336

00:17:04,000 --> 00:17:06,000

Around 130 miles.

337

00:17:06,000 --> 00:17:07,000

Down the Nile?

338

00:17:07,000 --> 00:17:10,000

Yes. Each one of them, about 300 tons.

339

00:17:10,000 --> 00:17:11,000

Impossible.

340

00:17:11,000 --> 00:17:14,000

And do we have any idea how many people it took to move them?

341

00:17:14,000 --> 00:17:16,000

More than 500 people.

342

00:17:18,000 --> 00:17:20,000

So she is this incredible builder,

343

00:17:20,000 --> 00:17:22,000

she's this incredible ruler, she's a pharaoh.

344

00:17:22,000 --> 00:17:23,000

Yes.

345

00:17:23,000 --> 00:17:25,000

So why isn't she a household name?

346

00:17:25,000 --> 00:17:27,000

Because of her stepson.

347

00:17:27,000 --> 00:17:28,000

Her stepson?

348

00:17:28,000 --> 00:17:29,000

Yes.

349

00:17:31,000 --> 00:17:33,000

That stepson, Tutmos III,

350

00:17:33,000 --> 00:17:36,000

would have succeeded her husband after his death,

351

00:17:36,000 --> 00:17:38,000

but was too young to assume full power.

352

00:17:38,000 --> 00:17:40,000

She sent him away to the military,

353

00:17:40,000 --> 00:17:42,000

till 21 years later,

354

00:17:42,000 --> 00:17:45,000

he returned to take the throne.

355

00:17:45,000 --> 00:17:48,000

When she died, he became the pharaoh of Egypt,

356

00:17:48,000 --> 00:17:51,000

and he started to raise his name from history.

357

00:17:51,000 --> 00:17:53,000

Look, what happened?

358

00:17:55,000 --> 00:17:57,000

These are statues of her.

359

00:17:57,000 --> 00:17:58,000

Yes.

360

00:17:58,000 --> 00:18:01,000

All these heads have been damaged by the king Tutmos III.

361

00:18:01,000 --> 00:18:04,000

Even her name erased it from the temple.

362

00:18:04,000 --> 00:18:07,000

Even in Karnak, on the obelisk itself,

363

00:18:07,000 --> 00:18:09,000

he chiseled her name.

364

00:18:09,000 --> 00:18:11,000

Why did he try to remove her name?

365

00:18:11,000 --> 00:18:13,000

Because she took the throne.

366

00:18:13,000 --> 00:18:14,000

Normally the pharaoh,

367

00:18:14,000 --> 00:18:17,000

bathed in the throne of Egypt to his son,

368

00:18:17,000 --> 00:18:19,000

but Hatshepsut disrupted that.

369

00:18:21,000 --> 00:18:24,000

The removal of Hatshepsut from the historical record

370

00:18:24,000 --> 00:18:26,000

leaves some big questions unanswered.

371

00:18:26,000 --> 00:18:29,000

Because her stepson was almost successful

372

00:18:29,000 --> 00:18:31,000

in erasing her accomplishments,

373

00:18:31,000 --> 00:18:32,000

we're left to ask,

374

00:18:32,000 --> 00:18:34,000

what else don't we know

375

00:18:34,000 --> 00:18:37,000

about Egypt's most powerful female ruler?

376

00:18:37,000 --> 00:18:39,000

The answers might lie to the south

377

00:18:39,000 --> 00:18:41,000

in a remote and mysterious ruin,

378

00:18:41,000 --> 00:18:45,000

where archeologists have uncovered a shocking secret.

379

00:18:46,000 --> 00:18:49,000

I'm in Egypt to learn the secrets of the pharaoh Hatshepsut,

380

00:18:49,000 --> 00:18:51,000

who despite ruling in a golden age

381

00:18:51,000 --> 00:18:53,000

was virtually erased from history.

382

00:18:53,000 --> 00:18:56,000

To find out how she was able to hold such power,

383

00:18:56,000 --> 00:19:00,000

I've taken to the back roads of what was once her mighty empire.

384

00:19:00,000 --> 00:19:03,000

I'm headed about 100 miles south of Luxor

385

00:19:03,000 --> 00:19:05,000

to a site called Silcilla,

386

00:19:05,000 --> 00:19:07,000

where archeologists are uncovering

387

00:19:07,000 --> 00:19:09,000

the ancient history of the pharaoh.

388

00:19:09,000 --> 00:19:12,000

I'm headed about 100 miles south of Luxor

389

00:19:12,000 --> 00:19:14,000

to a site called Silcilla,

390

00:19:14,000 --> 00:19:17,000

where archeologists are uncovering even more secrets

391

00:19:17,000 --> 00:19:19,000

to what made Hatshepsut so formidable.

392

00:19:19,000 --> 00:19:22,000

To get there, I've rented a pretty serious 4x4 here,

393

00:19:22,000 --> 00:19:24,000

which has in the glove compartment,

394

00:19:24,000 --> 00:19:26,000

and I swear to you this is true...

395

00:19:28,000 --> 00:19:30,000

a huge bag of pita.

396

00:19:30,000 --> 00:19:32,000

We're all set for snacks.

397

00:19:35,000 --> 00:19:38,000

The dust is endless, the weather is hot,

398

00:19:38,000 --> 00:19:41,000

and the road, well, it gets the job done.

399

00:19:44,000 --> 00:19:46,000

The road is full of the sun,

400

00:19:46,000 --> 00:19:48,000

and the water is clear,

401

00:19:48,000 --> 00:19:50,000

and the water is clear.

