

“Take a look at this, Maisie!”
Josh had just made a pyramid
out of card. We were REALLY
interested in the pyramids.
Granddad said he had loads of
books about them in his study,
so we went to take
a look.



There was a lot of other
amazing stuff about
mummies in the book. As we
read, we thought we heard
noises of people talking and
some weird animal noises
coming from behind the
bookcase. Hmm ... very strange!



Through the space where the book had once been we
could see a small door at the back of
the book case. We cleared some more
books off the shelf. There was a key
in the lock. I reached through and
turned it. The noises became much
louder. Now we just HAD to go and
see what was going on ...



While we were
looking, a very
strange thing
happened. A book fell
out of the bookcase all
by itself. It was an old
book about—guess
what?—Ancient Egypt!

A page had come loose in
the fall. On it there was a
picture of a man. Not a
pharaoh, but one of his close
advisors, the Vizier of Egypt.
It turns out he was a crook: he
plotted to rob a pharaoh's tomb.

“Hey, look at you Maisie!”
“Where's your shirt gone
Josh?”. We giggled at one
another's outfits. That
chattering and bellowing
were now very close by.
Where were we?



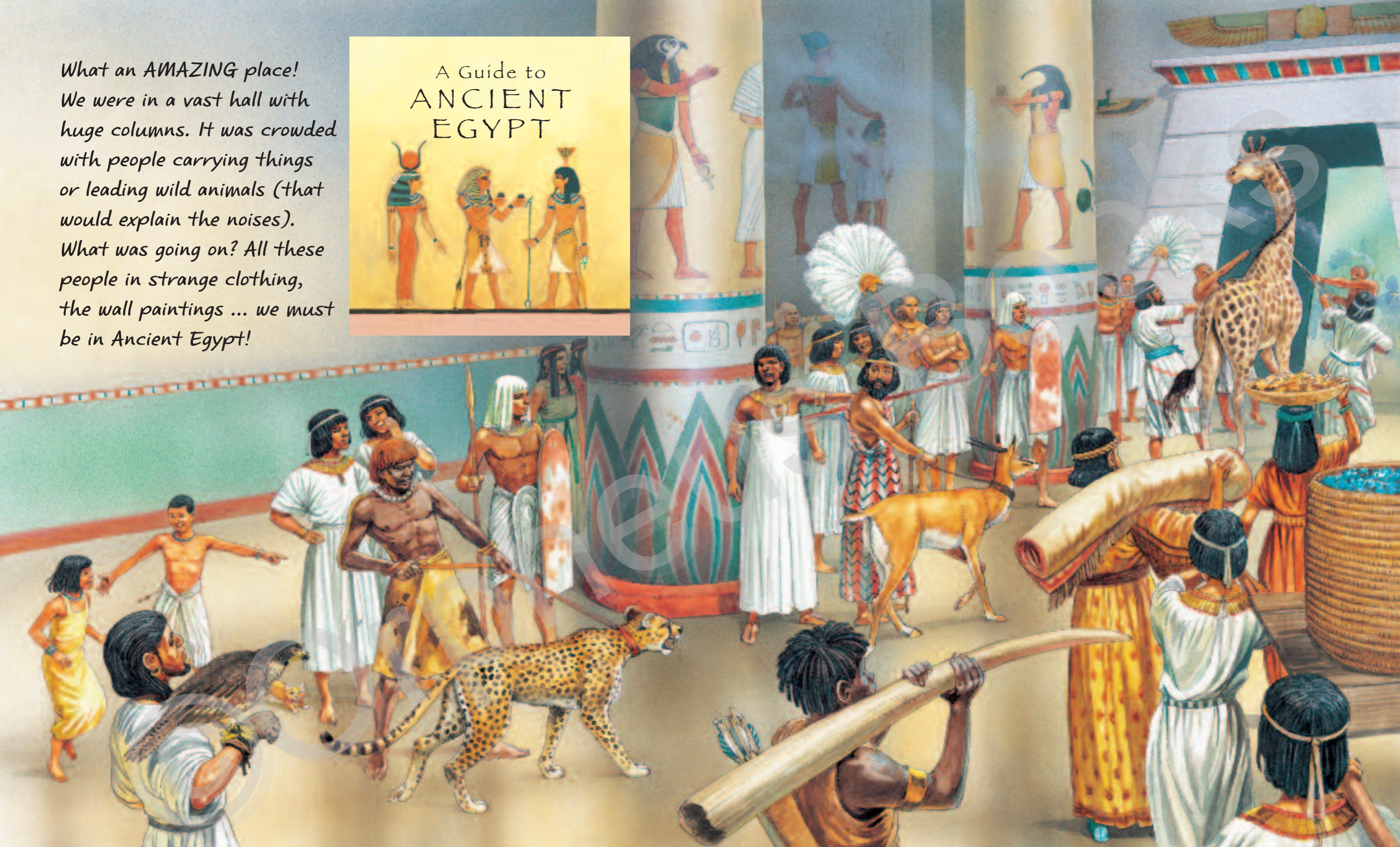
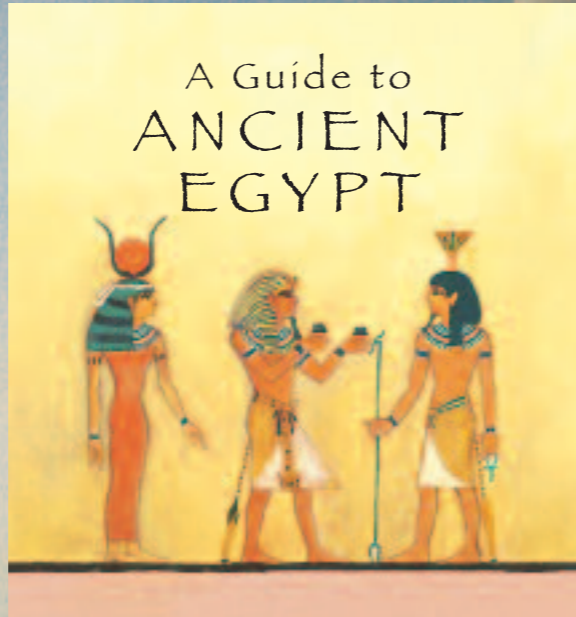
TOMB ROBBERIES
AN AUDACIOUS PLOT to seize treasures buried in the
tomb of a pharaoh of the 18th dynasty (1540–1319 BC)
has recently been discovered. Some men, believed to be
among the tomb burial party itself, were arrested soon after
the tomb was sealed, having been caught in the act by the
pharaoh's guards. It is thought that thefts of this kind were
not uncommon in ancient Egyptian times. The workmen
would have been well aware of the presence of gold,
jewellery, amulets, furniture and other priceless artefacts in
the tomb. What makes this case unusual is the possible
involvement of a senior member of government, thought to
be no less a figure than one of the two Viziers of Egypt, in the
planning of this robbery. Papyrus documents have come to
light giving details of the workmen's confessions, implicating
the Vizier. However, it is not known how the details of the
plot were uncovered, prompting his arrest.



