

## Queen Victoria A Personal History

Our perception of Victoria the Queen is coloured by portraits of her older, widowed self - her dour expression embodying the repressive morality propagated in her time. But *Becoming Queen* reveals an energetic and vibrant woman, determined to battle for power. It also documents the Byzantine machinations behind Victoria's quest to occupy the throne, and shows how her struggles did not end when finally the crown was placed on her head. Laying bare the passions that swirled around the throne in the eighteenth century, *Becoming Queen* is an absorbingly dramatic tale of secrets, sexual repression and endless conflict. After her lauded biography of Emma Hamilton, England's Mistress, Kate Williams has produced a most original and intimate portrait of Great Britain's longest reigning monarch.

When Queen Victoria stepped onto the throne of Great Britain and Ireland in 1837, gone were the days when the monarch had supreme authority over the kingdom. Victoria ruled at the head of a government with which she was meant to converse, debate, and ultimately guide, and it was a job she sometimes struggled to perform. For the better part of the nineteenth century, Queen Victoria was in power over Great Britain and Ireland, among the other areas under the control of the British Empire. This period of rule became known as the Victorian era, during which Britain flourished economically, socially, and politically, and great advancements were made in both the

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military and science. Focal point of the forthcoming 2017 film *Victoria and Abdul*, Queen Victoria has long been a subject of great interest and controversy to the public. This striking new edition of *Queen Victoria*, the classic work by famed adventure writer G. A. Henty, examines the life of the noted monarch in impeccable detail and captivating prose. This book highlights some of the most important events, both personal and political, during her historic reign—making it essential in the library of any historian or fan.

Her reign of 63 years and seven months is known as the Victorian Era, a period of industrial, cultural, scientific, and political change that was marked by a great expansion of the British Empire. But Victoria was raised under close supervision and near isolation until she became Queen of the United Kingdom at the young age of 18. She married her first cousin, Albert, and had nine children who married into families across Europe. By the time she had earned the nickname “The Grandmother of Europe” and the title “Empress of India” it was indeed true that the sun never set on the British Empire. Publicly, she became a national icon, but privately, *Who Was Queen Victoria?* This book about the marriage of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert tells the story of one of the most famous relationships in history. Their marriage was by no means a grand match for Victoria and was very unpopular with the British public. There were early troubles for the couple with power struggles, personality clashes, and unwelcome pregnancies; but they created a true partnership, a happy family life, and founded a

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dynasty. The book ends with Albert's early death, and how a man in the prime of life was worn out with the stresses and strains of being Victoria's husband. Victoria was pregnant for a third of her married life, and the book looks at how she dealt with pregnancy, childbirth, and being a mother. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert were married at the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace in London, on 10 February 1840, when they were both twenty years old. For her, their marriage followed a whirlwind romance and Albert would be a life-long passion. For him, it was a successful outcome of long-laid plans - marrying Victoria was his career. They were in an unusual position for their time, because it was Victoria who was the sovereign and Albert had a supporting role. Their marriage would succeed, but stormy waters lay ahead. 'Victoria and Albert' uses some of Victoria's own words from her journal and letters to help tell the story and is beautifully illustrated throughout with portraits and other memorabilia from the author's collection. This short book is intended to be light-hearted and easy-to-read and should appeal to anyone who likes history, or follows royalty, or is interested in people's personal stories. 'Victoria and Albert' is the second of three books about 'The Colourful Personal Life of Queen Victoria'. They focus on the story of Victoria as a woman - her personal life, the events that formed her character, and the relationships that were important to her. The first book, 'Young Victoria', looked at her early years, including her difficult childhood and how she came to the throne aged only eighteen. The third book, 'The Widowed Queen', will cover the long years of her widowhood after Albert's early

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death, as the doyenne of sovereigns and grandmamma of Europe.

Bestselling author and historian Lucy Worsley tracks a new course through Queen Victoria's life, examining how she transformed from dancing princess to the Widow of Windsor and became one of Britain's greatest monarchs along the way. Taking twenty-four significant days from Victoria's life, from her birth, her wedding, her coronation to her husband's death, and many more in between, allows us to see Victoria up close and personal, examining how she lived hour to hour. Published to coincide with the 200th anniversary of Queen Victoria's birth, this major new biography will celebrate Queen Victoria as a woman of her time, who lived an extraordinary life.