402

00:19:52,000 --> 00:19:54,000

After hours behind the wheel,

403

00:19:54,000 --> 00:19:56,000

I pull over along the banks of the Nile.

404

00:19:56,000 --> 00:19:59,000

The site I'm traveling to can't be reached by road.

405

00:20:02,000 --> 00:20:04,000

So I'm linking up with my experts

406

00:20:04,000 --> 00:20:07,000

on a shallow-bottomed boat, known as a Dahabiya.

407

00:20:07,000 --> 00:20:10,000

On board are Maria Nilsson and John Ward,

408

00:20:10,000 --> 00:20:12,000

archeologists who have dedicated

409

00:20:12,000 --> 00:20:14,000

the last seven years of their lives

410

00:20:14,000 --> 00:20:17,000

to unearthing some of the answers I'm after.

411

00:20:17,000 --> 00:20:19,000

Maria, John, how are you?

412

00:20:19,000 --> 00:20:20,000

Hi. Nice to meet you.

413

00:20:20,000 --> 00:20:21,000

Hi, Josh.

414

00:20:21,000 --> 00:20:22,000

Hi, how are you? Hi.

415

00:20:22,000 --> 00:20:23,000

What's your name?

416

00:20:23,000 --> 00:20:24,000

Freya.

417

00:20:24,000 --> 00:20:25,000

Hi, Freya.

418

00:20:25,000 --> 00:20:26,000

Say hi.

419

00:20:26,000 --> 00:20:27,000

Can I have a handshake?

420

00:20:27,000 --> 00:20:28,000

Nice to meet you.

421

00:20:28,000 --> 00:20:29,000

Is this your daughter?

422

00:20:29,000 --> 00:20:30,000

It is our daughter.

423

00:20:30,000 --> 00:20:31,000

Adorable.

424

00:20:31,000 --> 00:20:32,000

So, wait, is this your office?

425

00:20:32,000 --> 00:20:33,000

And home?

426

00:20:33,000 --> 00:20:34,000

All in one.

427

00:20:34,000 --> 00:20:36,000

Lab as well, as you can see behind you.

428

00:20:36,000 --> 00:20:38,000

Yeah, it's the very first time I've seen

429

00:20:38,000 --> 00:20:41,000

a kid's playhouse and a human skull in the same place.

430

00:20:42,000 --> 00:20:43,000

This is incredible.

431

00:20:43,000 --> 00:20:46,000

And if these two aren't impressive enough for you,

432

00:20:46,000 --> 00:20:48,000

they have another baby on the way.

433

00:20:48,000 --> 00:20:50,000

So you're working in 100-degree heat,

434

00:20:50,000 --> 00:20:52,000

raising a three-year-old,

435

00:20:52,000 --> 00:20:55,000

living on a boat on the Nile, six months pregnant.

436

00:20:55,000 --> 00:20:58,000

Yes, and that is far easier than to deal with a team.

437

00:20:58,000 --> 00:21:01,000

You are officially my hero.

438

00:21:01,000 --> 00:21:03,000

This is the queen of the Nile right here.

439

00:21:03,000 --> 00:21:04,000

Unbelievable.

440

00:21:04,000 --> 00:21:05,000

Okay, so where are we going?

441

00:21:05,000 --> 00:21:06,000

Where is Silsila?

442

00:21:06,000 --> 00:21:07,000

Silsila, south of here.

443

00:21:07,000 --> 00:21:08,000

Okay.

444

00:21:08,000 --> 00:21:09,000

It's got a day's travel.

445

00:21:09,000 --> 00:21:10,000

I can handle an evening on this boat.

446

00:21:10,000 --> 00:21:11,000

Excellent.

447

00:21:11,000 --> 00:21:12,000

All right, let's set sail.

448

00:21:12,000 --> 00:21:13,000

Let's do it.

449

00:21:13,000 --> 00:21:14,000

Let's do it.

450

00:21:16,000 --> 00:21:18,000

We unfurl the sails, and before you know it,

451

00:21:18,000 --> 00:21:21,000

John and Maria, as well as the crew, their kid,

452

00:21:21,000 --> 00:21:24,000

a dog, and one impressed TV host,

453

00:21:24,000 --> 00:21:27,000

set sail on a journey that will take us through the night.

454

00:21:29,000 --> 00:21:32,000

And as the sun sets over the land of the dead,

455

00:21:32,000 --> 00:21:35,000

the upper Nile reveals its true charm.

456

00:21:35,000 --> 00:21:38,000

This time of day, anywhere on the Nile,

457

00:21:38,000 --> 00:21:39,000

it's just perfect.

458

00:21:39,000 --> 00:21:40,000

Yeah, it's perfect.

459

00:21:40,000 --> 00:21:42,000

There's no better place in the world to be.

460

00:21:42,000 --> 00:21:43,000

It's stunning.

461

00:21:43,000 --> 00:21:46,000

You can see why they thought it was divine.

462

00:21:46,000 --> 00:21:47,000

A perfect place.

463

00:21:57,000 --> 00:21:59,000

Morning brings a golden glow to the terrain

464

00:21:59,000 --> 00:22:01,000

as we approach Silsila.

465

00:22:01,000 --> 00:22:04,000

Tombs dug into the sheer cliffs look like caves

466

00:22:04,000 --> 00:22:06,000

hovering above the river.

467

00:22:06,000 --> 00:22:09,000

But this place isn't just another temple complex.

