

## The Secrets Trilogy, Part Three: Nefertiti Rampant

The royal court remains in the Southern Capital after burying Prince Amenhotep's older brother. The city becomes no less a hotbed of intrigue and duplicity, but the royal family are removed from the worst of it in their gleaming new palace, with its lake for private yachting, on the West Bank preferred by the elder King, Pharaoh Amenhotep the third. He continues celebrating his long, prosperous and peaceful reign. His labors to keep the universe in balance by honoring all the Egyptian Gods finds expression in his continuing building program on the West Bank. The Royal families welcome new babies to love.

The "Young Court," Amenhotep the fourth and Nefertiti, holds forth on the East Bank of the Nile, where their daily lives and building program focuses on a single God, the Sun God Ra, new fashions, and new ways. Images of them carved in rock survive for thousands of years. Their royal palace nursery is filling up with sweet little girls.

Nefertiti is happy, relishing having it all. It's not too bad being a mom,

fashion and social leader. She has even designed her own crown. Her once fickle family members now revere her for the wealth and status she has brought them. But her husband's restless spirit always craves new directions, and the lack of a male heir haunts them.

With a bit of nudging from Queen Tiye, Ikaret has finally settled into a loving relationship with Ranofer, both putting past sorrows behind them. She continues to live in the royal estate of the late Queen. Her two children and their families return from the far ends of the kingdom to live near her.

Grandfather Yuya and his wife, Thuya, go to their reward in the afterlife following long lives. The town mourns sincerely - but is then excited by the arrival of the glittering procession and exotic entourage of the new foreign bride to Pharaoh, sexy young Kiya, sent all the way from Mittani. And exactly whose bride is she to be?

As innovators, Amenhotep IV and his devoted Nefertiti constantly encounter interference from the entrenched courtiers and priests,

especially those of the local God, Amun. As it approaches mutiny, they make a decision that rocks the kingdom.