Queen Victoria A Personal History Da Capo Press

Explores the life of Queen Victoria from her so-called "miserable childhood" to her early years of political inexperience, her publicly criticized marriage to Prince Albert, and the last decades of her rule as Empress of India.

Using excerpts from her letters and diaries, this book shows the very human face of Queen Victoria, from spirited young princess to caring Queen, passionate bride and loving mother to great-grandmother of a royal dynasty who gave her name to the age of improvement. Photographs of Queen Victoria most often show a plump Empress wearing widow's black; serious and regal. The posed portrait photos were stiff, formal affairs, partly because subjects needed to stay still for the exposure and partly because in Victorian England life was a serious business. In reality, the character of Alexandrina

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Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, and latterly in her long reign, Empress of India, is rather different. In private, at least, Victoria had a reputation for being fun-loving and entertaining. Victoria kept a daily journal from the age of thirteen, which by the time of her death ran to 122 volumes. She writes openly and in great detail, revealing herself to be emotional and honest about her own feelings and experiences, as well as her opinions of other people. She praises Albert and pours out her love and desire for her husband, her adored lover, friend and companion. This book shows the redoubtable Victoria at her most human, whether enthusing over her hobbies and interests, delighting in her children and grandchildren, commenting on the ten different Prime Ministers who served during her reign, or sharing her love for her dearest, dearest Albert.

Alphabetically arranged subject entries cover Queen Victoria's life and her sixty-three-year reign, the longest of any female monarch.

A vivid portrait of Queen Victoria's childhood, offering new insights into one of the most celebrated, but often misunderstood, monarchs in British history, 200 years after her birth This beautiful, extensively researched volume investigates the birth and early life of one of the most familiar British monarchs, Queen Victoria (1819-1901). A wealth of material, including many unexamined sources and unpublished images, sheds new light on Victoria's youth. Included here are portraits of the queen as princess, childhood diaries and sketchbooks, clothing, jewelery, and correspondence. Deirdre Murphy

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paints a vivid picture of Victoria's early years. Among her most surprising conclusions is the idea that the queen's personal mythology of a childhood characterized by sadness and isolation is less accurate than is generally thought. Victoria's personal relationships are brought brilliantly to life, from her affectionate but increasingly suffocating bond with her mother, the Duchess of Kent, to the controlling influence of Sir John Conroy, a man she came to despise, and her courtship with Prince Albert. Lesser-known figures are also explored, including Victoria's first schoolmaster the Reverend George Davys, her governess Louise Lehzen, and her half-sister Feodora. This fascinating cast of characters enhances our image of Victoria, who emerges as both willful and submissive, fickle and affectionate, and with the explosive temper of her Hanoverian ancestors.

Part of The World in A Life series, this brief, inexpensive text provides insight into the life of Queen Victoria. As one of the longest reigning monarchs in British history, Queen Victoria gave her name to an age filled with enormous possibilities and perplexing contradictions. At the time of Victoria's birth, Britain ruled over what was fast becoming the greatest empire in the world, containing millions of non-white, non-Christian peoples. During her childhood and youth, the kingdom itself became transformed from one dominated by landed aristocrats to one governed according to the principles of bourgeois liberalism. The royal family served as the most visible symbol of domesticity, while at the same time Victoria's very position as queen defied the ideology of separate

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spheres upon which domesticity rested. Victoria, the ruler of millions of people, opposed women participating in politics or public life. She believed women's suffrage to be a "wicked folly" and a violation of God's laws. She never gave up that belief, even as the fledging feminist movement of mid-century matured and grew to the size of a mass movement by the end of the century. And yet she reigned, with little thought of the contradictions that entailed. We live in a global age where big concepts like "globalization" often tempt us to forget the personal side of the past. The titles in The World in A Life series aim to revive these meaningful lives. Each one shows us what it was like to live on a world historical stage. Brief, inexpensive, and thematic, each book can be read in a week, fit within a wide range of curricula, and shed insight into a particular place or time. Four to six short primary sources at the end of each volume sharpen the reader's view of an individual's impact on world history.