468

00:22:09,000 --> 00:22:10,000

It's something else.

469

00:22:10,000 --> 00:22:13,000

We dock the boat, and John, Maria,

470

00:22:13,000 --> 00:22:16,000

and their trusty dog, Carter, lead me into the site.

471

00:22:19,000 --> 00:22:21,000

While it looks like a natural canyon,

472

00:22:21,000 --> 00:22:23,000

this is in fact a rock quarry

473

00:22:23,000 --> 00:22:27,000

cut entirely by human hands over 3,000 years ago.

474

00:22:28,000 --> 00:22:32,000

Well, welcome, Josh, to Madame Silsila.

475

00:22:34,000 --> 00:22:35,000

This is crazy.

476

00:22:35,000 --> 00:22:37,000

Look at the scale of this place.

477

00:22:40,000 --> 00:22:43,000

Silsila is associated with Hechepsut's stepson,

478

00:22:43,000 --> 00:22:44,000

Tutmos III.

479

00:22:44,000 --> 00:22:46,000

In this impressive industrial mine,

480

00:22:46,000 --> 00:22:49,000

many of Egypt's grand monuments were born.

481

00:22:52,000 --> 00:22:55,000

So this is a quarry, a massive quarry.

482

00:22:55,000 --> 00:22:56,000

It is.

483

00:22:57,000 --> 00:22:59,000

You wouldn't have karnak.

484

00:22:59,000 --> 00:23:02,000

You wouldn't have any of the great sandstone temples

485

00:23:02,000 --> 00:23:05,000

that you see throughout Egypt if it wasn't for this.

486

00:23:05,000 --> 00:23:08,000

How much stone was pulled out of these quarries?

487

00:23:08,000 --> 00:23:10,000

Millions of tons.

488

00:23:11,000 --> 00:23:12,000

Wow.

489

00:23:12,000 --> 00:23:15,000

All right, my brain has exploded here.

490

00:23:15,000 --> 00:23:16,000

It's crazy.

491

00:23:16,000 --> 00:23:19,000

So you see the small blocks that are under the ledge?

492

00:23:19,000 --> 00:23:20,000

Yes.

493

00:23:20,000 --> 00:23:22,000

And then you see the horizontal lines above the ledge?

494

00:23:22,000 --> 00:23:24,000

Big straight lines there, yes.

495

00:23:24,000 --> 00:23:26,000

That's where you would have had obelisks.

496

00:23:26,000 --> 00:23:28,000

Each one of those is an obelisk.

497

00:23:29,000 --> 00:23:30,000

That's insane.

498

00:23:33,000 --> 00:23:35,000

Everything about this place is epic,

499

00:23:35,000 --> 00:23:37,000

but Maria and John have made a new discovery

500

00:23:37,000 --> 00:23:39,000

that may shed a whole new light

501

00:23:39,000 --> 00:23:42,000

on this quarry belonging to Hechepsut's stepson.

502

00:23:43,000 --> 00:23:46,000

We climb over a mountain of crushed stone.

503

00:23:46,000 --> 00:23:50,000

Every pebble of it, hand-carried and discarded from the quarry below.

504

00:23:52,000 --> 00:23:55,000

Nearby, we enter one of the site's hand-carved temples,

505

00:23:55,000 --> 00:23:58,000

used by workers and visitors in ancient times.

506

00:24:00,000 --> 00:24:01,000

Wow.

507

00:24:02,000 --> 00:24:04,000

Well, here we are in one of

508

00:24:04,000 --> 00:24:07,000

Silselas' many amazing monuments.

509

00:24:07,000 --> 00:24:10,000

This is the Rockett Temple.

510

00:24:11,000 --> 00:24:13,000

We spent many hours here.

511

00:24:13,000 --> 00:24:15,000

We have an expert working here still,

512

00:24:15,000 --> 00:24:18,000

but recently we made a major discovery.

513

00:24:18,000 --> 00:24:20,000

I think it might be of interest for you.

514

00:24:20,000 --> 00:24:21,000

Okay, yeah.

515

00:24:21,000 --> 00:24:22,000

Let's go and have a look.

516

00:24:22,000 --> 00:24:23,000

Sure, show me.

517

00:24:23,000 --> 00:24:24,000

What did you find?

518

00:24:24,000 --> 00:24:25,000

What did you find?

519

00:24:32,000 --> 00:24:34,000

There's more adventure right after the show.

520

00:24:34,000 --> 00:24:36,000

Join me and my team in EXU headquarters

521

00:24:36,000 --> 00:24:39,000

as we reveal incredible new finds

522

00:24:39,000 --> 00:24:43,000

and behind-the-scenes secrets from our Egypt expedition.

523

00:24:48,000 --> 00:24:52,000

In the ancient quarry from which many of Egypt's epic monuments originated,

524

00:24:52,000 --> 00:24:56,000

archaeologists Maria Nielsen and John Ward made a new discovery

525

00:24:56,000 --> 00:25:00,000

about one of history's most powerful women, Queen Hatshepsut.

526

00:25:01,000 --> 00:25:03,000

Recently we made a major discovery.

527

00:25:05,000 --> 00:25:07,000

What do you see?

528

00:25:07,000 --> 00:25:11,000

I see some hieroglyphs, some cartouches.

529

00:25:11,000 --> 00:25:14,000

I see a scene here with several characters,

530

00:25:14,000 --> 00:25:18,000

maybe somebody making offerings or something to a god or a pharaoh there.