FIG 1. One of Viziers of Egypt in the 18th Dynasty, thought
to have plotted to rob a pharaoh's tomb.

What an AMAZING place!
We were in a vast hall with
huge columns. It was crowded
with people carrying things
or leading wild animals (that
would explain the noises).
What was going on? All these
people in strange clothing,
the wall paintings ... we must
be in Ancient Egypt!

A Guide to ANCIENT EGYPT





This was AWESOME! We hid behind one of the columns. How did we get here? What if we were spotted? Hey, maybe now we'd get to see the REAL pyramids! Just then a boy and a girl, just a little older than us, popped their heads round the column. They gave us friendly, welcoming smiles.

"Hi!" said the boy. "I'm Hotep and this is my sister Kimu. There's something going on at the palace today but it's no

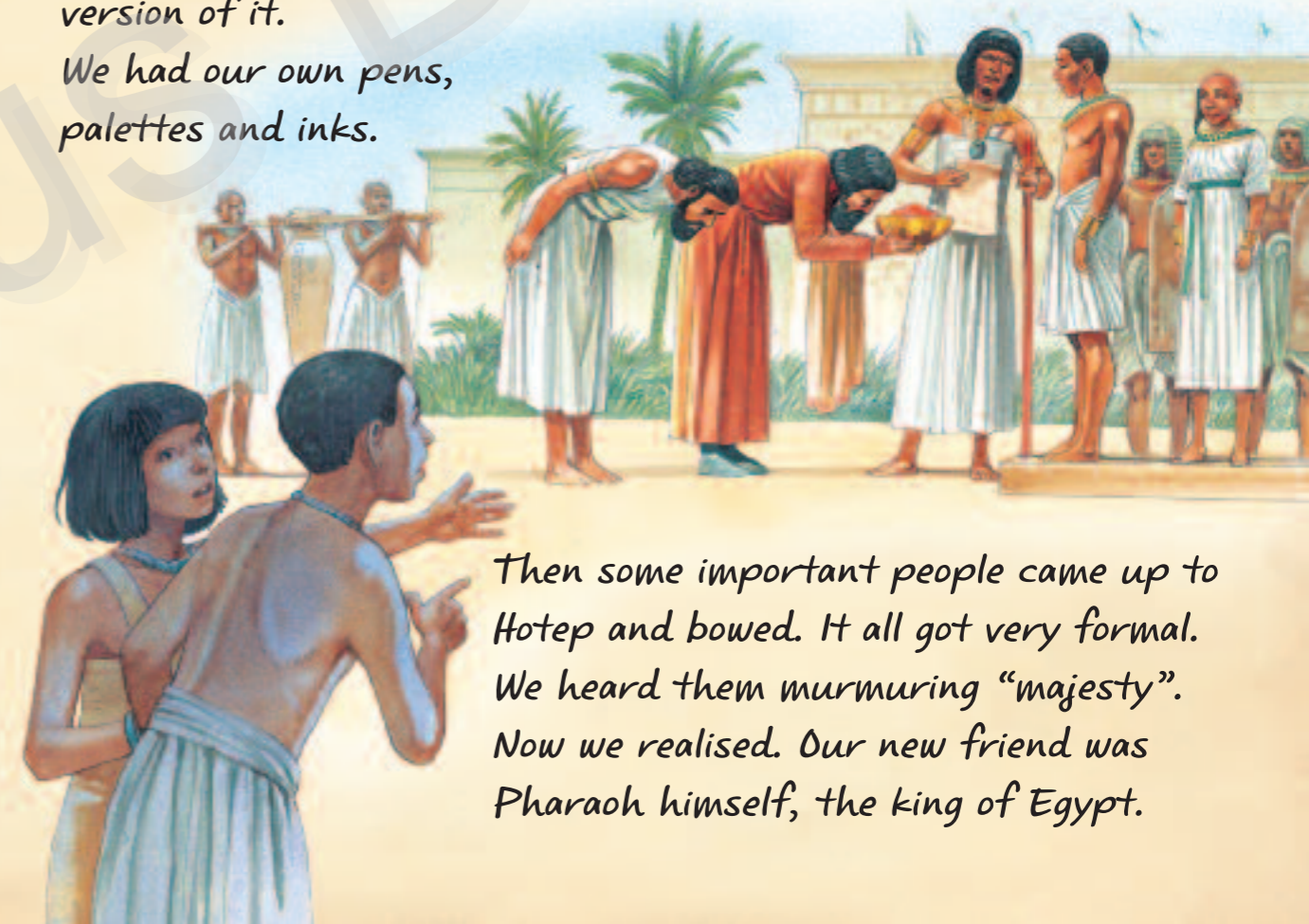
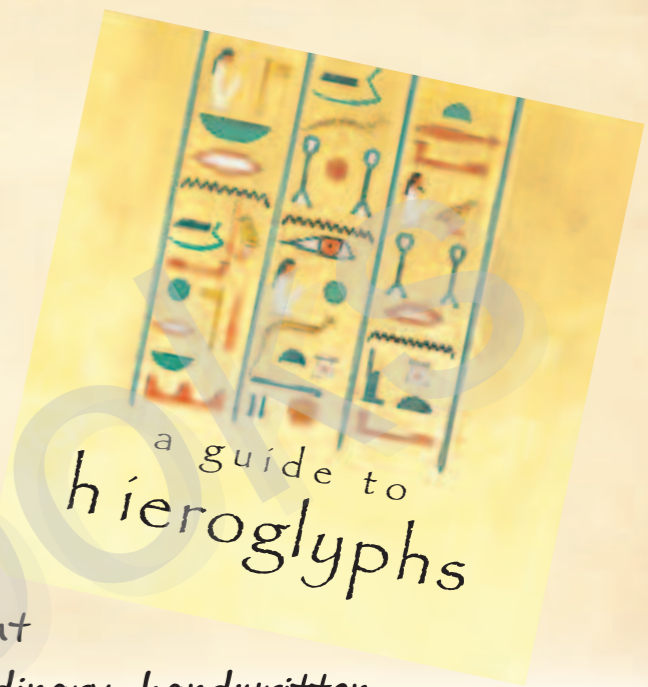
fun for us kids. We need cheering up. Wanna come with us?"

Amazingly, we could understand them and they could understand us. They showed us around what turned out to be a vast complex. They even invited us to one of their lessons.



Well, we wouldn't normally be so keen on school but this was fun! We got to write hieroglyphs, the beautiful Ancient Egyptian script, as well as an ordinary, handwritten version of it.

We had our own pens, palettes and inks.



Then some important people came up to Hotep and bowed. It all got very formal. We heard them murmuring "majesty". Now we realised. Our new friend was Pharaoh himself, the king of Egypt.