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

Few modern people fear the power of ancient curses in hexes.

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

There are others who believe a deadly curse has been released on the world as recently as the 1920s.

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

A curse that could make even skeptics think twice.

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

An ancient tomb holds a huge treasure.

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

An unbelievable wealth allegedly protected by an unknown evil.

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

One by one, many of those who have disturbed the crypt have died mysteriously.

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

Could it be a deadly hex?

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

This is the story of the curse of Tutankhamen.

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00:01:00,000 --> 00:01:01,580

The

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00:01:01,580 --> 00:01:03,000

The

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00:01:03,000 --> 00:01:05,000

The

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00:01:05,000 --> 00:01:07,000

The

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00:01:07,000 --> 00:01:09,000

The

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00:01:09,000 --> 00:01:11,000

The

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00:01:11,000 --> 00:01:13,000

The

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00:01:13,000 --> 00:01:15,000

The

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00:01:15,000 --> 00:01:17,000

The

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00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:19,000

The

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The

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00:01:22,000 --> 00:01:29,000

On the banks of the Nile, the body of a boy king lies dead, wrapped in cloth and mysteriously sealed underground.

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00:01:31,000 --> 00:01:32,000

Boy?

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00:01:33,000 --> 00:01:38,000

An Egyptian pharaoh entombed with a priceless fortune some 3,000 years ago.

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00:01:38,000 --> 00:01:45,000

1,500 years before the birth of Christ, kings of Egypt known as pharaohs were buried in the Valley of the Kings.

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00:01:45,000 --> 00:01:50,000

A land riddled with age-old mysteries that continue to fascinate us to this day.

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00:01:55,000 --> 00:01:57,000

This is the Valley of Death.

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00:01:57,000 --> 00:02:00,000

Chiseled out of the rock is the world's greatest mausoleum.

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00:02:03,000 --> 00:02:06,000

The old saying goes, you can't take it with you.

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00:02:07,000 --> 00:02:10,000

But the kings of ancient Egypt certainly tried to find a way.

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00:02:10,000 --> 00:02:15,000

Each king was buried with priceless treasures of ivory, ebony and gold.

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00:02:17,000 --> 00:02:21,000

But each tomb was hidden under thousands of years of sandstorms and erosion.

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00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:27,000

For archaeologists, the Valley of the Kings is still the richest place on earth.

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00:02:27,000 --> 00:02:34,000

But before the 1920s, they believed that it had already been picked clean by centuries of thieves and collectors.

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00:02:37,000 --> 00:02:39,000

But they were wrong.

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00:02:41,000 --> 00:02:44,000

At 9 years old, he took the throne and a wife.

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

By the age of 18, he was dead.

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00:02:47,000 --> 00:02:51,000

3,000 years later, only a handful of people knew the name.

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00:02:51,000 --> 00:02:53,000

Tutankhamen.

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00:02:55,000 --> 00:02:58,000

One was an unknown archaeologist named Howard Carter.

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00:02:58,000 --> 00:03:05,000

Another, his financial backer, the fifth Earl of Carnarvon, George Edward Stanhope Herbert.

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00:03:10,000 --> 00:03:16,000

A little known digger and wealthy English lord were an odd couple to pursue ancient wealth.

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00:03:16,000 --> 00:03:23,000

But unlike those who had tried and failed before him, Carter carefully and methodically plotted out the Valley of the Kings inch by inch and set out to excavate.

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00:03:23,000 --> 00:03:26,000

But he found only disappointment.

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00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:33,000

So in December of 1921, Carnarvon summoned Carter to High Clear Castle.

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00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:38,000

He told Mr. Carter that he could no longer afford to pay for this useless digging.

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00:03:38,000 --> 00:03:43,000

But Carter begged Carnarvon to pay for just a few more months of excavating.

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00:03:43,000 --> 00:03:47,000

He agreed, but made it clear this would be the last trip.

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00:03:49,000 --> 00:03:56,000

On the third day of the final dig, workers uncovered stone steps leading to a hidden doorway stamped with an ancient seal.

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

The first day of the dig was the day of the first dig.

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00:03:59,000 --> 00:04:07,000

On the third day of the final dig, workers uncovered stone steps leading to a hidden doorway stamped with an ancient seal.

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00:04:10,000 --> 00:04:12,000

It was the mark of royalty.

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00:04:16,000 --> 00:04:19,000

Carter sent for Lord Carnarvon right away.