From the Introduction: What were the facets of Queen Victoria's character and position that resulted in her name encapsulating the values of an entire era? There was her unique status as a female sovereign (the fifth since 1066); her longevity; and the brilliant political and military successes that had been achieved in her name. Then, the Queen was gifted with precisely those personal qualities that she admired in the young Princess May of Teck, \* whom she enthusiastically appraised in 1890 as a bride for her grandson, Prince Albert Victor of Wales, heir to the heir apparent in the direct line to the throne. As a potential Queen Consort, May personified Queen Victoria's own ideals. In

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a letter to her daughter Vicky, the Queen described May as "the reverse of oberflächlich [shallow]...May is a particularly nice girl...reserved 'til you know her well...always occupied...[and] well-informed" (Pope-Hennessy, 1959, p. 207). In fact, May Teck was almost phobically shy, as was the Queen herself, but the public reserve, the resolute seriousness, the earnest striving to do that which seemed to her right and just—those are among the signature aspects of temperament that Queen Victoria shared with Princess May. From the age of 42 until the end of her life Queen Victoria embraced widowhood as her principal personal identity. The birthday of Prince Albert and the anniversary of his death became the anchor points of her calendar, two focal events around which everything else in her life was organized. Both dates were observed almost religiously by the Queen for the remainder of her life and with increasing emotion as her years of widowhood advanced. It is perhaps the famous portrait by the Austrian painter Heinrich von Angeli that best encompasses Queen Victoria's dual post-Albert identities as widow and Queen Regnant, displaying her black mourner's dress and lace bridal veil, as well as the Sovereign's distinctive Garter sash. This evocative portrait was commissioned in 1899, at a time when Queen Victoria was free from serious depression, having largely recovered from her prolonged grief over Albert's death by the early 1880s. Nevertheless, the Queen's facial expression in the von Angeli portrait evokes weariness and vulnerability. Reproduced on the cover of this book, the picture also portends Victoria's immediate future: In the final 5 months of her life the Queen was to be in a

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continuous state of mourning as new losses mounted. A Romantic in a decidedly post-Romantic era, Queen Victoria in old age was to confront these new bereavements in her own emotive and hyperbolic style.

The Queen of Great Britain and Ireland for 63 years, the mother of nine children and grandmother to 42, Queen Victoria's life was one of magnificent proportions. Victoria's childhood was difficult and lonely but from the time she took the throne aged just eighteen she blossomed into a powerful woman, both frivolous and formidable. Inside you will read about... ? An Unsentimental Marriage ? Race to Produce an Heir ? Finally an Adult and Finally a Queen ? V&A ? Die Shattenseite ? The Hungry Forties and Albert's Great Exhibition ? The Widow at Windsor And much more! In her later years, Victoria struggled to find balance between her wish to live a very private life as a widow and her duty to live the very public life of a Queen and later Empress. The world Victoria was born into was a very different world to that which she left behind and her life story is an incredible journey from infant heir to matriarchal Queen and Empress. The critically acclaimed author of *The Last Princess* presents an accessible account of Queen Victoria's life that examines her contradictory views and lasting influence, covering such topics as her reinvention of the monarchy, relationship with her mother and self-reliance in widowhood. 30,000 first printing.

A Simon & Schuster eBook. Simon & Schuster has a great book for every reader.

Queen Victoria and Albert, the Prince Consort, had nine children who, despite

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their very different characters, remained a close-knit family. Inevitably, as they married into European royal families their loyalties were divided and their lives dominated by political controversy. This is not only the story of their lives in terms of world impact, but also of personal achievements in their own right, individual contributions to public life in Britain and overseas, and as the children of Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort.

