



Victoria

Daisy Goodwin

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#)

Victoria

Daisy Goodwin

Victoria Daisy Goodwin

“They think I am still a little girl who is not capable of being a Queen.”

Lord Melbourne turned to look at Victoria. “They are mistaken. I have not known you long, but I observe in you a natural dignity that cannot be learnt. To me, ma’am, you are every inch a Queen.”

In 1837, less than a month after her eighteenth birthday, Alexandrina Victoria – sheltered, small in stature, and *female* – became Queen of Great Britain and Ireland. Many thought it was preposterous: Alexandrina — Drina to her family — had always been tightly controlled by her mother and her household, and was surely too unprepossessing to hold the throne. Yet from the moment William IV died, the young Queen startled everyone: abandoning her hated first name in favor of Victoria; insisting, for the first time in her life, on sleeping in a room apart from her mother; resolute about meeting with her ministers alone.

One of those ministers, Lord Melbourne, became Victoria’s private secretary. Perhaps he might have become more than that, except everyone argued she was destined to marry her cousin, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. But Victoria had met Albert as a child and found him stiff and critical: surely the last man she would want for a husband....

Drawing on Victoria’s diaries as well as her own brilliant gifts for history and drama, Daisy Goodwin, author of the bestselling novels *The American Heiress* and *The Fortune Hunter* as well as creator and writer of the new PBS/Masterpiece drama *Victoria*, brings the young queen even more richly to life in this magnificent novel.

Victoria Details

Date : Published November 22nd 2016 by St. Martin's Press (first published November 1st 2016)

ISBN : 9781250045461

Author : Daisy Goodwin

Format : Hardcover 404 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Romance, European Literature, British Literature

 [Download Victoria ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Victoria ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Victoria Daisy Goodwin

From Reader Review Victoria for online ebook

Ashley Brooks says

3.5

Oh, young Victoria. This book covers 18/19 year old Victoria as she comes into power, acts like a child, stomps "But I'm the QUEEN" and you know, does Queen stuff. I did quite like this for the most part. The beginning started off strong but it got dragged out quite a bit in the middle. Not much happened and it felt like she was trying to stretch this story out perhaps because it was constrained due to the upcoming series on PBS. It did pick back up towards the end though and I'm curious to see where the TV series goes.

I've been curious about Goodwin's books for a while but have always been a bit put off by the lackluster reviews. I'm not sure if I'll be picking up more of her work in the future.

The Lit Bitch says

I am going to preface this post by saying that Queen Victoria is absolutely my favorite queen! I've had my eye on this book for MONTHS waiting for it to come out.

When this came up for review I literally jumped for joy. So I was already geared up to love this one but my biggest fear was that because I was so excited to read it that I didn't want to be let down if it wasn't good.

Well my fears were entirely unfounded! This was an excellent read!

I have been a fan of Daisy Goodwin's novels for quite some time. She always does a marvelous job researching her subjects and time periods and this novel was no exception. Though her novels are based on historical figures, they are billed as historical fiction but they are so seeped in historical facts that they don't always read like historical fiction. I love her blending of fact and fiction, the books are always informative but yet entertaining and don't read like history books.

The story itself flows very well and the ending was fitting and satisfying. I loved that the story focused on the family dynamics and romance rather than the politics of her reign. Sometimes historical fiction novels tend to focus too much on the historical elements and politics of the era, especially of royal figures and it can distract from the central story.

It's hard to decide which things are important to include and which things are more tangents. Goodwin does a fantastic job at keeping things focused on the family and romance rather than overwhelming the reader with historical facts and figures. There are plenty of historical, fact based works on Queen Victoria, this book was meant to be more entertaining and loosely informative.

The characters themselves were well drawn and interesting. Victoria herself was easily likable and sympathetic and I think that a lot of readers will identify with her and enjoy getting to know her. Daisy Goodwin also wrote for the PBS/Masterpiece show, Victoria, and I guess this book basically follow the same plot. I haven't seen the show but after reading this book I am going to watch it for sure!

And can I just say how in love with the cover that I am? The cover is eye catching with it's red and gold accents and makes my want to know more about the book. It's elegant and with the woman's back facing the

reader, it makes me want to know more about her. I love it!

If you are looking for a historical biography of Queen Victoria then this probably isn't the book for you but if you are looking for something entertaining based on historical facts then I think you will love this one. There are some parts that are a little melodramatic but on the whole this is a fantastic read that I enjoyed immensely!