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00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:26,000

On the evening of November 26, 1922, they opened the tomb of King Tut and according to legend,

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

released the mummy's curse.

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00:04:33,000 --> 00:04:40,000

An English Lord and his daughter, along with an archaeologist and his assistant stood on the threshold of the richest find in history.

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00:04:44,000 --> 00:04:49,000

Carter peered into the gloom on the other side of the wall for what seemed like an eternity.

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00:04:49,000 --> 00:04:51,000

It's too dark.

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00:04:51,000 --> 00:04:54,000

It's definitely a dark night.

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00:04:54,000 --> 00:04:58,000

At last, Carnarvon whispered,

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

Can you see anything?

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

Yes, Carter replied.

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

Wonderful things.

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00:05:10,000 --> 00:05:14,000

There's never been a pharaoh found in any way, almost intact.

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

We're talking about things that you look at now.

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00:05:16,000 --> 00:05:21,000

You cannot believe that these are the thousands of years old that they are.

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00:05:21,000 --> 00:05:23,000

It's awesome.

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00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:32,000

The smallest explorer, Lady Evelyn Herbert, daughter of Lord Carnarvon, led the way inside.

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00:05:32,000 --> 00:05:37,000

Three men, one woman, and somewhere, a dead king.

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00:05:40,000 --> 00:05:42,000

It's dark.

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00:05:42,000 --> 00:05:48,000

You're in there, the first person in a thousand years to be inside the tomb of a person who had died.

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00:05:48,000 --> 00:05:53,000

There must have been a little of the old haunting, the hauntedness that comes with that.

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

The tomb of the boy king was the richest ever found.

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

Overnight, Carnarvon, Carter, and Tutankhamun became celebrities.

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00:06:13,000 --> 00:06:18,000

They felt, I mean, just total triumph victory.

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00:06:18,000 --> 00:06:23,000

And they'd been laughed at, they'd been mocked.

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00:06:23,000 --> 00:06:28,000

They'd been kind of a whispering campaign of lost their marbles, you know.

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

And here they have it.

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00:06:31,000 --> 00:06:37,000

But Lord Carnarvon would have precious little time to enjoy his newfound fame and fortune.

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00:06:38,000 --> 00:06:44,000

One morning, in the spring of 1923, Lord Carnarvon cut himself.

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00:06:44,000 --> 00:06:49,000

Exactly where a mosquito bit him, days before.

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00:06:52,000 --> 00:06:56,000

The wound wouldn't heal. Carnarvon was wracked with fever.

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00:06:56,000 --> 00:07:01,000

As fever turned chills, Carnarvon's wife summoned a specialist to Cairo.

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00:07:01,000 --> 00:07:04,000

But Carnarvon was beyond help.

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00:07:05,000 --> 00:07:08,000

And at the very moment that he died,

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00:07:10,000 --> 00:07:14,000

all the lights suddenly went out in Cairo.

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00:07:17,000 --> 00:07:21,000

Carnarvon's body was barely cold when the world's press named the culprit.

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00:07:21,000 --> 00:07:26,000

Inscribed within the tomb, wrote one reporter, was a curse that warned,

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00:07:26,000 --> 00:07:30,000

I will kill all those who cross this threshold.

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00:07:30,000 --> 00:07:38,000

Another paper reported, they who enter this sacred tomb shall swift be visited by wings of death.

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00:07:39,000 --> 00:07:45,000

For Carnarvon, death indeed came on wings, the wings of a mosquito.

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00:07:51,000 --> 00:07:54,000

So began the legend of the mummy's curse.

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00:07:55,000 --> 00:08:00,000

Some say that supposedly it continues even today, but scientists aren't so sure.

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00:08:00,000 --> 00:08:04,000

Come along as we investigate the source of the mummy's curse.

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00:08:07,000 --> 00:08:09,000

Which with their scare returns.

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00:08:14,000 --> 00:08:19,000

Was there really a deadly spell cast thousands of years ago on the tomb of Chudankhamen?

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00:08:20,000 --> 00:08:24,000

The tomb of King Tut has reportedly claimed lives of many victims.

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00:08:24,000 --> 00:08:29,000

To this day skeptics wonder if there is some truth to the lethal hex.

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00:08:29,000 --> 00:08:34,000

But in 1922, Howard Carter shrugged off the curse and went back to work.