In this unforgettable novel of Queen Victoria, Jean Plaidy re-creates a remarkable life filled with romance, triumph, and tragedy. At birth, Princess Victoria was fourth in line for the throne of England, the often-overlooked daughter of a prince who died shortly after her birth. She and her mother lived in genteel poverty for most of her childhood, exiled from court because of her mother's dislike of her uncles, George IV and William IV. A strong, willful child, Victoria was determined not to be stifled by her powerful uncles or her unpopular, controlling mother. Then one morning, at the age of eighteen, Princess Victoria awoke to the news of her uncle William's death. The almost-forgotten princess was now Queen of England. Even better, she was finally free of her mother's iron hand and her uncles' manipulations. Her first act as queen was to demand that she be given a room—and a bed—of her own. Victoria's marriage to her German cousin, Prince Albert, was a blissfully happy one that produced nine

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children. Albert was her constant companion and one of her most trusted advisors. Victoria's grief after Prince Albert's untimely death was so shattering that for the rest of her life—nearly forty years—she dressed only in black. She survived several assassination attempts, and during her reign England's empire expanded around the globe until it touched every continent in the world. Derided as a mere “girl queen” at her coronation, by the end of her sixty-four-year reign, Victoria embodied the glory of the British Empire. In this novel, written as a “memoir” by Victoria herself, she emerges as truthful, sentimental, and essentially human—both a lovable woman and a great queen.

A major biography of Queen Victoria--the first complete life of her in over twenty years--and the first to be written by an American. Illustrated.

Soon to be a Major Motion Picture starring Dame Judi Dench from director Stephen Frears, releasing September 22, 2017. History's most unlikely friendship—this is the astonishing story of Queen Victoria and her dearest companion, the young Indian Munshi Abdul Karim. In the twilight years of her reign, after the devastating deaths of her two great loves—Prince Albert and John Brown—Queen Victoria meets tall and handsome Abdul Karim, a humble servant from Agra waiting tables at her Golden Jubilee. The two form an unlikely bond and within a year Abdul becomes a powerful figure at court, the Queen's

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teacher, her counsel on Urdu and Indian affairs, and a friend close to her heart. This marked the beginning of the most scandalous decade in Queen Victoria's long reign. As the royal household roiled with resentment, Victoria and Abdul's devotion grew in defiance. Drawn from secrets closely guarded for more than a century, *Victoria & Abdul* is an extraordinary and intimate history of the last years of the nineteenth-century English court and an unforgettable view onto the passions of an aging Queen.

The story of the queen who defied convention and defined an era. A passionate princess, an astute and clever queen, and a cunning widow, Victoria played many roles throughout her life. In *Queen Victoria: Twenty-Four Days That Changed Her Life*, Lucy Worsley introduces her as a woman leading a truly extraordinary life in a unique time period. Queen Victoria simultaneously managed to define a socially conservative vision of Victorian womanhood, while also defying its conventions. Beneath her exterior image of traditional daughter, wife, and widow, she was a strong-willed and masterful politician. Drawing from the vast collection of Victoria's correspondence and the rich documentation of her life, Worsley recreates twenty-four of the most important days in Victoria's life. Each day gives a glimpse into the identity of this powerful, difficult queen and the contradictions that defined her. *Queen Victoria* is an intimate introduction to

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one of Britain's most iconic rulers as a wife and widow, mother and matriarch, and above all, a woman of her time.

The secrets of Queen Victoria's sixth child, Princess Louise, may be destined to remain hidden forever. What was so dangerous about this artistic, tempestuous royal that her life has been documented more by rumor and gossip than hard facts? When Lucinda Hawksley started to investigate, often thwarted by inexplicable secrecy, she discovered a fascinating woman, modern before her time, whose story has been shielded for years from public view. Louise was a sculptor and painter, friend to the Pre-Raphaelites and a keen member of the Aesthetic movement. The most feisty of the Victorian princesses, she kicked against her mother's controlling nature and remained fiercely loyal to her brothers—especially the sickly Leopold and the much-maligned Bertie. She sought out other unconventional women, including Josephine Butler and George Eliot, and campaigned for education and health reform and for the rights of women. She battled with her indomitable mother for permission to practice the "masculine" art of sculpture and go to art college—and in doing so became the first British princess to attend a public school. The rumors of Louise's colorful love life persist even today, with hints of love affairs dating as far back as her teenage years, and notable scandals included entanglements with her sculpting tutor Joseph Edgar

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Boehm and possibly even her sister Princess Beatrice's handsome husband, Liko. True to rebellious form, she refused all royal suitors and became the first member of the royal family, since the sixteenth century, to marry a commoner. She moved with him to Canada when he was appointed Governor-General. Spirited and lively, Queen Victoria's Mysterious Daughter is richly packed with arguments, intrigues, scandals, and secrets, and is a vivid portrait of a princess desperate to escape her inheritance.