531

00:25:18,000 --> 00:25:20,000

That is true,

532

00:25:20,000 --> 00:25:25,000

but we have been able to establish something that is underneath.

533

00:25:27,000 --> 00:25:28,000

See that?

534

00:25:28,000 --> 00:25:30,000

Coming out the back of his head, see the triangular?

535

00:25:30,000 --> 00:25:31,000

Yes.

536

00:25:31,000 --> 00:25:32,000

See that?

537

00:25:32,000 --> 00:25:33,000

Yes.

538

00:25:33,000 --> 00:25:34,000

That's the tip of Noblis.

539

00:25:34,000 --> 00:25:35,000

If you follow it, see the lines coming through?

540

00:25:35,000 --> 00:25:36,000

I do.

541

00:25:36,000 --> 00:25:37,000

And does it come through his chest?

542

00:25:37,000 --> 00:25:39,000

Yes, that's Noblis.

543

00:25:39,000 --> 00:25:40,000

Now follow my trail.

544

00:25:42,000 --> 00:25:43,000

What do you see?

545

00:25:43,000 --> 00:25:44,000

I see a boat.

546

00:25:44,000 --> 00:25:45,000

Exactly.

547

00:25:45,000 --> 00:25:47,000

I've seen this whole scene before.

548

00:25:47,000 --> 00:25:50,000

This exact scene is at Hatshepsut's Mortuary Temple.

549

00:25:50,000 --> 00:25:51,000

That's it?

550

00:25:51,000 --> 00:25:52,000

At Del Bahari.

551

00:25:52,000 --> 00:25:53,000

At Del Bahari, yes.

552

00:25:53,000 --> 00:25:57,000

It's the transportation of the obelisks from Aswan to Luxor.

553

00:26:01,000 --> 00:26:03,000

When they first explored this temple,

554

00:26:03,000 --> 00:26:06,000

Maria and John initially believed that the mural on the wall

555

00:26:06,000 --> 00:26:08,000

was dedicated to Tutmost III,

556

00:26:08,000 --> 00:26:11,000

but a high-tech scan revealed that art hidden beneath

557

00:26:11,000 --> 00:26:13,000

had been deliberately covered up.

558

00:26:13,000 --> 00:26:18,000

Because we have this, we can actually redate this entire temple.

559

00:26:18,000 --> 00:26:21,000

It's actually from the time of Hatshepsut.

560

00:26:22,000 --> 00:26:24,000

So this site really is deeply connected to her?

561

00:26:24,000 --> 00:26:27,000

Well, yeah, I mean, because during that period,

562

00:26:27,000 --> 00:26:30,000

we saw this explosion of quarrying activity taking place

563

00:26:30,000 --> 00:26:32,000

right here at Silcilla.

564

00:26:32,000 --> 00:26:35,000

And additional carvings and inscriptions in Silcilla

565

00:26:35,000 --> 00:26:38,000

reveal that this wasn't just a slave labor operation.

566

00:26:38,000 --> 00:26:42,000

There are depictions of skilled craftsmen, supervisors,

567

00:26:42,000 --> 00:26:45,000

and even doctors tending to patients.

568

00:26:45,000 --> 00:26:47,000

John and Maria have uncovered proper tombs

569

00:26:47,000 --> 00:26:50,000

with burials for workers and their families.

570

00:26:50,000 --> 00:26:54,000

In other words, this was a deeply organized community of people

571

00:26:54,000 --> 00:26:56,000

working under a powerful leader.

572

00:26:56,000 --> 00:27:00,000

She is establishing herself as a true ruler.

573

00:27:00,000 --> 00:27:01,000

Right.

574

00:27:01,000 --> 00:27:05,000

And it's also showing her power by transporting the obelisks

575

00:27:05,000 --> 00:27:07,000

all the way up to Luxor.

576

00:27:07,000 --> 00:27:11,000

We actually have with us changed the history of this temple.

577

00:27:11,000 --> 00:27:13,000

Incredible.

578

00:27:15,000 --> 00:27:17,000

Hatshepsut's presence at this temple

579

00:27:17,000 --> 00:27:20,000

means that the vast operations here were another part of her reign,

580

00:27:20,000 --> 00:27:23,000

of which she was robbed her due credit.

581

00:27:23,000 --> 00:27:25,000

The whole site, the quarry, and the temples

582

00:27:25,000 --> 00:27:27,000

are a testament to her power.

583

00:27:27,000 --> 00:27:31,000

And this was the key to Hatshepsut's glorious reign,

584

00:27:31,000 --> 00:27:35,000

a construction boom that wouldn't be surpassed for 3,000 years.

585

00:27:35,000 --> 00:27:38,000

A great woman, a great queen,

586

00:27:38,000 --> 00:27:41,000

and one of Egypt's greatest pharaohs.

587

00:27:43,000 --> 00:27:47,000

We leave Silcilla behind and begin the long trip back down river.

588

00:27:47,000 --> 00:27:50,000

Hatshepsut's story has taught me an important lesson

589

00:27:50,000 --> 00:27:52,000

about ancient Egyptian history.

590

00:27:52,000 --> 00:27:54,000

Women could rise to great power,

591

00:27:54,000 --> 00:27:56,000

but often their achievements were obscured

592

00:27:56,000 --> 00:27:59,000

or erased by the men who followed them.

593

00:27:59,000 --> 00:28:02,000

If Hatshepsut was Exhibit A,

594

00:28:02,000 --> 00:28:06,000

I'm driving north to learn about Egypt's Exhibit B.