See my full review here

Sarah says

I didn't think I would like this book as much as I did so I'm very pleasantly surprised! I requested it on NetGalley because it sounded intriguing and now, I'm so glad that I did! Historical fiction is a genre I have sort of shied away from in the past because I wasn't a big fan of history in school but I thought this was wonderful and the kind of book I would like to read on a regular basis. Actually thinking about it, the few historical fiction books I have read (Salt To The Sea, All The Light We Cannot See, Sarah's Key & this one) were all solid favourites of mine! I must go find some more books like these fabulous ones!

Back to this book! I REALLY liked it. The strongest element to this book was definitely Victoria herself. Daisy Goodwin portrayed Victoria in such an enthralling way. She was likeable, she was smart, she was funny, she was independent, she was caring, she was brave, she was kind, she was capable, she was thoughtful, she felt authentic and she refused to let people treat her differently because of her gender/her age/her height & her marital status (and they certainly did try). Victoria also had bad qualities - she was stubborn and quite naïve and foolish at times but she was young and those things made her feel more real to me anyway. Victoria wasn't the only great character, so many other characters were fleshed out and they all felt three-dimensional in a subtle way as to not take the spotlight off of Victoria. The relationships in the book were also great. There were a few great dynamics - Victoria & her mother, Victoria and Prime Minister Melbourne, Victoria and Lehzen, Victoria's mother & Sir John Conroy, Albert & Ernst, and to a lesser extent, Victoria and Albert. My favourite dynamic was the one between Victoria and her mother. It was so complicated and I found parts of it very relatable. Everything between the two women felt so palpable- the resentment, the yearning, the desperation and it was just so good.

I liked the actual story too. It follows Victoria for the first year and a bit(ish) after she becomes queen. Not only is this a coming of age story but a story about a young queen! I thought the pacing was very well done apart from the end. I felt like the end was a bit rushed. There wasn't enough between Albert and Victoria for me. What I would love was if this turned into a book series because I want to find out what happens next. I don't know if that's even on the table but I would love to read a few more books about Daisy Goodwin's Victoria because I love how she did this book and I really liked her writing. Her writing was simple yet parts of it were actually very beautiful and I wish I highlighted more parts! Sometimes authors try too hard to make their writing sound very complicated but Daisy Goodwin didn't do that. I'm excited to watch the new Victoria show that Goodwin did too!

I would recommend this to everyone and I would definitely read something else by Daisy Goodwin.