Beatrice Mary Victoria Feodore, later Princess Henry of Battenberg, was the last-born – in 1866 – of Victoria and Albert's children, and she would outlive all of her siblings to die as recently as 1944. Her childhood coincided with her mother's extended period of mourning for her prematurely deceased husband, a circumstance which may have contributed to Victoria's determination to keep her youngest daughter as close to her as possible. She would eventually marry Prince Henry of Battenberg in 1885, but only after overcoming her mother's opposition to their union. Beatrice remained Queen Victoria's favourite among her five daughters, and became her mother's constant companion and later her literary executor, spending the years that followed Victoria's death in 1901 editing her mother's journals and voluminous correspondence. Matthew Dennison's elegantly written biography restores Beatrice to her rightful place as a key figure

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in the history of the Victorian age, and paints a touching and revealing portrait of the life and family of Britain's second-longest-reigning monarch.

"A biography for teens on Queen Victoria (1819-1901). Her long reign was filled with drama, death, intrigue, and passion, and took place during a time of great transformation, an era that bears the imprint of her personality and values as well as that of her name--the Victorian period."--Provided by publisher.

The official companion to the second season of the PBS/Masterpiece drama *Victoria* by award-winning creator and screenwriter Daisy Goodwin. Airing in the *Downton Abbey* slot on PBS/Masterpiece last January, *Victoria* captivated millions of viewers, eclipsing *Downton*'s first-season viewership and leaving its audience eager for the series's next season, which will focus on Victoria and Albert's passionate and tempestuous marriage. This official tie-in to the show, by creator and screenwriter Daisy Goodwin, gives a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the show, featuring never-before-seen interviews, photos, diary entries, profiles on all major characters, and sumptuous detail on the costumes and props that bring Victoria and Albert's world to vivid life. *Victoria and Albert* follows this extraordinary relationship between two very different people—she impulsive, emotional, capricious; he cautious, self-controlled, and logical—whose devotion to each other was unparalleled in royal history. Taking fans deeper into

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the world of Victoria than ever before, Victoria and Albert: A Royal Love Affair is the ultimate gift for devotees of the show.

A captivating exploration of the role in which Queen Victoria exerted the most international power and influence: as a matchmaking grandmother. As her reign approached its sixth decade, Queen Victoria's grandchildren numbered over thirty, and to maintain and increase British royal power, she was determined to maneuver them into a series of dynastic marriages with the royal houses of Europe. Yet for all their apparent obedience, her grandchildren often had plans of their own, fueled by strong wills and romantic hearts. Victoria's matchmaking plans were further complicated by the tumultuous international upheavals of the time: revolution and war were in the air, and kings and queens, princes and princesses were vulnerable targets. Queen Victoria's Matchmaking travels through the glittering, decadent palaces of Europe from London to Saint Petersburg, weaving in scandals, political machinations and family tensions to enthralling effect. It is at once an intimate portrait of a royal family and an examination of the conflict caused by the marriages the Queen arranged. At the heart of it all is Victoria herself: doting grandmother one moment, determined Queen Empress the next.

The true story for fans of the PBS Masterpiece series Victoria, this page-turning

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biography reveals the real woman behind the myth: a bold, glamorous, unbreakable queen—a Victoria for our times. Drawing on previously unpublished papers, this stunning portrait is a story of love and heartbreak, of devotion and grief, of strength and resilience. NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE NEW YORK TIMES • ESQUIRE • THE CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY “Victoria the Queen, Julia Baird’s exquisitely wrought and meticulously researched biography, brushes the dusty myth off this extraordinary monarch.”—The New York Times Book Review (Editor’s Choice) When Victoria was born, in 1819, the world was a very different place. Revolution would threaten many of Europe’s monarchies in the coming decades. In Britain, a generation of royals had indulged their whims at the public’s expense, and republican sentiment was growing. The Industrial Revolution was transforming the landscape, and the British Empire was commanding ever larger tracts of the globe. In a world where women were often powerless, during a century roiling with change, Victoria went on to rule the most powerful country on earth with a decisive hand. Fifth in line to the throne at the time of her birth, Victoria was an ordinary woman thrust into an extraordinary role. As a girl, she defied her mother’s meddling and an adviser’s bullying, forging an iron will of her own. As a teenage queen, she eagerly grasped the crown and relished the freedom it

