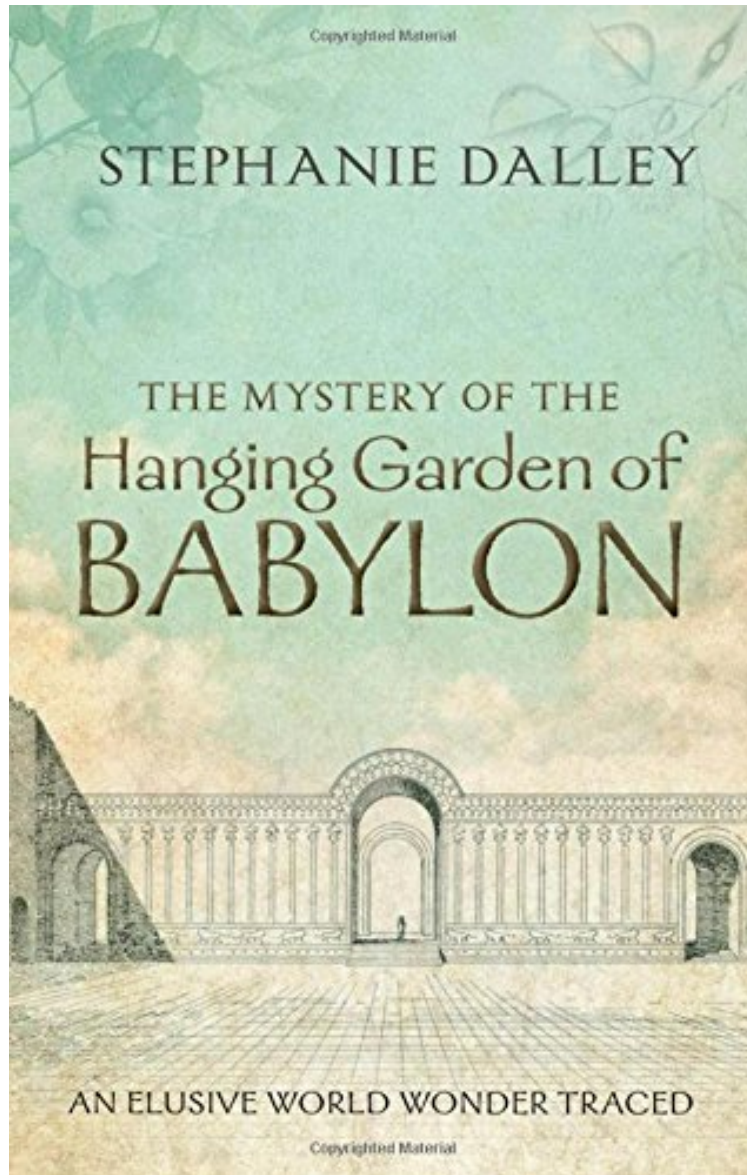


[Free] The Mystery of the Hanging Garden of Babylon: An Elusive World Wonder Traced

# The Mystery of the Hanging Garden of Babylon: An Elusive World Wonder Traced

*Stephanie Dalley*

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**Stephanie Dalley : The Mystery of the Hanging Garden of Babylon: An Elusive World Wonder Traced** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mystery of the Hanging Garden of Babylon: An Elusive World Wonder Traced:

43 of 43 people found the following review helpful. ENJOYABLE HISTORICAL DETECTIVE STORY  
By vitruvius  
Though I lack the academic credentials to dispute any part of the author's solution to "The Mystery of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon", I enjoyed every step of her convincing investigation, and would be interested to read any serious objections. The footnotes and bibliography support the most thorough research into every aspect of the written and archaeological evidence. There are many figures, and some color photos, including stills from her BBC documentary of 1999, which is now available on line. Since this is a mystery apparently solved, I shall not disclose any spoilers. However, here are a couple of things not generally known outside academic circles: An analysis of samples, taken in 1935, confirmed that concrete was used by the civilization that created the Garden. Even recent books continue to state that the Romans invented concrete, when in fact they perfected the mix by adding volcanic ash, etc, and were also masters of its use underwater. The use of bronze-cast screws, explained here, and recreated in the documentary, suggests that this civilization had mastered this device hundreds of years before Archimedes, who is usually given credit. And hydraulic engineering in general was of course an essential component. This book is not "fantastic archaeology", a speculative fantasy resting on nothing. It is a work of serious scholarship, well written for a wide audience. It belongs in every collection on archaeology and the ancient near east, and I have no reservations about placing it on my shelf with established studies in those fields.  
4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The Mystery of the Hanging Garden of Nineveh!  
By Zario Zolo  
The Mystery of the Hanging Garden of Babylon by Stephanie Dalley, the elusive ancient Seventh Wonder of the World, is exquisitely written and obviously scholarly, perhaps even exhaustively so, but captivating nonetheless from beginning to end, albeit the author proves that the Garden was at Nineveh by the Tigris, not Babylon by the Euphrates. Read the book and see for yourself how she works that bit of magic--backed by rational thought and scholarly detective work worthy of her credentials at the Oriental Institute of Oxford! --Zario Zolo  
16 of 17 people found the following review helpful. you will enjoy this book  
By Margarita Aguila  
Anyone can read this book. That is to say, you don't need to be an expert in archeology or history to enjoy the writing. It provides new and old evidence that challenges the encyclopedia's definition of The Hanging Garden of Babylon and its creator. The author guides you through several chapters filled with evidence ranging from Greek literature, technology, architecture and symbolism by providing plates and writings to make her point. Recommended.