*I received a free copy from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

~~~~~

“I was not aware you were fighting a war, ma’am.” ... “That is because you are not a young woman, Duke,

and no one, I suspect, tells you what to do. But I have to prove my worth every single day, and I cannot do it alone.”

“Their heads were close together, the Duchess’s face tilted towards Conroy like a sunflower facing the sun.”

---

## Julie says

Victoria by Daisy Goodwin is a 2016 St. Martin’s Press publication.

This is a light and easy spin on Queen Victoria’s first days as the Queen, being at the ripe old age of eighteen. This fictional version of events reads more like a historical romance than a work of historical fiction.

As the sheltered Victoria tests the waters of her new found freedom and power, she often clashes with her mother and others who attempt to gain influence over her or advise her.

The Queen holds resentment in her heart for a long time, is often petulant and stubborn, and in some cases manipulative.

She is lucky to have found Lord Melbourne, who became her secretary, and could handle her in a way no one else seemed capable of. She loved him as a father figure, respected him as a friend, but soon developed deeper feelings for him. Theirs was a tumultuous association at times, but was one of deep affection and loyalty.

Lord M was her most trusted ally and did a great service to Victoria all the way up until her marriage to Albert.

This relationship dominates much of the book. It was interesting to see how that relationship developed and changed over time. The drama and intrigue at court is also very compelling, and although Victoria behaved like a spoiled child on many occasions and seemed to go through the motions of being a Queen, not taking her responsibilities beyond mere duty, she did have the courage to stand up to people she knew were attempting to ‘handle’ her or sway her decisions, although she made some awful mistakes along the way.

Victoria’s initial encounters with Albert are funny and their romance got off to a very rocky start, but I absolutely loved the banter between them and Albert was most assuredly a positive influence on the young queen, who benefited from this challenging person in her life because he was more than just a ‘yes’ man. By the same token, Victoria was the perfect woman for the extremely serious Albert, who never smiled.

I enjoyed reading about Victoria’s life prior to her marriage. She was only a teenager and rebelled like most normal teens do, especially those who are overprotected. This led to plenty of machinations and drama, and was on occasion, pretty suspenseful.

This is an interesting approach to historical fiction, and to Victoria’s early life, but the quick pacing and sharp dialogue, kept me turning pages and completely engaged in the story.

Overall, this is not exactly what I was expecting from this book, but I ended up liking it a lot and was glad the book took a buoyant tone, instead of a heavier one, which is what I was expecting, and is a fresh look at Victoria’s life before Albert and the way she finally accepted Albert as her husband.

4 stars

## James says

4+ stars to Daisy Goodwin's Victoria, a historical fiction novel released with a PBS TV series bringing the book to life on Sunday evenings. I was very sad when Downton Abbey was ending, but looked forward to the release of "The Gilded Age," "The Crown," and "Victoria," all of which handled similar themes and historical families. I won this book through a giveaway but had already started watching the TV series. I finished the book this week with one episode still left to watch to see how this chapter of the story ends -- and so far, I'm quite fascinated. A definite MUST-READ for all...

### Story

Victoria's father was next to be king, but he died young, and his brothers inherited the throne after their father passed on; however, none produced heirs. At 18, Victoria became Queen when her uncle died and she was quickly thrust into the spotlight. Raised by a German mother, with little education, and still a very young girl, Victoria waffled between rebellious teen and resourceful leader throughout this story. It covers about 2 years of her life from 18 to 20, ending when she proposes to her cousin Albert in order to bring some additional stability to her power. Based on Victoria's journals and several other historical documents, Goodwin recreates the beginnings of a rocky reign which eventually became the longest British royal on the throne (until Elizabeth II recently surpassed it a year ago). While the TV Series ends with Victoria and Albert married, having their first child, and her Prime Minister about to retire, the book stops a few months earlier... but it's still an amazing story.

### Strengths

1. The story is classic: rebellious teen, loves someone she cannot have, fights with her mother, wants all the beautiful things, but is coming of age... so much drama we all have today but with the splendor of nearly 200 years ago added in for good measure.
2. It's full of family genetics and history. Who's married to whom? Who cheated on whom? It's her cousin? It's her uncle? It's also her third cousin once removed from the other side? Crazy... but it seems logical and makes sense all at the same time.
3. The ability to recreate the setting and the ambiance is well done. Goodwin is a master.

### Suggestions

I have very little to suggest. Perhaps a family tree tucked into the jacket of the book? A little more background on her father and early years before she inherited the throne? It may help readers understand how her parents fell in love, what kind of relationship they had, how she was raised by her mother using German educational systems. You get a flavor of it, but I thirsted for a bit more.

### Final Thoughts

Forget this is founded in some reality. Ignore that it's about royalty. Pretend it is modern times. The story is just a classic tale. And it has everything.

---

## vicky says

[it ended with the proposal. (hide spoiler)]

## Lesley says

Disappointing.

Here we have the potential for an epic story. A young woman, sheltered for her entire life, becomes Queen at the age of 18. Grievously unprepared, she somehow still succeeds to become one of the most successful and well known monarchs of the British Royal line and, until recently, the longest reigning. Add to that the sweeping romance with her husband, Prince Albert, and you have a recipe for a riveting story, right?

I thought so, until I started this book.

Let's start with the writing. It's nothing to write home about, which, if the story is good enough, I can sometimes overlook. But as previously mentioned, the story is decidedly *not* good enough. Back to the writing. Repeatedly throughout this novel the author repeats herself multiple times in the novel. How frustrating was that sentence to read?

Exactly.

Now the story. Remember all of that good stuff? Nah. This book decides to focus its 400+ pages on a teenage crush on a father figure. And I get it. Queen Victoria's relationship with her Prime Minister was a big part of her early days as Queen. But did we really need an entire book dedicated to the same thing happening over and over and over again? Victoria likes Melbourne. Melbourne kind of likes Victoria but is too proper to encourage it. Decides to put an end to things.