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brought her. At twenty, she fell passionately in love with Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, eventually giving birth to nine children. She loved sex and delighted in power. She was outspoken with her ministers, overstepping conventional boundaries and asserting her opinions. After the death of her adored Albert, she began a controversial, intimate relationship with her servant John Brown. She survived eight assassination attempts over the course of her lifetime. And as science, technology, and democracy were dramatically reshaping the world, Victoria was a symbol of steadfastness and security—queen of a quarter of the world's population at the height of the British Empire's reach. Drawing on sources that include fresh revelations about Victoria's relationship with John Brown, Julia Baird brings vividly to life the fascinating story of a woman who struggled with so many of the things we do today: balancing work and family, raising children, navigating marital strife, losing parents, combating anxiety and self-doubt, finding an identity, searching for meaning. The stage was already set for the astonishing reign of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. After the discovery of previously unfound letters and journals in Germany, Hector Bolitho here continues his series of royal biographies to expand on and re-frame the extraordinary lives of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Bolitho expertly navigates the unparalleled rule of Queen Victoria and her Prince Consort in this

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authentic and intimate portrait of their lives. From her incredible accession to the throne, through her romance with Albert, and to her lengthy rule as monarch, Bolitho paints a rich and full portrait of Victoria - as queen, mother, wife, and widow. Perfect for fans of ITV's Victoria, discover the truth behind one of history's greatest romances and learn how the pair shaped not only the British Empire but the world. The Reign of Queen Victoria was first published in 1948. PRAISE FOR THE REIGN OF QUEEN VICTORIA 'A monumental, scholarly study' - Kirkus Review 'A massive piece of research, written in the best traditions of authentic history' - Kirkus Review

Her Royal Highness offers fresh insight into the private life of this famous royal couple, from the early years together to the tragedy of the prince's premature death, and of the house that can be seen as a monument to their marriage. 200 photographs, 100 in color.

Commemorating the centennial of Queen Victoria's death, a thought-provoking profile of the famed British monarch examines the complex life, reign, and personality of a woman who sat on the throne for sixty-four years. By the author of George III. Reprint. 20,000 first printing.

The marriage of Victoria and Albert is one of the most famous relationships in history. But Albert died in middle age and Victoria spent twice as long as his

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widow than as his wife. This book is about Victoria's widowhood when she became the longest serving European sovereign and the matriarch of a huge clan. The book is beautifully illustrated throughout with portraits from the author's collection and uses some of Victoria's own words from her journal and letters to help tell the story. The first years of Victoria's widowhood were the least successful of her reign. She refused to appear in public and her popularity suffered. She gradually emerged from self-imposed gloom but her seclusion in remote homes, far from London, fuelled scandalous rumours about her private life. The story of Victoria's widowhood includes the men in her life. At only forty-two, the queen was a desirable catch but never considered another foray into the royal marriage market. She formed a close relationship with a male servant, flirted with her prime minister, and became very fond of a handsome son-in-law. Late in life she had a puzzling relationship with an Indian young man. By the end of her reign, Victoria was an institution and the icon of the age; the symbol of Britain's superpower status and monarch of two hundred million subjects in an empire that stretched around the globe. She is the British monarch in history whose name everyone knows. Victoria the Widowed Queen is the last of three books about The Colourful Personal Life of Queen Victoria. They focus on Victoria as a woman - her personal life, the events that formed her character, and

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the relationships that were important to her. Young Victoria covers her early years including the difficult childhood that formed her character and how she came to the throne aged only eighteen. Victoria & Albert looks at her marriage to Albert and how she balanced the very different roles of sovereign and Victorian wife and mother.

