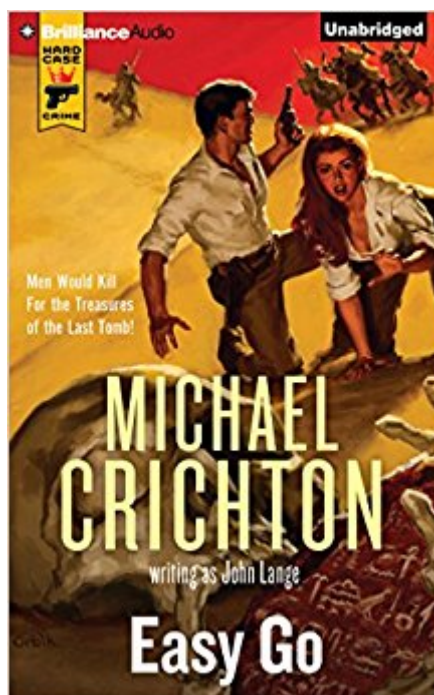


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# Easy Go



## Synopsis

Beneath the sands of the Egyptian desert lies treasure beyond imagining. And when a professor of archeology finds clues to the location of a Pharaoh's lost tomb in ancient hieroglyphs, he hatches a plan to find the burial site and plunder it. But can a five-man team of smugglers and thieves uncover what the centuries have hidden? And even if they find it, can they escape with it and with their lives?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Originally published under the John Lange pseudonym in 1968, this early Crichton novel is a fast-paced thriller in the pulp style. An archaeology professor learns about a previously undiscovered pharaoh's tomb in Egypt; he puts together a small team, intending to loot the tomb and make himself rich. But, and this should come as no surprise, dissension in the thieves' ranks soon puts the professor's plan, not to mention his life, in jeopardy. Crichton published the Lange novels (eight of them in total) between the late 1960s and the early '70s. If you didn't know they were written by Crichton, you'd have a hard time telling that from the books: the resemblance between a Lange novel and, say, Jurassic Park is so slight as to be insignificant. But it's also worth noting that the Lange novels are great fun, with entertaining characters and exciting stories. Leave it to the author's fans to decide whether they're curiosities or legitimate additions to the Crichton canon. --David Pitt --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"I look forward to dipping into all the early Crichton reissues, which are highly intriguing and made all the more special by the typical care with which Hard Case and Titan have handled them." -

ChiZine "This is a great adventure book, with plenty of colorful characters, but most importantly to me, it really shows how GOOD pulp should be." - Trash Mutant  
"Many stunning women are inserted throughout the story for interesting flavor. I would definitely recommend this Hard Case Crime novel to any reader who has a vivid imagination and a long, free afternoon to decipher and guess plot twists along the way."  
Night Owl Reviews "Great delight to Crichton fans who are still mourning his 2008 passing."  
A Geek Girl Project --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Written in 1968 by brilliant up coming author John Lange, Easy Go was his third novel. John Lange dropped out from the writing scene several years later when he started using his real name Michael Crichton. Hard Case Crime is now bringing back all eight of John Lange earlier novels in a series of large size matched editions. They all are recommended reading. Easy Go is part Heist caper with some Indiana Jones mixed in. It would have made a great action movie. When Archaeologist Harold Barnaby is translating some ancient Egyptian writing he discovers what he believes is a long hidden tomb loaded with millions of dollars worth of treasures. Barnaby connects with globe trotting writer Robert Pierce. Pierce sets about assembling a small crack team to steal the riches before they are even discovered. The team consists of rich playboy Lord Grovner who supplies the money to outfit the team. Alan Conway the smuggler and Nikos Karagannis, master thief along with Lord Grovner's personnel secretary and adopted daughter. The 280 page story moves at break neck speed as we discover whether this team can make their discovery and then loot the treasure worth millions. This book wouldn't change your life but it sure is a fun way spend a a few days. Highly Recommended

Michael Crichton once described his early novels, before The Andromeda Strain, as "competition for in-flight movies". With that in mind, I picked up the e-book version of "Easy Go", one of those early novels, to read on a flight from JFK to Atlanta this past weekend. The "in-flight movie" comparison is pretty apt. Although he wrote this in his mid-20s, and while it's quite different from the techno/science-thriller subgenre that he pioneered from 1971 through his untimely death in 2008, it's definitely got the cinematic punch that characterizes his later work. Lots of one-dimensional but vivid characters, a carefully-designed scheme that unravels in agonizing slow motion, and a ton of information and trivia that you probably didn't have before. Alan Barnaby is a prematurely aging assistant professor of Egyptology, looking to make his mark on the field before it's too late. Robert