595

00:28:09,000 --> 00:28:13,000

So while the mighty Hatshepsut may have kicked off Egypt's golden age,

596

00:28:13,000 --> 00:28:18,000

it was another powerful woman who nearly ended it about 160 years later.

597

00:28:18,000 --> 00:28:22,000

And unlike Hatshepsut, her name is famous the world over.

598

00:28:24,000 --> 00:28:25,000

Nefertiti.

599

00:28:25,000 --> 00:28:28,000

Her name has become synonymous with beauty,

600

00:28:28,000 --> 00:28:31,000

but her achievements are anything but skin deep.

601

00:28:31,000 --> 00:28:35,000

She was queen during the wealthiest era of ancient Egypt,

602

00:28:35,000 --> 00:28:38,000

the royal wife of the pharaoh Akhenaten.

603

00:28:38,000 --> 00:28:42,000

Around 1351 BC, four years into his reign,

604

00:28:42,000 --> 00:28:45,000

the couple launched a shocking religious revolution,

605

00:28:45,000 --> 00:28:50,000

replacing the many powerful Egyptian gods with a single sun god, Atan.

606

00:28:50,000 --> 00:28:54,000

And they built a new capital city in a place called Amarna.

607

00:28:55,000 --> 00:28:59,000

But old gods die hard, and the new religion was controversial.

608

00:28:59,000 --> 00:29:04,000

So when Akhenaten died after 17 years of rule, Amarna was demolished.

609

00:29:04,000 --> 00:29:09,000

Leaving almost no evidence of Nefertiti, including the location of her body.

610

00:29:10,000 --> 00:29:13,000

But nothing remains lost forever in Egypt,

611

00:29:13,000 --> 00:29:18,000

and new discoveries may just reveal the final resting place of Egypt's iconic queen.

612

00:29:19,000 --> 00:29:23,000

So I'm driving back to Luxor and into the heart of the land of the dead.

613

00:29:35,000 --> 00:29:38,000

This is the legendary Valley of the Kings.

614

00:29:38,000 --> 00:29:43,000

In this winding canyon, archaeologists have discovered 63 lavish tombs,

615

00:29:43,000 --> 00:29:48,000

and in them clues that could completely rewrite what we know about Nefertiti.

616

00:29:50,000 --> 00:29:53,000

It starts with a piece of ancient graffiti.

617

00:29:53,000 --> 00:29:56,000

In a nearby tomb, someone scribbled a note claiming,

618

00:29:56,000 --> 00:30:00,000

Year 3 of Her reign as leader, Nefer Neferotan,

619

00:30:00,000 --> 00:30:02,000

King of Upper and Lower Egypt.

620

00:30:02,000 --> 00:30:04,000

That's the ruling name of Nefertiti,

621

00:30:04,000 --> 00:30:09,000

meaning that after her husband's death, she may have become a pharaoh in her own right.

622

00:30:10,000 --> 00:30:15,000

Like Hatshepsut, history seems to have forgotten the true scope and scale of Nefertiti's power.

623

00:30:15,000 --> 00:30:17,000

But what happened to her?

624

00:30:17,000 --> 00:30:19,000

Where is her royal mummy?

625

00:30:19,000 --> 00:30:23,000

The answer may lie with a pharaoh who needs no introduction.

626

00:30:24,000 --> 00:30:25,000

King Tut.

627

00:30:31,000 --> 00:30:35,000

Investigating the mysteries of Egypt's female pharaohs,

628

00:30:35,000 --> 00:30:38,000

I'm in Luxor to learn about the legendary queen Nefertiti,

629

00:30:38,000 --> 00:30:41,000

whose mummy has never been identified.

630

00:30:42,000 --> 00:30:47,000

But the path to finding Nefertiti may run through one of the most famous places on Earth.

631

00:30:48,000 --> 00:30:53,000

This is the tomb of Tut Anka Moon, otherwise known as King Tut.

632

00:30:55,000 --> 00:30:57,000

He ruled for only a short amount of time.

633

00:30:57,000 --> 00:31:00,000

He died sickly and young at the age of 19.

634

00:31:00,000 --> 00:31:05,000

He's famous because unlike almost all of the other tombs in the Valley of the Kings,

635

00:31:05,000 --> 00:31:10,000

when Tut's tomb was found in 1922, it was nearly intact.

636

00:31:11,000 --> 00:31:15,000

It took seven years of digging before British archaeologist Howard G.

637

00:31:15,000 --> 00:31:19,000

Carter found the tomb, which contained thousands of treasures,

638

00:31:19,000 --> 00:31:22,000

including the iconic gold coffin and death mask,

639

00:31:22,000 --> 00:31:25,000

and most importantly, Tut himself.

640

00:31:28,000 --> 00:31:32,000

And Tut's mummy here is yielding up all sorts of incredible discoveries.

641

00:31:32,000 --> 00:31:38,000

In 2010, a DNA test proved that Tut is the son of the pharaoh Akhenan,

642

00:31:38,000 --> 00:31:40,000

and his mother?

643

00:31:40,000 --> 00:31:43,000

Well, that's where things get really interesting.

644

00:31:46,000 --> 00:31:49,000

In a tomb next to Tut's called KV-35,

645

00:31:49,000 --> 00:31:53,000

archaeologists discovered the mummified remains of three people.

646

00:31:53,000 --> 00:31:57,000

One was likely Akhenaten's mother, another a young prince,

647

00:31:57,000 --> 00:32:00,000

and the third, a woman they nicknamed the younger lady.