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

Perhaps easier said than done.

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00:08:41,000 --> 00:08:45,000

Almost immediately, wealthy travelers fascinated by Tut's treasures

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00:08:45,000 --> 00:08:49,000

and unafraid of his curse, descended on his tomb.

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00:08:50,000 --> 00:08:57,000

One of the few allowed inside was the railroad tycoon, George J. Gould, guided by Carter himself.

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00:09:01,000 --> 00:09:05,000

First private tour, Gould paid a heavy price.

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

That night he came down with a fever.

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00:09:11,000 --> 00:09:13,000

The next day, he died.

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00:09:16,000 --> 00:09:21,000

Around the same time, a British industrialist suffered the same fate.

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00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:27,000

But were they really victims of a curse?

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00:09:27,000 --> 00:09:31,000

Or was there a more logical reason behind their deaths?

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00:09:31,000 --> 00:09:39,000

I received a call from a physician and he told me this very interesting and very unfortunate story about a woman

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00:09:39,000 --> 00:09:47,000

who had gone with her husband to Egypt and had gone into the tomb of King Tut.

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00:09:47,000 --> 00:09:51,000

And it turned out that she had picked up a fungus.

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00:09:51,000 --> 00:09:56,000

That woman was Cheryl Munson, a part-time art student and housewife.

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00:09:56,000 --> 00:10:00,000

Cheryl died shortly after visiting the tomb in 1995.

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00:10:01,000 --> 00:10:07,000

The cause, apparently, was exposure to a fungus called *aspergillus nigr*.

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00:10:07,000 --> 00:10:14,000

So what we had to find out was whether these molds were also present in the tombs that she visited.

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00:10:15,000 --> 00:10:19,000

And so we called the Egyptology Department at the University of Pennsylvania.

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00:10:19,000 --> 00:10:23,000

So they were wondering if this had anything to do with the curse.

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00:10:27,000 --> 00:10:28,000

It had.

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00:10:30,000 --> 00:10:35,000

In 1923, two men died suddenly after visiting Tut's tomb.

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00:10:35,000 --> 00:10:40,000

What doctors chalked up to a fever was reported as Tut's Curse.

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00:10:43,000 --> 00:10:45,000

Two more sudden deaths followed.

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00:10:45,000 --> 00:10:52,000

Pecky Callender, who helped Carter break into the tomb, and Arthur Mace, who helped to remove its contents.

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00:10:53,000 --> 00:10:57,000

Possibly, the true killer lurked on the very walls of the tomb.

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00:10:57,000 --> 00:11:02,000

To Howard Carter, it looked like chipped paint until he looked closer.

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00:11:03,000 --> 00:11:06,000

Then he realized it was some sort of fungus.

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00:11:07,000 --> 00:11:12,000

I think by connecting Howard Case, which is a modern-day case, to the visit and the tombs itself,

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00:11:12,000 --> 00:11:18,000

we were able to have a direct link to what might have happened to the archaeologists who had visited some time ago.

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00:11:18,000 --> 00:11:25,000

And I am rather confident that in at least some of these cases, aspergillus could have easily played a role.

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00:11:27,000 --> 00:11:30,000

This is really such a well-preserved mask.

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00:11:30,000 --> 00:11:34,000

You can see these copper eyelashes around these stone eyes here.

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00:11:36,000 --> 00:11:43,000

Dr. Rosalie David is the Queen of Mummies, a curator for Egyptology for England's Manchester University Museum.

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00:11:43,000 --> 00:11:47,000

She's examined 35 mummies, more than anyone else.

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00:11:47,000 --> 00:11:52,000

Working with a mummy can be hazardous, both for the operator and for the mummy,

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00:11:52,000 --> 00:11:57,000

because the operator could breathe in spores from the mummy dust.

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00:11:57,000 --> 00:12:08,000

And in reverse, the operator could deposit bacteria or moisture onto the surface of the mummy, thus causing decomposition.

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00:12:09,000 --> 00:12:13,000

Though dead for thousands of years, a mummy is alive with germs and bacteria.

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00:12:13,000 --> 00:12:17,000

Some harmless, some deadly.

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00:12:19,000 --> 00:12:23,000

We wear protective clothing when we work with the mummies,

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00:12:23,000 --> 00:12:26,000

and this protects us against the fungal spores.

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00:12:26,000 --> 00:12:32,000

Rosalie David believes she knows the true fate of those who disturb the bones of Tutankhamun.

