



Life Goes On

by Dawn Jepsen

Tortured by Grendels? Annoyed by naughty Norms? Perhaps life on Albia isn't what it once was. Well, before all of your creatures register a big, fat

BORED on the health indicator, grab a copy of CREATURES LIFE KIT #1 and inject a little life back into their routine.

Cyberlife's first LIFE KIT is a compilation of add-ons designed to create some variety in the paradise of Albia. Objects such as the observation kit, the cages, and the Grendel scarers provide the player with more control over Albia's virtual world. The new crystal ball teleporters come in very handy when trying to quickly move

your Norms around Albia. A great selection of Creatures Object Files (COBs), which often serve to heighten the player's challenge, are included in the kit.

Should you choose to install the pesky "cave fly," for example, be prepared for your less healthy Norms to contract diseases.

If you've grown weary of traditional Norms and their offspring, the kit offers several new Norm varieties. In addition to a particularly evil-looking "Santa," you'll find three other types that should offer a bit of genetic variety to potential offspring.



NEW TOYS Crystal balls, Grendel scarers, and other new gadgets abound in this add-on.

Price: \$14.99
System Requirements:
 Pentium 60, Windows 95, 2X CD-ROM, sound card, SVGA graphics, 16MB RAM, 60MB hard-drive space
3D Support: None.
Multiplayer Support: None.
Developer: Cyberlife
Publisher: Mindscape
 Sunnyvale, CA 94608
 (408) 737-6800
www.mindscape.com



Since many of the new features in LIFE KIT #1 have been available for free download from the Web for a while, wired CREATURES fanatics may find that there's little new to see here. But for those who don't fancy tying up their machines with lengthy downloads, this one-stop CREATURES tune-up shop offers a good alternative at an excellent price. ☼

▶**APPEAL:** CREATURES fans who want to add new life to their game.

▶**PROS:** A one-stop shop for those who don't want to search the Web for add-ons; includes some unique object files not available anywhere else.

▶**CONS:** Many of the new object files can be downloaded from the Web for free.



Tomb Runner

by Tahsin Shamma

While PHARAOH'S ASCENT is a good, wholesome, nonviolent puzzle, gamers should be warned that the Pyramids are not the only thing in the game showing their age. Your logic and problem-solving abilities may fare you well as you plow through the game's many

levels, but you'll need more logic than this reviewer has to figure out just why the game's developer, Ambertec, is bothering with such dated gameplay.

Throwing realistic burial rites aside, PHARAOH'S ASCENT casts you as a deceased pharaoh who must escape his pyramid-tomb in order to send his soul to rest in the land of Osiris. You must navigate your way through a series of rooms, interacting with obstacles, shifting blocks, and jumping over hazards to complete each level.

The biggest problem with PHARAOH'S TOMB is its save game feature. You can save your game once you've completed a room, but not from within a room. If, for example, you've figured out part of a room's pattern, there's no way to save your steps leading up to that point, and repeating steps over and

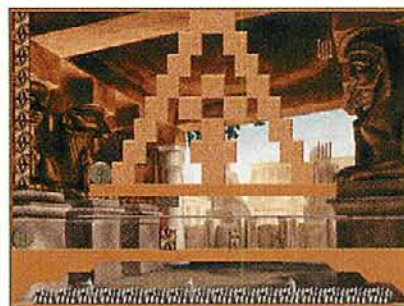
over again makes the gameplay more tedious than exciting.

All in all, PHARAOH'S ASCENT is just another 2D action/puzzle game that fails to bring anything new to the genre. Yes, there's more puzzle than action here, but the level of gameplay will be redundant to all but the complete novice. This one should be reserved for newbies looking for a game to ease themselves into the genre or for LODERUNNER fanatics in desperate need of a fix. ☼

▶**APPEAL:** LODERUNNER fans who also enjoy logic puzzles.

▶**PROS:** Challenging puzzles; great Egyptian look.

▶**CONS:** Tedious gameplay; nothing we haven't seen before.



▶**MAKE MUMMY PROUD** Help the pharaoh escape his tomb so that his soul may rest in the land of Osiris.

Price: \$29.95
System Requirements:
 486/66, Windows 95, 8MB RAM, 256 color graphics, 2x CD-ROM, Windows-compatible sound card.
3D Support: None.
Multiplayer Support: None.
Developer: Ambertec, Santa Clara, CA
 (800) 551-6979
www.ambertec.com

