



WEAVING FATE ANEW

## CURSE FROM THE PAST – DETAILED SOLUTION

*Would you like to know more about the historical background and connections in UNDO - Curse from the Past? Below are details for all of your decision options for each of the Story cards in the case.*

### A REMINDER: WHAT TRULY HAPPENED

Everything started in Ancient Egypt. A young, beautiful woman became not only Pharaoh Akhenaten's main wife, but also his queen. In modern times she became known as Nefertiti and gained public interest through a well-made bust. It was found by a German team of archeologists in 1912.

When the bust was first presented to the public in 1924, a young man from Berlin fell in love with the piece of art. Decades later he was still so obsessed with it that he constantly compared his daughter, Renate, with the queen. This shaped and arrested his daughter's development in life. This is why she decided to destroy the bust with an axe after her father's death.

Standing at her father's fresh grave, she told her mother about her plans. Then she drove to Berlin to check the security measures to plan the destruction of the antique bust.

On the evening before her deed, her mother visited Renate in her hotel in Berlin to talk her out of the planned crime. After all, the bust was invaluable, and its destruction would not make up for her father's lack of love for her.

As the argument escalated, they moved out on the balcony and in the heat of the argument, her mother fell over the railing.



## DETAILS FOR ALL DECISION OPTIONS

### 1: Thebes, Upper Egypt, 1355 B.C., early evening

- A: If Akhenaten had made his plain-looking servant his main wife instead of Nefertiti, the bust created later would not have been as overwhelmingly beautiful as it would have been for Nefertiti. And for this reason, Renate's father may not have fallen in love with the bust. (+1)
- B: This is what actually happened. Akhenaten gave the still unknown Nefertiti a chance. A short time later, she became his main wife. (0)
- C: Had Akhenaten never married, there would never have been a bust or any other outstanding artwork of his queen. (+2)

### 2: Memphis, Lower Egypt, 1354 B.C., in the morning

- A: This is what actually happened. A few years later Nefertiti became co-regent. (0)
- B: If Akhenaten had been poisoned, Akhenaten and Nefertiti would never have become as important as the rulers and leaders of the Aton cult. (+1)
- C: If Akhenaten had made her co-regent as such an early stage, Nefertiti's influence and reputation would have been much greater. (-2)

### 3: Akhetaton, Central Egypt, 1340 B.C., daytime

- A: An abstract depiction would not have led to such fascination for the bust. Renate's life would have been much easier. (+2)
- B: A representation of the Pharaoh Nefertiti at a young age would have strengthened the attraction of the bust. This would have increased the pressure on Renate to be even more like Nefertiti. (-1)
- C: This is what actually happened. Thutmose created a bust that showed Nefertiti the way she really was. And since Nefertiti was very beautiful, her bust was very beautiful as well. (0)



#### **4: Akhetaton, Central Egypt, 1336 B.C., nighttime**

- A:** A traitor in their midst could have prevented the assassination. Akhenaten and Nefertiti would have ruled even longer and would have become even more significant. (-1)
- B:** Destruction of all of the monuments would have included Nefertiti's bust. (+1)
- C:** This is what actually happened - at least here in our story. There is no record of how Akhenaten and Nefertiti died. Therefore, we have allowed ourselves the liberty of letting them fall victim to assassination. (0)

#### **5: Cairo, Egypt, January 20, 1913, 10:38 am**

- A:** This is what actually happened. The so-called division of the find was a regulation that stipulated that all archaeological finds be divided in half between the country where the excavation took place and the country that carried out the excavation. The larger part of the find remained in Egypt and the smaller part, including the bust, went to Berlin. (0)
- B:** The bust would not have been sent to Berlin if the excavation leader had spirited it away. If so, Renate's father would never have seen the bust at a young age and become obsessed with it. (+1)
- C:** The bust would have remained in Egypt if Ludwig Borchardt has assigned it to the larger half of the find (See B above). (+1)

#### **6: Berlin, Germany, October 19, 1924, 4:02 pm**

- A:** Had the boy admitted to falling in love with the bust, it would have been an admission to himself as well. It would have strengthened his later obsession with Nefertiti. (-1)
- B:** This is what actually happened. As a teenager, Renate's father fell in love with the bust of Nefertiti. (0)
- C:** A negative experience like expulsion from the museum might have weakened his attachment to Nefertiti. (+1)



**7: Hamburg, Germany, September 27, 1954, 7:44 am**

- A:** Allowing his daughter to stay home for the day would have been a small concession from her father. And it might have given him insight into his obsession, which could have been taken as a caution not to overdo it. (+1)
- B:** Reading another story about Nefertiti would have forced little Renate to try and be like Nefertiti even more. (-1)
- C:** This is what actually happened. Her father prevailed and took Renate to school. Her father's constant comparisons of her to Nefertiti depressed Renate very much. (0)

**8: Hamburg, Germany, May 4, 1976, 6:18 pm**

- A:** The excuse that he meant her mother and not Nefertiti would not have been very convincing. At least it would have shown Renate that her father understood how much Nefertiti had influenced her life. (+1)
- B:** This is what actually happened. The father was unmoved and poured himself another drink. He showed no insight, but at least he listened to his daughter. (0)
- C:** Calling his daughter "my little queen" in response would have provoked Renate even more as it demonstrated her father had not changed and never would. (-1)

**9: Hamburg, Germany, January 21, 1994, 11:51 am**

- A:** This is what actually happened. Renate advised her mother of her plan to destroy Nefertiti's bust. For this reason, her mother went to Berlin a week later to try to dissuade her from her plan. (0)
- B:** Damaging her father's grave would have strained the relationship between mother and daughter and would have made a fight between the two more likely. (-1)
- C:** If Renate had not told her mother about her plan, her mother would probably have not come to her hotel in Berlin. (+1)



**10: Berlin, Germany, January 22, 1994, 2:27 pm**

- A:** An enthusiastic visitor admiring the bust would have strengthened Renate's resolve to carry out her plan. (-1)
- B:** If the police had arrested and held Renate when she was planning her act, she might have realized that the act would have only had a negative effect on her already difficult life and that it would not make up for her father's lack of love for her. (+2)
- C:** This is what actually happened. Renate examined the museum's security precautions to help carry out her plan to destroy the bust. (0)

**11: Berlin, Germany, January 29, 1994, 7:59 pm**

- A:** This is what actually happened. Renate let her mother come in. In short order their dispute broke out into a physical fight, which led to her mother falling off the balcony into the depths below. (0)
- B:** The open door to the neighboring room may have led Renate's mother to use it for access to the neighboring room's balcony so she could climb over to Renate's room to dissuade her from her plan. But in the process, it may have also led to her falling from the balcony to the depths below. (-1)
- C:** Being accompanied by a hotel employee might have kept the dispute from becoming physical. Or the employee might have rushed over to help Renate's mother on the balcony. (+1)

## CREDITS

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