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00:12:32,000 --> 00:12:36,000

Their crude autopsy freed an invisible killer.

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00:12:38,000 --> 00:12:42,000

In the old days, the operators didn't wear protective clothing.

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00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:47,000

They could have unknowingly unleashed airborne toxins when the tomb was opened.

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00:12:54,000 --> 00:12:57,000

If a little fungus caused all of this destruction,

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00:12:57,000 --> 00:13:02,000

why are the ancestors of Lord Carnarvon still filled with the case of the jitters?

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00:13:05,000 --> 00:13:08,000

Find out when we return to Truth or Scare.

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00:13:11,000 --> 00:13:17,000

Since the burial of King Tut, the so-called Curse of the Mummy has traveled across the centuries.

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00:13:17,000 --> 00:13:21,000

By 1929, 13 people were dead.

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00:13:21,000 --> 00:13:28,000

Anything remotely connected with the tomb of Tutankhamun seems to have left death and destruction in its path.

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00:13:36,000 --> 00:13:42,000

The man who found Tut's tomb, Howard Carter, was among the few to escape its curse.

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00:13:42,000 --> 00:13:44,000

Almost.

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00:13:44,000 --> 00:13:47,000

His good friend Carnarvon is dead.

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00:13:47,000 --> 00:13:50,000

He is under huge pressure from the Egyptians.

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

He's under enormous pressure from the press that didn't get the story.

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00:13:55,000 --> 00:13:58,000

He has a tiny little space to work in.

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00:13:58,000 --> 00:14:00,000

He's going crazy.

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00:14:00,000 --> 00:14:04,000

Howard Carter just gets to the point where he can't take it any longer.

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00:14:04,000 --> 00:14:06,000

And he cracked.

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00:14:06,000 --> 00:14:11,000

He did this rash act of putting this enormous iron gate and locking it.

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

It was the English takeover of something that the people of Egypt owned, which was true.

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

And they went crazy and they threw him out.

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00:14:21,000 --> 00:14:28,000

After a year's suspension, Howard Carter was allowed back to the tomb.

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00:14:28,000 --> 00:14:32,000

But he was forced to forever surrender his claim to Tut's treasure.

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00:14:32,000 --> 00:14:37,000

So he spent the rest of his life cataloging Tut's priceless treasures.

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00:14:37,000 --> 00:14:40,000

The treasures that he found but could never own.

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00:14:40,000 --> 00:14:43,000

Perhaps his was the worst curse of all.

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00:14:43,000 --> 00:14:47,000

Howard Carter hoped to put an end to the so-called mummy's curse.

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00:14:47,000 --> 00:14:53,000

Before his death in 1939, he arranged for the young king's remains to be returned to his tomb.

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00:14:53,000 --> 00:14:56,000

But Tut wouldn't rest in peace.

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

In a chain reaction of tragedy, his curse claimed five more victims in quick succession.

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00:15:06,000 --> 00:15:10,000

First, Lady Carnarvon died suddenly and strangely of an accident.

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00:15:10,000 --> 00:15:16,000

Lady Carnarvon died suddenly and strangely of an insect bite, just like her husband.

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00:15:17,000 --> 00:15:25,000

Then, Richard Bytel, Lord Carnarvon's secretary, died mysteriously in his sleep, with no explanation.

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00:15:25,000 --> 00:15:31,000

Three months later, Bytel's father, Lord Westbury, leapt from a seventh floor window to his death.

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00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:37,000

He left a note blaming his son's death on the curse of King Tut.

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00:15:40,000 --> 00:15:45,000

On the way to the cemetery, Lord Westbury's hearst struck an eight-year-old boy.

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00:15:47,000 --> 00:15:53,000

At the exact moment the boy died, so did an Egyptologist at the British Museum.

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00:15:59,000 --> 00:16:06,000

Next, the treasures of Tutankhamen go on tour and the so-called curse invades the modern world.

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00:16:07,000 --> 00:16:11,000

Which with your scare returns.

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00:16:17,000 --> 00:16:21,000

Tutankhamen was buried with 5,000 priceless belongings.

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00:16:21,000 --> 00:16:26,000

His royal treasures were meant to join him on his journey to the afterlife.

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00:16:26,000 --> 00:16:30,000

Instead, they took a detour.