Pierce is a hard-drinking expatriate journalist, who's grown tired of living out of a suitcase in foreign hotels. When Barnaby learns of the existence of a previously-unknown Pharaoh's tomb, he and Pierce seek a way to find the tomb, and ransom the loot to the Egyptian government for \$50 million. Pierce comes up with what he thinks is a foolproof scheme, and in short order assembles a team to make the plan work: an eccentric financial backer, a jewel thief who's also an archaeologist, and a career mercenary who speaks the local language. Now, they only have to survive the desert, find the lost tomb, and outwit the Antiquities police. Crichton, writing as John Lange back in those days, provides an incredible amount of historical and geographic detail. The book, written when Nasser ruled Egypt and styled the country the "United Arab Republic" (a union of just one country), has one scene set in Tahrir Square (which will have much more significance to the modern reader), and also briefly features several other international locations. Crichton writes in short chapters, with thrusts of international intrigue, conflict between the characters, and tense action or suspense sequences. As the cliché goes, you'll have a hard time putting this one down. A few things mark "Easy Go" as different from the longer, more science-oriented Crichton novels that you're probably more familiar with. It's not quite as violent as his later sci-fi works; one usually looks to Crichton for a substantial body count, and a sadistic, ironic ending for the bad guy. Also, the first loose thread that causes the whole scheme to unravel, came a lot later than I was expecting. Standard potboilers usually set that scene at the halfway point of the book, but with Crichton spending much time assembling the cast, explaining the scheme, and getting out to the desert, he takes his time before kicking over the house of cards. This is a cut above your typical pulp novel. It's an early work from an author who later went on to unimaginable heights, but just about most of the elements that turned his later books into big-budget movies, are present here. Not only are the characters amusing and the plot fairly riveting, but it's also fun to compare the book to Crichton's later works and watch how his style evolved over his 40+ years as a published author. One last warning to the casual reader; this was written in the '60s, and there's a lot of taken-for-granted casual racism and sexism. Not all of the Egyptian characters are buffoonish clods, and not all the women exist solely to be conquered by the male characters, but that's not saying much.

I've been slogging through a raft of unlikable characters in my reading lately, and I needed a complete change of pace. I was in the perfect mood for an adventure about finding-- and trying to steal-- the lost tomb of a pharaoh. Written under the pen name John Lange while he was still a resident, Michael Crichton's *Easy Go* was exactly what I needed when I needed it. (The man wrote books while in medical school and as a resident? Did he need no sleep?) Yes, the book has its

problems. The romance was rather feeble. Not only did it not seem to have much purpose in the book, it didn't do a thing for me. The characters were also stereotyped, but that almost goes hand-in-hand with most thrillers where the emphasis is on plot over character. I was more than willing to overlook the weaknesses for the luscious story. Speaking of weaknesses, I have one for a heist story well told, and this one delivers. I've always been fascinated with ancient Egypt and wondered what it would be like to actually find a pharaoh's tomb. From finding one, it's not that big of a jump to wonder what you would actually do with all that treasure-- especially if you thought you had a good chance of stealing it. If you love ancient Egypt and are in the mood for a bit of fast-paced tomb raiding, give *Easy Go* a try. You might just enjoy it as much as I did.

Not sure exactly what this title has to do with this story... Perhaps this reader missed something. In any case John Lange - Michael Crichton is true to form and weaves an exciting and informative tale of an Egyptian dig and discovery. Not exactly as well finished as later stories but very well crafted nonetheless. This story generates enough turns in the passageways leading into the plot to capture the reader's attention and lead us unpredictably forward. Especially enjoyable are descriptive passages about the interior of Egyptian tombs and their artifacts, histories of the ritual and technical practices for the burials of pharaohs and the stories of amazing tomb treasure discoveries and the lengths taken in their pursuit. Linking the informative bits is a cast of colorful characters who convene to produce an ingenious lucrative crime. Watching them persevere is the reader's job and the writer's inspiration. Well researched... the writer's genuine gusto for the details that weave a believable story tapestry spills onto every page. We lost a wonderful story teller in Michael Crichton. How lucky we are he left us so many examples of his genius and passions. This story passes the test of time and will not disappoint.

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