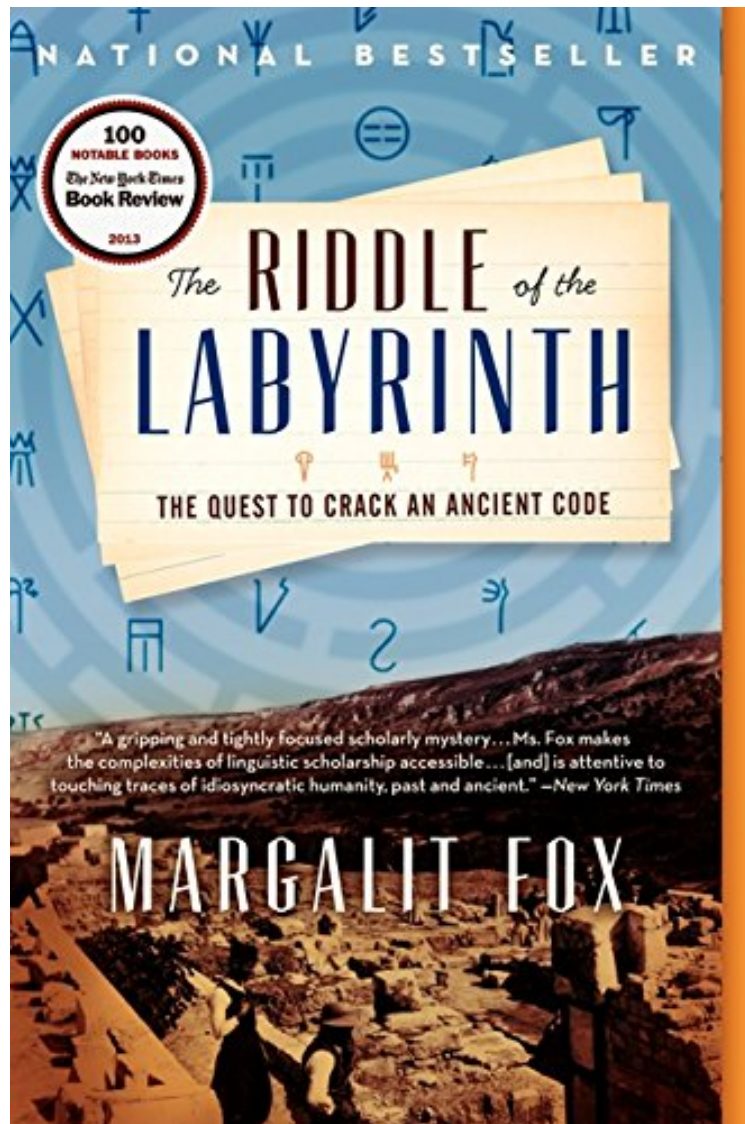


[Mobile ebook] The Riddle of the Labyrinth: The Quest to Crack an Ancient Code

The Riddle of the Labyrinth: The Quest to Crack an Ancient Code

Margalit Fox

ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#404865 in Books Margalit Fox 2014-04-15 2014-04-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .86 x 5.311, .65 #File Name: 0062228862384 pages The Riddle of the Labyrinth | File size: 31.Mb

Margalit Fox : The Riddle of the Labyrinth: The Quest to Crack an Ancient Code before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Riddle of the Labyrinth: The Quest to Crack an Ancient Code:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Detective Story By Bob Falls Looking for a great mystery for summer reading? How about this one?" At its center was a set of tablets, buried for almost three thousand years and first unearthed only at the dawn of the twentieth century. Dating from the second millennium BC, the tablets were inscribed

with a set of prehistoric symbols like no writing ever seen." "This is the true story of one of the most mesmerizing riddles in Western history and, in particular, of the unsung American woman who would have very likely have solved it had she only lived a little longer." The people who wrote on these tablets were not writing in code or trying to deceive others or us in the future. They kept records for each other and when we lost them as a people, we lost their language as well. This book tells the story of those people who dedicated themselves to solving the riddle of this language and establishing a connection with these people from three and four thousand years ago. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. chances are you will enjoy it. The decipherment of Egyptian Hieroglyphics was solvable ...By Vampa This is a book describing the decipherment of Linear B, a Bronze Age pre-Homeric script found originally on tablets in the Palace of Minos on Crete. If that is of interest to you, this book will reward. For me it was a quick and exciting read. If you are a Sherlock Holmes fan, chances are you will enjoy it. The decipherment of Egyptian Hieroglyphics was solvable once the Rosetta Stone was found, which contained a translation into Greek. However Linear B looking like stick figures or the runic alphabet, had no comparable Cliff Notes. But I also found the book an excellent guide for anyone interested in doing statistical research. The parallels between the two were uncanny. To decipher Linear B required pattern analysis, counting and frequency analysis before there were computers to make those tasks easier. We have computers to aid us now, but the process of creating a framework to do the research is the same: A lot of setup and then lots and lots of actual work. My only complaint is the author has an agenda of trying to give most credit to Alice Kober, the American who provided many of the necessary keys. However deserving Kober might have been, she published little and did not break the finish line tape. There is indeed a reason why we remember those who won gold medals, but not those who won silver. And there are some unnecessary copies of correspondence. But neither of my concerns would take away from the 5 stars this work deserves. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Better than fiction By Bargainhunter I discovered this amazing book from a New York Times book review, then read the sampler prologue. Hooked right from the start - and the rest of the book did not disappoint. Brilliantly, clearly written and accessible to a wide range of ages and tastes, this story is thrilling, intriguing, heartrendering and just a great read. Writer make a truly complex historical puzzle clear as she links history, language, real people from both today and 3,000 years ago come to life on the page.