The Mystery of the Hanging Garden of Babylon is an exciting story of detection involving legends, expert decipherment of ancient texts, and a vivid description of a little-known civilization. Recognized in ancient times as one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the legendary Hanging Garden of Babylon and its location have long been steeped in mystery and puzzling myths. In this remarkable volume Stephanie Dalley, a world expert on ancient Babylonian language, exposes new evidence and clarifies all the known material about this enigmatic World Wonder. Placing the Garden within a tradition of royal patronage, Dalley describes how the decipherment of an original text and its link to sculpture in the British Museum has enabled her to pin down where and by which king the Garden was laid out, and to describe in detail what it looked like. Through this dramatic and fascinating reconstruction of the Garden, Dalley also follows its influence on later garden design. Unscrambling layer by layer the many stories that have built up around the Garden, including the parts played by Semiramis and Nebuchadnezzar, Dalley shows why this Garden deserves its place alongside the Pyramids and the Colossus of Rhodes as one of the most astonishing technical achievements of the ancient world.

From Booklist  
The locations of most of the seven wonders of the ancient world were known, but not that of the fabled Hanging Garden of Babylon, when Dalley embarked on research into it. A scholar of cuneiform texts, Dalley interprets many pieces of such archaeological evidence, but initially she reviews the descriptions of a fabulous garden given by ancient Greek and Roman authors. Only one, Josephus, specified Babylon as the location, a minority voice that provokes Dalley's suspicion that it was built elsewhere. As prelude to tackling that mystery, she discusses irrigation in ancient Mesopotamia, delving into detail about the water-raising device known as the Archimedes screw. Royal boasts in cuneiform about construction projects inform Dalley's discussion, which strives to dispel confusion among the experts about which monarch built what palace and grounds. Dalley's assessments induce her to propose that the garden was built by Sennacherib at Nineveh and probably was destroyed along with the rest of the city in 612 BCE. Loaded with illustrations, this work makes an intriguing argument as it accesses a special subject for general readers. --Gilbert Taylor "Deeply researched and rigorously argued -- and certain to raise both hopes and objections." --Kirkus s "[Dalley] makes a compelling case. Scholars will doubtless find matter for debate, but her central argument rings true." --The Sunday Times "[A] learned and never less than gripping study... There remain plenty of scholars who still stick by the traditional attribution of the wonder to Nebuchadnezzar, but I suspect that, with the publication of this book, Dalley will be adding to her already heavy-weight roster of supporters... [When] the inadequacies of a received tradition are as glaring as they clearly are in the case of the Hanging Garden, it is a cause for celebration that there are scholars of the calibre of Stephanie Dalley to propose a convincing alternative." --Literary "[A] bold, clear and immensely interesting new book. Every good summer needs a controversy and Dalley's high-class book and sheer

likeability have now given us an excellent one." --Financial Times "This fascinating book reads more like a detective story than a scholarly account of an ancient civilization ... Ms. Dalley makes a brilliant and convincing argument." --Land Business "An enjoyable read throughout." --BBC History Magazine "[Dalley] makes a compelling case. Scholars will doubtless find matter for debate, but her central argument rings true." --The Sunday Times "[A] learned and never less than gripping study... There remain plenty of scholars who still stick by the traditional attribution of the wonder to Nebuchadnezzar, but I suspect that, with the publication of this book, Dalley will be adding to her already heavy-weight roster of supporters... [When] the inadequacies of a received tradition are as glaring as they clearly are in the case of the Hanging Garden, it is a cause for celebration that there are scholars of the calibre of Stephanie Dalley to propose a convincing alternative." --Literary "[A] bold, clear and immensely interesting new book. Every good summer needs a controversy and Dalley's high-class book and sheer likeability have now given us an excellent one." --Financial Times

**About the Author** Stephanie Dalley is an Honorary Research Fellow at Somerville College, Oxford, a Member of Wolfson College, Oxford, and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. With degrees in Assyriology from the Universities of Cambridge and London, her academic career has specialized in the study of ancient cuneiform texts and she has worked on archaeological excavations in Iraq, Turkey, Syria, and Jordan. She has written several books on the myths and culture of ancient Mesopotamia, with special reference to their impact on later civilizations, many of which have been translated into Arabic, Italian, and Japanese. She lives in Oxford with her husband and maintains a large garden.