648

00:32:00,000 --> 00:32:04,000

DNA tests proved that she was King Tut's mother,

649

00:32:04,000 --> 00:32:06,000

a mummy of his mummy as it were.

650

00:32:08,000 --> 00:32:11,000

So, if Akhenaten is Tut's father,

651

00:32:11,000 --> 00:32:13,000

and the younger lady is his mother,

652

00:32:13,000 --> 00:32:16,000

and Nefertiti was Akhenaten's chief wife,

653

00:32:16,000 --> 00:32:19,000

could Nefertiti be the mother of King Tut?

654

00:32:21,000 --> 00:32:25,000

That's the million-dollar question, and one that I intend to answer.

655

00:32:26,000 --> 00:32:32,000

So I fly 350 miles north, up to the modern capital of Egypt, Cairo,

656

00:32:32,000 --> 00:32:36,000

where I have an appointment to meet a certain younger lady.

657

00:32:41,000 --> 00:32:43,000

I'm going to the city.

658

00:32:48,000 --> 00:32:49,000

Assalamu alaikum.

659

00:32:49,000 --> 00:32:50,000

Alaykum, sir.

660

00:32:50,000 --> 00:32:52,000

Akhena al-Khalili.

661

00:32:56,000 --> 00:32:58,000

Cairo is actually not an ancient Egyptian city.

662

00:32:58,000 --> 00:33:00,000

It started as a Roman fort,

663

00:33:00,000 --> 00:33:04,000

and it has ballooned to a population of more than 20 million people,

664

00:33:04,000 --> 00:33:07,000

7 million of whom commute in and out each day,

665

00:33:07,000 --> 00:33:10,000

which makes the traffic here something special.

666

00:33:12,000 --> 00:33:14,000

I'm going to die.

667

00:33:14,000 --> 00:33:16,000

I'm going to die.

668

00:33:19,000 --> 00:33:21,000

Yeah.

669

00:33:22,000 --> 00:33:25,000

I get out of my hell cab a few blocks away from my appointment

670

00:33:25,000 --> 00:33:28,000

and stroll through the Al-Khalili Bazaar.

671

00:33:33,000 --> 00:33:35,000

It's packed with exotic bargains,

672

00:33:35,000 --> 00:33:37,000

but unlike the Al-Khalili,

673

00:33:38,000 --> 00:33:40,000

it's packed with exotic bargains.

674

00:33:40,000 --> 00:33:44,000

But unlike most markets where you actually have to go to the things you want to buy,

675

00:33:44,000 --> 00:33:47,000

here, all you have to do is sit for a cup of coffee,

676

00:33:49,000 --> 00:33:51,000

and the market comes to you.

677

00:33:52,000 --> 00:33:54,000

Oh, beautiful. Very nice.

678

00:33:54,000 --> 00:33:56,000

But I need to see your money.

679

00:33:56,000 --> 00:33:57,000

You want to see my money?

680

00:33:57,000 --> 00:33:58,000

Sure.

681

00:33:58,000 --> 00:33:59,000

You need to see my money?

682

00:33:59,000 --> 00:34:00,000

Sure.

683

00:34:00,000 --> 00:34:01,000

Sir, is this a holdup?

684

00:34:04,000 --> 00:34:05,000

Oh, that's nice.

685

00:34:05,000 --> 00:34:06,000

That's very nice.

686

00:34:08,000 --> 00:34:09,000

Okay.

687

00:34:09,000 --> 00:34:10,000

Handsome?

688

00:34:10,000 --> 00:34:11,000

Very nice.

689

00:34:11,000 --> 00:34:13,000

You wouldn't lie to me, right?

690

00:34:14,000 --> 00:34:16,000

Wow, look at this.

691

00:34:16,000 --> 00:34:18,000

These are beautiful.

692

00:34:20,000 --> 00:34:22,000

I don't think this is going to fit me.

693

00:34:24,000 --> 00:34:27,000

I'm not in the market right now for any of this stuff,

694

00:34:27,000 --> 00:34:30,000

so I finish my coffee and head to Archaeology Heaven,

695

00:34:30,000 --> 00:34:32,000

a.k.a. the Egyptian Museum.

696

00:34:32,000 --> 00:34:36,000

100,000 items covering 70 centuries of history,

697

00:34:36,000 --> 00:34:39,000

all under one gigantic roof.

698

00:34:39,000 --> 00:34:42,000

This place is absolutely stuffed to the rafters.

699

00:34:42,000 --> 00:34:44,000

This is like the Home Depot of History.

700

00:34:44,000 --> 00:34:48,000

You could literally be killed by a falling sarcophagus in here.

701

00:34:50,000 --> 00:34:52,000

I carefully navigate to the Amarna Room,

702

00:34:52,000 --> 00:34:56,000

dedicated to the heretic Pharaoh Akhenaten and his legendary wife.

703

00:34:56,000 --> 00:34:58,000

There, I see the Archaeology Heaven,

704

00:34:58,000 --> 00:35:01,000

the heretic Pharaoh Akhenaten and his legendary wife.

705

00:35:01,000 --> 00:35:05,000

There, I meet with leading Egyptologist and Nefertiti expert,

706

00:35:05,000 --> 00:35:07,000

Dr. Aidan Dodson.

707

00:35:09,000 --> 00:35:10,000

Josh, nice to meet you.

708

00:35:10,000 --> 00:35:11,000

And you too.