Paula Bartley's Queen Victoria examines Victorian Britain from the perspective of the Queen. Victoria's personal and political actions are discussed in relation to contemporary shifts in Britain's society, politics and culture, examining to what extent they did – or did not – influence events throughout her reign. Drawing from contemporary sources, including Queen Victoria's own diaries, as well as the most recent scholarship, the book contextualises Victoria historically by placing her in the centre of an unparalleled period of innovation and reform, in which the social and political landscape of Britain, and its growing empire, was transformed. Balancing Victoria's private and public roles, it will examine the cultural paradox of the Queen's rule in relation to the changing role of women: she was a devoted wife, prolific mother and obsessive widow, who was also Queen of a large Empire and Empress of India. Marrying cultural history, gender history and other histories 'from below' with high politics, war and diplomacy, this is a concise and accessible introduction to Queen Victoria's life for students of Victorian Britain

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and the British Empire.

This book about the young Queen Victoria is beautifully illustrated throughout with portraits and other memorabilia from the author's collection. It covers the somewhat bizarre circumstances of Victoria's birth, when there was an undignified race to produce the next heir to the British throne; her lonely childhood under a tough regime and without any friends of her own age; and the national adulation when she succeeded as a teenager. It ends with how she fell in love with Albert. 'Young Victoria' focuses on the story of Victoria as a woman - her personal life, the events that formed her character, and the relationships that were important to her. It uses some of her own words from her journal, to help tell the story. This short book is intended to be light-hearted and easy-to-read and should appeal to anyone who likes history, or follows royalty, or is interested in people's personal stories. The overwhelming public image of Queen Victoria is of the elderly queen towards the end of her reign. She is serious and unsmiling, even gloomy; more of a symbol than a person. But Victoria has a colourful life story which is full of drama, intrigue and surprises. She came to the throne as a pretty eighteen-year-old; her public image was very different at the start of her reign than at the end. 'Young Victoria' is the first part of 'The Colourful Personal Life of Queen Victoria'. It will be followed by two more books - 'Victoria and Albert', covering her marriage to and relationship with Albert, when they changed the image of the royal family and founded a dynasty; and 'The Widowed Queen', about the long years of her

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widowhood after Albert's early death, when she became the doyenne of sovereigns and the grandmamma of Europe.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER "[A] delectable double bio . . . Talk about Victoria's secret. . . . A fascinating portrait of a genuine love match, but one in which the partners dealt with surprisingly modern issues." —USA Today It was the most influential marriage of the nineteenth century—and one of history's most enduring love stories. Traditional biographies tell us that Queen Victoria inherited the throne as a naïve teenager, when the British Empire was at the height of its power, and seemed doomed to find failure as a monarch and misery as a woman until she married her German cousin Albert and accepted him as her lord and master. Now renowned chronicler Gillian Gill turns this familiar story on its head, revealing a strong, feisty queen and a brilliant, fragile prince working together to build a family based on support, trust, and fidelity, qualities neither had seen much of as children. The love affair that emerges is far more captivating, complex, and relevant than that depicted in any previous account. The epic relationship began poorly. The cousins first met as teenagers for a few brief, awkward, chaperoned weeks in 1836. At seventeen, charming rather than beautiful, Victoria already "showed signs of wanting her own way." Albert, the boy who had been groomed for her since birth, was chubby, self-absorbed, and showed no interest in girls, let alone this princess. So when they met again in 1839 as queen and presumed prince-consort-to-be, neither had particularly high hopes. But the queen was delighted to discover a

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grown man, refined, accomplished, and whiskered. “Albert is beautiful!” Victoria wrote, and she proposed just three days later. As Gill reveals, Victoria and Albert entered their marriage longing for intimate companionship, yet each was determined to be the ruler. This dynamic would continue through the years—each spouse, headstrong and impassioned, eager to lead the marriage on his or her own terms. For two decades, Victoria and Albert engaged in a very public contest for dominance. Against all odds, the marriage succeeded, but it was always a work in progress. And in the end, it was Albert’s early death that set the Queen free to create the myth of her marriage as a peaceful idyll and her husband as Galahad, pure and perfect. As Gill shows, the marriage of Victoria and Albert was great not because it was perfect but because it was passionate and complicated. Wonderfully nuanced, surprising, often acerbic—and informed by revealing excerpts from the pair’s journals and letters—*We Two* is a revolutionary portrait of a queen and her prince, a fascinating modern perspective on a couple who have become a legend. **BONUS:** This edition contains a reader's guide. Albert: Prince Consort to Queen Victoria, social and cultural visionary in his own right, was born in the Saxon duchy of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld but defined the culture and direction of 19th century Britain - a superpower at the zenith of its influence - more than any other British royal or politician. Although he pleaded with his wife that no monument to his memory should be left (a plea that was to go unheeded by his grieving widow) the role he played in shaping Victorian culture stands today as indisputable proof of the