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00:16:37,000 --> 00:16:44,000

In the 1970s, Egypt bowed to popular demand and sent scores of Tut's relics on a world tour.

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00:16:47,000 --> 00:16:54,000

Among the sightseers, when the treasure reached London, was the first person to enter Tut's tomb, Lady Evelyn Herbert.

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00:16:54,000 --> 00:17:05,000

My mother had never seen the final sarcophagus because they hadn't reached that particular chamber before her father died.

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00:17:07,000 --> 00:17:16,000

At the time of the exhibition in London, the television and radio used to ring up my mother and say,

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00:17:16,000 --> 00:17:24,000

tell us about the curse, and she'd laugh and say, well, I'm alive and kicking at 70, and I don't believe in it.

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00:17:25,000 --> 00:17:40,000

And coming out of the museum, probably on her fifth visit, she had a major stroke and was paralyzed from then on.

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00:17:40,000 --> 00:17:44,000

But of course, it could easily have been a coincidence.

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00:17:47,000 --> 00:17:51,000

Some say these incidents were not caused by an evil hex at all.

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00:17:52,000 --> 00:18:00,000

Dr. David Silverman, a renowned Egyptologist, sought out another logical origin of Tut's curse.

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

In any of the inscriptions that occur in the tomb, there are none that can be considered a curse.

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00:18:05,000 --> 00:18:14,000

So what we would consider, or as an Egyptologist, I would consider an ancient Egyptian curse, does not occur in the tomb of King Tut.

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00:18:15,000 --> 00:18:21,000

It appears that the mummy's curse was accidentally created by its first victim.

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00:18:21,000 --> 00:18:28,000

When Lord Carnarvon gave exclusive coverage of Tut's tomb to the London Times, rival papers were furious.

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00:18:28,000 --> 00:18:34,000

At Carnarvon's death, they got even by printing rumors of a curse.

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00:18:36,000 --> 00:18:39,000

Even the weird events when Carnarvon died can be explained.

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00:18:40,000 --> 00:18:47,000

All the lights went out in Cairo when Carnarvon died. The lights always go out in Cairo at all times.

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00:18:47,000 --> 00:18:51,000

All of this stuff took off. It was just like anything today.

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00:18:51,000 --> 00:18:57,000

An outrageous series of half truths and some truths and some lies, some made up.

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00:18:59,000 --> 00:19:05,000

The son of Lord Carnarvon talked about how he doesn't really believe in the curse,

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00:19:05,000 --> 00:19:09,000

but he said there really isn't any way to explain a lot of what went on.

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

And that has kept the curse alive.

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00:19:15,000 --> 00:19:21,000

No matter how you try to kill it, it's like a phoenix. It resurfaces over and over again.

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00:19:21,000 --> 00:19:26,000

But then again, no matter how much we hear that there isn't a Loch Ness monster,

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00:19:26,000 --> 00:19:32,000

or that there aren't any UFOs through logical means, we still believe in them, don't we?

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00:19:33,000 --> 00:19:38,000

It's marvelous human nature. We need this sort of stuff. We love it.

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00:19:38,000 --> 00:19:43,000

Even if I know it's all made up, I love it. I love the touchers.

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00:19:49,000 --> 00:19:53,000

The treasure of Tutankhamen now makes its home in the Cairo Museum

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00:19:53,000 --> 00:19:56,000

where untold numbers have gazed upon it in wonder.

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00:19:57,000 --> 00:20:03,000

But the mummy itself once again rests in its ancient home in the Valley of the Kings.

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00:20:05,000 --> 00:20:11,000

Once the least known pharaoh, he is now the most phoenix.

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00:20:17,000 --> 00:20:23,000

Tutankhamen, now a household name, has what all pharaohs wanted most.

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00:20:24,000 --> 00:20:29,000

He has gained immortality, only a name.

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00:20:29,000 --> 00:20:34,000

Ironically, this young Egyptian pharaoh owes his fame to the English nobleman,

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00:20:34,000 --> 00:20:38,000

who some 3,000 years later disturbed his tomb.

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00:20:38,000 --> 00:20:43,000

This is the same man who was believed to have unleashed a chain reaction of death.

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00:20:43,000 --> 00:20:49,000

But whether it was by exposing the world to a lethal mold, or by unlocking an ancient curse,

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00:20:49,000 --> 00:20:55,000

we will always be fascinated with the life and death of the boy king, known as Tutankhamen.