709

00:35:11,000 --> 00:35:12,000

Thanks for joining me. I appreciate it.

710

00:35:12,000 --> 00:35:14,000

So, mystery number one.

711

00:35:14,000 --> 00:35:16,000

Why does everybody know the name Nefertiti?

712

00:35:16,000 --> 00:35:19,000

It's partly because of her physical beauty.

713

00:35:19,000 --> 00:35:23,000

A sculptured head of hers was found in the beginning of the 20th century

714

00:35:23,000 --> 00:35:25,000

and is now in Berlin.

715

00:35:25,000 --> 00:35:29,000

Before the 1900s, Nefertiti had been all but forgotten by history.

716

00:35:29,000 --> 00:35:32,000

But then, in the ruins of her former city of Amarna,

717

00:35:32,000 --> 00:35:35,000

a stucco-covered limestone bust was discovered

718

00:35:35,000 --> 00:35:38,000

that made her the cover girl for the ancient world.

719

00:35:38,000 --> 00:35:41,000

Another bust sits here in the Egyptian Museum,

720

00:35:41,000 --> 00:35:44,000

but neither object tells the real story of the queen

721

00:35:44,000 --> 00:35:47,000

who lived in Egypt's most tumultuous age.

722

00:35:47,000 --> 00:35:51,000

She lived the time when pretty well everything about Egypt

723

00:35:51,000 --> 00:35:53,000

was thrown into the air.

724

00:35:53,000 --> 00:35:56,000

Nefertiti's exact parentage is unclear,

725

00:35:56,000 --> 00:35:59,000

but she was likely born within a prominent military family.

726

00:35:59,000 --> 00:36:04,000

She became the chief wife of Akhenaten and bore him six daughters.

727

00:36:04,000 --> 00:36:06,000

But while he was a prodigious father,

728

00:36:06,000 --> 00:36:09,000

Akhenaten proved to be a revolutionary leader.

729

00:36:09,000 --> 00:36:12,000

He discarded centuries of Egyptian tradition

730

00:36:12,000 --> 00:36:15,000

by abolishing almost all of the gods in their pantheon

731

00:36:15,000 --> 00:36:20,000

and creating a new religion around a solitary sun god known as Aten.

732

00:36:20,000 --> 00:36:24,000

The country was still reeling when he made another shocking announcement.

733

00:36:24,000 --> 00:36:26,000

During his 16th year of reign,

734

00:36:26,000 --> 00:36:31,000

Akhenaten appointed his wife Nefertiti as co-king.

735

00:36:33,000 --> 00:36:35,000

So Nefertiti was not just a queen of Egypt.

736

00:36:35,000 --> 00:36:37,000

She was a king.

737

00:36:37,000 --> 00:36:38,000

Indeed.

738

00:36:38,000 --> 00:36:41,000

She might also have been a lot savvier than her husband,

739

00:36:41,000 --> 00:36:43,000

especially politically.

740

00:36:43,000 --> 00:36:47,000

While he angered his people by insisting they worship a single sun god,

741

00:36:47,000 --> 00:36:49,000

Nefertiti brought back some of the old gods,

742

00:36:49,000 --> 00:36:52,000

which endeared her to the Egyptian masses.

743

00:36:54,000 --> 00:36:57,000

And then afterwards, Tut becomes king famously, yes?

744

00:36:57,000 --> 00:37:00,000

He becomes king, but it's not universally agreed

745

00:37:00,000 --> 00:37:02,000

whether he becomes king immediately.

746

00:37:02,000 --> 00:37:04,000

After Akhenaten's death,

747

00:37:04,000 --> 00:37:07,000

a nine or ten-year-old king Tut took the throne.

748

00:37:07,000 --> 00:37:11,000

But it's possible that Nefertiti continued to pull the strings of power.

749

00:37:11,000 --> 00:37:15,000

Unfortunately, there's no definitive end to her story.

750

00:37:15,000 --> 00:37:17,000

We don't know how or when she died.

751

00:37:17,000 --> 00:37:21,000

We don't even know for sure if Nefertiti was Tut's biological mother.

752

00:37:21,000 --> 00:37:24,000

And so what ultimately do you think happened to her body?

753

00:37:24,000 --> 00:37:26,000

That's one of the great mysteries.

754

00:37:26,000 --> 00:37:30,000

There's a chance that she may actually be lying in a glass case

755

00:37:30,000 --> 00:37:33,000

just along the hallway from where we are now.

756

00:37:37,000 --> 00:37:39,000

He brings me to the very back of the museum

757

00:37:39,000 --> 00:37:42,000

to a face-to-face meeting with the woman I've come here to see,

758

00:37:42,000 --> 00:37:45,000

the mummy of the so-called younger lady,

759

00:37:45,000 --> 00:37:47,000

who might also be Nefertiti.

760

00:37:50,000 --> 00:37:53,000

Here, she is extraordinary.

761

00:38:00,000 --> 00:38:04,000

I'm on the hunt for the legendary and lost Queen Nefertiti.

762

00:38:05,000 --> 00:38:08,000

Now, in Cairo's Egyptian museum,

763

00:38:08,000 --> 00:38:11,000

archaeologist Aidan Dodson is about to introduce me

764

00:38:11,000 --> 00:38:14,000

to a 3400-year-old mummy that could be her.

765

00:38:15,000 --> 00:38:17,000

And here she is.

766

00:38:19,000 --> 00:38:21,000

Extraordinary.