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enduring legacy of a man who spent just two decades of his short life in England. Though overshadowed in history by his adoring wife, and at times even mocked by her subjects, it was arguably Albert that gave form and substance to the Victorian Age. From the outset, he strove to win 'the respect, the love and the confidence of the Queen and of the nation', pursuing an extraordinary social and cultural crusade that has become his greatest legacy. From the Great Exhibition and the construction of many of London's great museums to his social campaigns against slavery and the Corn Laws, Albert's achievements were truly remarkable - in fact, very few have made such a permanent mark on British society. This is the life story of Albert of Saxe-Coburg: Prince Consort and beloved husband of Queen Victoria - and one of the most influential figures of modern Europe.

A pictorial celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's magnificent reign Since she succeeded to the throne in 1952, Queen Elizabeth II has become respected, celebrated, and beloved around the world. This stunning collection of powerful images illustrates her storied reign in all its glory. More than 300 extraordinary photographs, along with insightful commentary by the royal journalist Victoria Murphy, showcase the significant, historic, and intimate moments throughout the Queen's life, first as a young princess and then as the longest-reigning British monarch. The book covers her war years in service; her marriage to Prince Philip; her coronation—the first to be televised; her extensive official travels around the world; the glittering diplomatic occasions and

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encounters with world leaders, dignitaries, and celebrities; the pomp and pageantry of ceremonial events; her role as a fashion icon; her relationships with her parents, King George VI and the Queen Mother, and her sister, Princess Margaret; the birth of her son and heir to the throne Prince Charles; family life with her four children and eight grandchildren, as well as her beloved dogs and horses; and the growing role of Prince William and his wife, the Duchess of Cambridge, as they support the Queen in her public duties. Shown here too are the Crown Jewels as well as the Queen's personal jewelry collection; a look at the royal palaces and residences; and portraits from the stunning royal weddings that have so enchanted the world. Throughout her reign, with a combination of star power and a profound sense of duty, Queen Elizabeth II has steered the British monarchy into the modern era with supreme style and grace. She is truly a queen for all ages.

In 1837, Victoria came to the throne at the age of 18, a pretty girl, not five feet tall, to preside over what was, perhaps, the most momentous period in British history. During the 64 years of her reign, she saw thrones fall, empires crumble, new continents explored and mapped, while her own country became the most powerful, richest and most highly developed nation in the world.

During her sixty-three-year reign, Queen Victoria gathered around herself a household dedicated to her service. For some, royal employment was the defining experience of their lives; for others it came as an unwelcome duty or as a prelude to greater things.

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Serving Victoria follows the lives of six members of her household, from the governess to the royal children, from her maid of honor to her chaplain and her personal physician. Drawing on their letters and diaries—many hitherto unpublished—Serving Victoria offers a unique insight into the Victorian court, with all its frustrations and absurdities, as well as the Queen herself, sitting squarely at its center. Seen through the eyes of her household as she traveled among Windsor, Osborne, and Balmoral, and to the French and Belgian courts, Victoria emerges as more vulnerable, more emotional, more selfish, more comical, than the austere figure depicted in her famous portraits. We see a woman who was prone to fits of giggles, who wept easily and often, who gobbled her food and shrank from confrontation but insisted on controlling the lives of those around her. We witness her extraordinary and debilitating grief at the death of her husband, Albert, and her sympathy toward the tragedies that afflicted her household. Witty, astute, and moving, Serving Victoria is a perfect foil to the pomp and circumstance—and prudery and conservatism—associated with Victoria's reign, and gives an unforgettable glimpse of what it meant to serve the Queen.

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