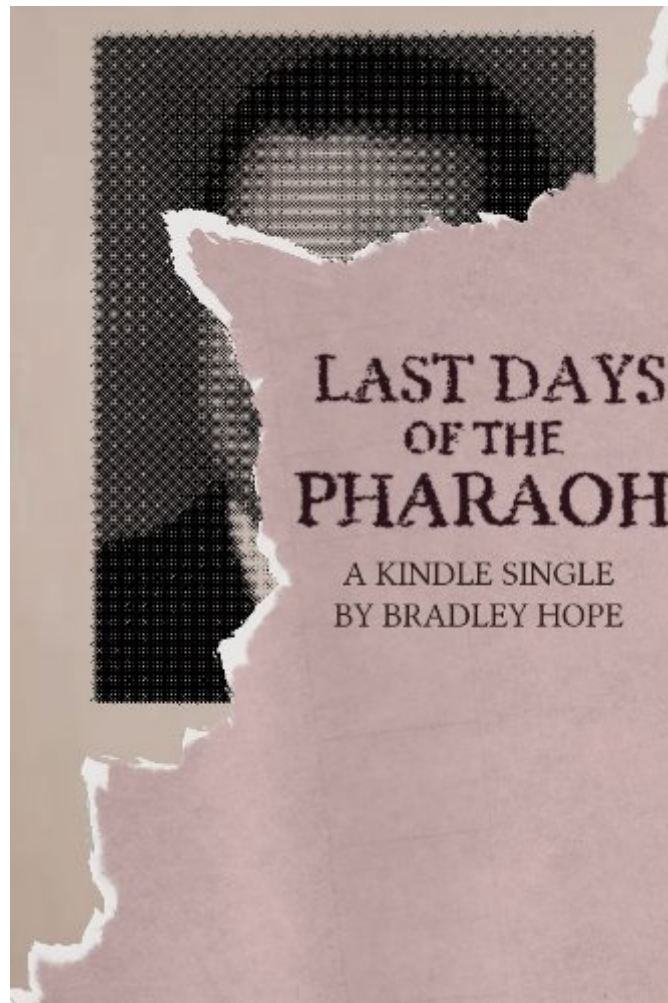




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Last Days Of The Pharaoh (Kindle Single)



Synopsis

Two days before the collapse of Hosni Mubarak's regime in Egypt, one man gathered the courage to tell the president the truth: he would be killed in his palace if he did not step down. What came next revealed the bitter power struggles atop the most populous country in the Middle East at its most vulnerable moment in six decades. But it was too late. As street protests swelled into the hundreds of thousands across the country, decision-making at the highest levels broke down and Mubarak fled to the resort city of Sharm el Sheikh. This is the inside story of the final days of Egypt's modern day pharaoh, who ruled with near autocratic powers for three decades before being forced to resign on February 11, 2011. Cairo-based journalist Bradley Hope interviewed more than two dozen eyewitnesses, from current and former officials to Mubarak's long-time make-up artist, to tell the dramatic story of the president's downfall.

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Customer Reviews

The last days of the Mubarak rule were succinctly stated through "Last Days of the Pharaoh". What the media told us was superficial compared to this detailed account. Like the Pharaohs of old Mubarak and his advisors tried vainly to avoid the loss of power. (And it seems the struggles continue to this day.)

It was well written meaning good spelling etc. The title caught my eye. It is a good report on the recent happenings in Egypt and how Mubarak's reign ended. I remember Sadat's death and the Pharaohish suspicions surrounding it at that time. The death of Mubarak's little grandson sounded very Pharaohish and sad at the same time. It seems to be a reference work and I'm glad I read it.

If 'history is written by the victors', then reading Bradley Hope's evocative and panoramic depiction of the final doomed days of Mubarak in his 'bunker' brings to mind these lines by the great Russian futurist poet Vvedensky: 'Do not deliver him a horse Because alas he is a corpse Don't call him names and make him cry Don't come and poke him in the eye' Hope does not poke Mubarak in the eye. But *Last Days* is not a wistful apologia. Nor is the work shackled with the deadening sense of the inevitable that sometimes accompanies such accounts. We all know how the Egyptian president turned out in the end, yet I remained in thrall to the racing story, at every turn Quixotically thinking: maybe he will see sense and save himself! Of course, he does no such thing, but it is a testament to Hope's rollercoaster writing style that we follow the plot as if it were unfolding 'in real time'. Hope is an intrepid Middle East correspondent of the 'old school', whose keen eye for sourcing and Pasolini-like affinity for the 'common man' bring us face to face as much with Mubarak's elite inner circle as his proletarian makeup artist. There is much dark humour, poignancy and empathy in this account of the downfall of Egypt's 'Godfather' figure. 'Last Days' is by no means perfect, however. Sometimes, Hope's journalistic instincts privilege plot and pacing over analysis. For example, I would have loved to see a more fleshed-out assessment of the intriguing parallels between Mubarak and Romania's Ceausescu. A wider geopolitical focus might also have helped to put the Egyptian events into a wider context: where were Russia and the US as Mubarak floundered? At what point did Obama decide to throw his old ally under the bus? What was Israel thinking as all this was happening? What about the Palestinians and the Sinai? Perhaps Hope can revisit these themes for the book-length version. Such minor pedantic quibbles aside, if you've been overwhelmed by the frenetic news coverage of Tahrir Square and feel that now it's too late to understand what happened, *Last Days* is an excellent place to start.

This short monograph couples substance with conciseness. It is sourced and reported by one of the most courageous reporters on the Middle East. It is a balanced nuanced account of the "you are there" type. I suspect some Egyptian revolutionaries will not like it, but that is to their loss. Other fair minded people should read it with interest. I strongly recommend it

While much has been reported about the Egyptian revolution, especially the events that took place at Tahrir Square, this book provides an intimate look inside the Mubarak regime during its last days in power. Hope does a great job of personalizing Mubarak and showing just how unaware he and his advisors were about the magnitude of the revolution. It's also quick-hitting, fun read. Bravo!

Hope delivers an excellently researched and written account of ex Egypt PM Hosni Mubarak's last days. Through his access to high level officials and corroboration with other accounts of the country's recent political upheaval, Hope's novel is a must-read for those who wish to fully understand what happened inside the hallowed walls of Cairo's political machine.

A look behind the scene during the last days of Mubarak's 30 years of rule over Egypt. It's a good story, and the author does a good job reporting. However, it seems to have been put together in a hurry, I found two obvious errors in the book. The author was quick to correct them after my email to him. It's an ebook release, so the author can make changes easily. Good read.

This book helped me partly understand the revolution and the politics that brought it on. Mubarak is not a bad man, only one that was kept in the dark by his advisors and therefore made some bad decisions late in his days in office. Easy read and quite insightful.

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