In the tradition of Simon Winchester and Dava Sobel, *The Riddle of the Labyrinth: The Quest to Crack an Ancient Code* tells one of the most intriguing stories in the history of language, masterfully blending history, linguistics, and cryptology with an elegantly wrought narrative. When famed archaeologist Arthur Evans unearthed the ruins of a sophisticated Bronze Age civilization that flowered on Crete 1,000 years before Greece's Classical Age, he discovered a cache of ancient tablets, Europe's earliest written records. For half a century, the meaning of the inscriptions, and even the language in which they were written, would remain a mystery. Award-winning New York Times journalist Margalit Fox's riveting real-life intellectual detective story travels from the Bronze Age Aegean the era of Odysseus, Agamemnon, and Helen to the turn of the 20th century and the work of charismatic English archeologist Arthur Evans, to the colorful personal stories of the decipherers. These include Michael Ventris, the brilliant amateur who deciphered the script but met with a sudden, mysterious death that may have been a direct consequence of the decipherment; and Alice Kober, the unsung heroine of the story whose painstaking work allowed Ventris to crack the code.

From Booklist *Starred* Discovered on ancient clay tablets in Crete in 1900 and deciphered half a century later, Linear B is the oldest known dialect of the Greek language, dating from about 1450 BCE. The story of its discovery by British archaeologist Arthur Evans and decipherment by British architect Michael Ventris is often told, but what is less frequently documented is the story of the American woman, Alice Kober, who laid much of the groundwork for the decipherment and who might have cracked the code herself, if she had not died in her early forties. Focusing on Kobers efforts to tease meaning out of the strange, hitherto unknown symbols, Fox tells the story behind the story. Yes, Ventris made some brilliant deductive leaps, but without Kobers years of painstaking work, those leaps could not have happened. You might think a book about trying to decipher a 3,000-year-old language wouldnt be particularly exciting, but in this case youd be wrong. Fox is a talented storyteller, and she creates an atmosphere of almost nail-biting suspense. We know the code was eventually cracked, but while were reading the book, were on the edge of our seats. This one deserves shelf space alongside such classics in the literature of decryption as Simon Singhs *The Code Book* (1999). --David Pitt Fox is a talented storyteller, and she creates an atmosphere of almost nail-biting suspense. . . . This one deserves shelf space along such classics of the genre as Simon Singhs *The Code Book*. (Booklist (starred review)) A fascinating yarn centered around an unlikely heroine. . . . Foxs deft explanations of the script-solving process allow readers to share in the mental detective work of cracking the lost language. (Publishers Weekly) Fox recreates the emergence of one of history's most vexing puzzles and then puts readers alongside the remarkable figures who, brilliantly, obsessively, and even tragically, devoted their lives to solving it. Forget the Da Vinci Code. This is the real thing. (Toby Lester, author of *Da Vinci's Ghost*) Margalit Fox describes the decipherment of Linear B in such lucid detail that any reader can follow the steps and participate in the thrill of discovery. (Stephen Mitchell, translator of *Gilgamesh* and the *Iliad*) Foxs achievement here is to make this fascinating tale accessible to a broader audience.

(Washington Post) a nail-biting intellectual and cultural adventure. (The Times UK)Deft, sharply written Foxs account runs with the pace and tension of a detective story - and has much to say about language and writing systems along the way. (The Guardian UK)[Fox] has cracked it, fashioning an intellectual puzzle into an engrossing detective story of driven personalities, hidden clues, perseverance and intuition. In the process, she has uncovered a remarkable woman who had been buried by history. (Sunday Times UK)As with any good detective story, theres a driving narrative behind the puzzle, peopled by solitary sleuths. (The Guardian US)From the Back CoverThe Riddle of the Labyrinth is the true story of the quest to solve one of the most mesmerizing linguistic riddles in history and of the three brilliant, obsessed, and ultimately doomed investigators whose combined work would eventually crack the code. An awardwinning journalist trained as a linguist, Margalit Fox not only takes readers step-by-step through the forensic process involved in cracking an ancient secret code, she restores one of the primary investigators, Alice Kober, to her rightful place in what is one of the most remarkable intellectual detective stories of all time.