THE EARL AND THE PHARAOH

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From the Real Downton Abbey to the Discovery of Tutankhamun

THE COUNTESS OF CARNARVON



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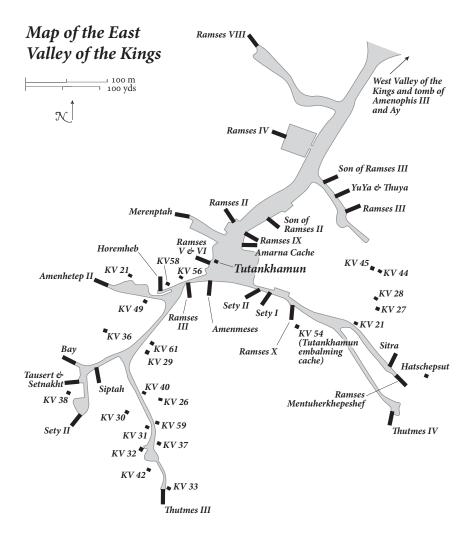
Map and family tree by Martin Brown

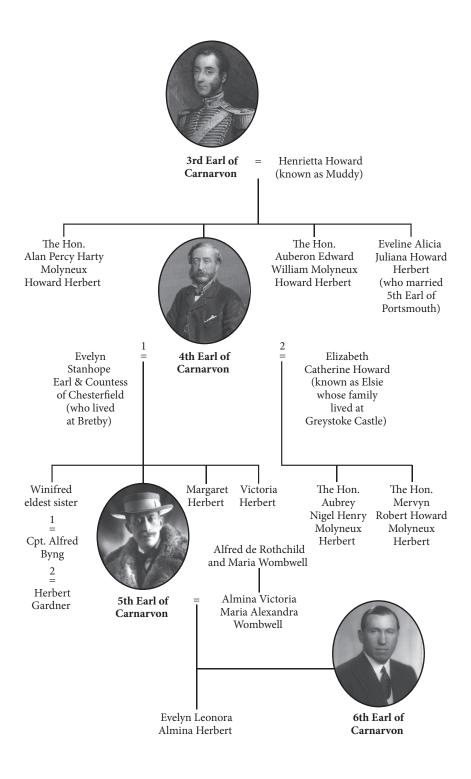
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Writing is a peculiarly solitary endeavour. Where I write is a beautiful room high up on the third floor of the castle. It is called 'Orient' and is painted in the strong yellow colours of Egypt, whilst an old CD player keeps me company during long evenings usually with Mozart, Bach or similar. Various people, however, have thankfully entered my world to help in writing this book.

Smiles (Susannah de Ferry Foster) was a tremendous aid with detailed research into the 5th Earl's passion for horse racing and motor cars, as well as returning to fact check during long evenings. Sally Popplewell helped once more to edit, smooth and remove repetition, and fortunately had a good working knowledge of Egyptology, whilst David Rymill (Highclere's archivist) investigated various archive sources for me. Much of this book reflects first source research. My husband contributed throughout, correcting and encouraging, whilst my son Eddie read the opening chapter and said he could not wait to read more.

As ever I owe a huge thank you to everyone at Highclere. Researching and telling this story has been a challenging effort and as ever it is an emotional and mentally demanding journey. I am so grateful for their support – John Gundill, Luis Coelho and Charlotte Sheridan all picked up some of my other work whilst I wrote. Hannah Gutteridge is always offering help to promote the book. Thank you to all.

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Through a very special friend, Karen Hambro, I spoke with Charlie Redmayne at HarperCollins who introduced me to Arabella Pike and her team, who have all believed in this project and book. Thank you all very much.

Karen, this book is also for you.

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