767

00:38:25,000 --> 00:38:28,000

And so what evidence do we have that this is Nefertiti?

768

00:38:28,000 --> 00:38:31,000

Well, fairly recently, some DNA work was done,

769

00:38:31,000 --> 00:38:35,000

which determined that this mummy was the mother of Tutankhamun.

770

00:38:36,000 --> 00:38:39,000

The Pharaoh Akhenaten was the father of King Tut.

771

00:38:39,000 --> 00:38:41,000

The mummy of the so-called younger lady

772

00:38:41,000 --> 00:38:44,000

is now proven to be the mother of King Tut.

773

00:38:44,000 --> 00:38:47,000

And since Akhenaten's royal wife was Nefertiti,

774

00:38:47,000 --> 00:38:51,000

she becomes a prime candidate for the identity of our mummy.

775

00:38:51,000 --> 00:38:55,000

Several years ago, a facial reconstruction was done of King Tut,

776

00:38:55,000 --> 00:38:57,000

and it really gave the world their first look

777

00:38:57,000 --> 00:38:59,000

at what he would have looked like in life.

778

00:38:59,000 --> 00:39:04,000

In 2005, Egyptian authorities performed a CT scan on King Tut's mummy.

779

00:39:04,000 --> 00:39:07,000

An international team was then able to use that scan

780

00:39:07,000 --> 00:39:10,000

to build a 3D model of the Pharaoh's skull

781

00:39:10,000 --> 00:39:15,000

and then create a hyper-detailed forensic reconstruction of his face.

782

00:39:15,000 --> 00:39:18,000

If we can apply the technology to this mummy,

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00:39:18,000 --> 00:39:22,000

we may be able to reveal her true identity.

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00:39:22,000 --> 00:39:25,000

If this mummy's face could be reconstructed

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00:39:25,000 --> 00:39:28,000

and was a match for the images that we have of Nefertiti,

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00:39:28,000 --> 00:39:30,000

what would that mean?

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00:39:30,000 --> 00:39:33,000

I think it massively increases the likelihood this is indeed Nefertiti.

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00:39:34,000 --> 00:39:37,000

If we can do some imaging, it'd be a great step forward.

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00:39:37,000 --> 00:39:39,000

Okay.

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00:39:39,000 --> 00:39:41,000

This is the real reason I'm here.

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00:39:41,000 --> 00:39:45,000

We've brought state-of-the-art equipment to digitally image the mummy's face,

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00:39:45,000 --> 00:39:49,000

but it won't work through the glass case, which is sealed shut.

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00:39:50,000 --> 00:39:54,000

Despite months of negotiations with the museum and the antiquities authority,

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00:39:54,000 --> 00:39:56,000

we still don't know if they'll open the case,

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00:39:56,000 --> 00:40:00,000

and all that Aiden, my producers, and I can do is hope.

796

00:40:00,000 --> 00:40:03,000

What do you give the chance to this right now?

797

00:40:03,000 --> 00:40:06,000

We've been talking about this for a pretty long time.

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00:40:06,000 --> 00:40:10,000

They're just a little bit skittish because a lot of them work for me with the technology.

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00:40:10,000 --> 00:40:14,000

The Egyptians are rightly protective of this fragile historic treasure.

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00:40:14,000 --> 00:40:18,000

Minutes turn to hours as we work with authorities to review our proposal.

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00:40:18,000 --> 00:40:25,000

So after a lot of talking and negotiating and begging, I think, is the word,

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00:40:25,000 --> 00:40:28,000

I think this might actually happen. So let's see. Here come our guys.

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00:40:28,000 --> 00:40:31,000

After a nerve-wracking wait, we finally get word.

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00:40:31,000 --> 00:40:33,000

We've been given the green light.

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00:40:33,000 --> 00:40:36,000

Museum personnel are brought in to open the case.

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00:40:42,000 --> 00:40:48,000

Now, after 3400 years, it's time to find out the truth about Queen Nefertiti.

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00:40:48,000 --> 00:41:06,000

Don't move because our after the hunt special is about to begin.

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00:41:06,000 --> 00:41:11,000

But first, here's a sneak peek at next week's conclusion to our Egypt expedition.

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00:41:13,000 --> 00:41:14,000

It's just awesome.

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00:41:14,000 --> 00:41:17,000

On the next expedition unknown.

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00:41:18,000 --> 00:41:22,000

I dive into the hunt for the legendary Cleopatra.

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00:41:22,000 --> 00:41:27,000

Look at that. An actual sphinx sitting on the ocean floor.

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00:41:27,000 --> 00:41:32,000

And open a lost tomb that could belong to the Queen of the Nile herself.

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00:41:32,000 --> 00:41:34,000

Oh my word.

815

00:41:34,000 --> 00:41:38,000

And then the conclusion of our groundbreaking experiment.

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00:41:38,000 --> 00:41:40,000

That is incredible.

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00:41:40,000 --> 00:41:43,000

Our digital imaging and forensic reconstruction are complete.

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00:41:43,000 --> 00:41:47,000

And the world will see a historic mummy brought back to life.

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00:41:47,000 --> 00:41:49,000

Are you ready to see the final result?

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00:41:49,000 --> 00:41:50,000

This is it.

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00:41:50,000 --> 00:41:51,000

The moment of truth.

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00:41:51,000 --> 00:41:54,000

One, two, three.

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00:41:54,000 --> 00:41:56,000

Oh wow.

824

00:41:56,000 --> 00:42:00,000

Next time on Expedition Unknown.