Maybe.

Rinse and repeat. What really got me was the treatment of poor Albert. One of the most romantic stories the British monarchy has to boast is reduced to a bickering, miserable match. I honestly didn't even feel like Goodwin's Albert and Victoria liked each other very much at all. They are a side note tacked on to the star crossed love story that is Victoria and Melbourne. Never mind that Albert tried to protect Victoria during an assassination attempt. Never mind that together they championed so many important issues in poverty and learning. Never mind that after Albert's death, Victoria was scarcely seen for three years, wore black for the rest of her life, and laid out Albert's clothes every morning until her own death.

Never mind any of that.

Let's just talk more about Melbourne, shall we?

So disappointing.

---

## Misfit says

Well, that was all fluff and nonsense that went on waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaay too long. The Lord Melbourne 'romance' was not appreciated by this reader, especially without an author's note with reasons why that was written into the story and if it had any basis in historical fact.

## **Christina (Confessions of a Book Addict) says**

I received this book for free from SheSpeaks

Victoria has lived a sheltered life before she became the Queen Victoria that we are all familiar with. Her mother didn't let her socialize or experience much outside of the walls of house, so in turn she doesn't know much about the world. At eighteen years of age, she find herself the Queen and with this comes not only great responsibility, but also a chance for her to carve out her own path. Thanks to Lord Melbourne, the prime minister, she learns the ins and outs of her life as Queen. There's one problem though. She starts to feel something for her much older advisor, Lord Melbourne, but she knows she can't possibly allow herself to love him. To complicate matters further, her uncle has come to court to remind her that she is destined to marry Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, but last time Victoria saw him, she was completely turned off. Daisy Goodwin's Victoria is an interesting glimpse into a lesser known Victoria. Readers get to know the Victoria that just arrived to the throne and the young woman who was finding her way.

I only knew the basic information about Victoria when I read this novel, but I love that Goodwin sheds so much light on her path to the throne as well as her life before Albert. The dynamic with her mother was especially interesting and I desperately wanted Victoria to break free from her mother's controlling grip. As any young woman will experience, Victoria struggled with her newfound freedom and although she didn't make the best decision at every turn, I still was rooting for her.

Her relationship with Lord Melbourne in Victoria was an interesting one. I could see the appeal of a well-respected man who actually supports her....a man with power and charm, but I knew that not only was he entirely too old for her, I was desperately waiting for Albert's arrival to court. And with that came my frustration. I was 70% through Victoria and there was no Albert yet! I was desperately waiting for his entrance and once he arrived, I was thrilled and loved his complex relationship with Victoria as well as his relationship with his charismatic brother.

All good historical fiction makes you want to learn more about its topic at hand and that was the case with Victoria. Reading this novel made me want to brush up on my British history and learn more about Victoria and Albert. It also has me so, so very excited for the show coming to PBS this January, which is based on this very book and written/created by Daisy Goodwin herself. I hope that Goodwin continues with Victoria's story as there is so much more to tell!

So, if you are like me and love all things historical fiction as well as British Royalty, you will definitely want to check out Victoria this fall, especially before the show airs this January on PBS. I can't wait!

---

## **April (Aprilius Maximus) says**

Thank you to Headline Review and NetGalley for providing a copy of this book for me to review!

Victoria is a novelisation of Queen Victoria's ascension to the British throne in 1837. What you may or may not know, however, is that the author of this book is also the writer and creator of the ITV series (also titled Victoria) that coincides with it. I actually watched season 1 of the show first before reading the novel, so it's extremely difficult for me not to compare the two and to be honest, I much prefer the show to the novel. That's not to say it's a bad book, because it's not. It just lacked a few of the things that I adored from the

show and even if I never watched the show, I still feel as though I would have the same issues with the book. So here is what I will tell you (if you don't want to know anything about the show or the book's plot and don't already know the history of Queen Victoria, then perhaps don't read on) - The novel only reaches the point of Victoria's engagement, whereas the show continues farther than that until the birth of her first child. This, combined with the fact that Prince Albert only enters the novel 80% of the way through, was my main issue. If you're a massive romance fan like I am, then you'll probably be reading this wondering when the HECK Albert is finally going to show up and woo you and this is exactly what happened. I was waiting and waiting and waiting and then it only leads up until their engagement??? ARE YOU KIDDING ME??? THEIR RELATIONSHIP IS LITERALLY WHAT I'M HERE FOR!

Don't get me wrong, the first 80% of the novel is still important, as it follows Victoria's ascension and relationship with Lord Melbourne, but it dragged on for far too long and, in my opinion, should have only taken up 40-50% of the novel MAX, and the rest to be focussed on Victoria and Albert, their relationship, and how they rule together and start a family.

I would be fine with the novel how it is if it were the first in a series, but Daisy Goodwin has stated that her next novel will follow an entirely different main character and it will take place after Prince Albert dies SO THE WHOLE REASON I WANTED TO READ THESE BOOKS IS COMPLETELY OUT OF THE PICTURE. WHAT THE HECK.

I did love seeing Victoria ruling by herself, standing up to all of her enemies and coming into her own, but Albert was such a HUGE part of her life and I really, REALLY wanted to read about them together, so I was super disappointed.

In terms of the content, it's pretty historically accurate for the amount of information available and Daisy Goodwin relied on a hefty biography of Victoria's life so she knew what she was talking about, even if some aspects were embellished for the sake of TV drama.

So yes, I recommend this book if you want to know more about the Queen's early reigning years, but I don't recommend it if you're purely here for her and Prince Albert's relationship. I would definitely recommend the TV show over the novel in any case. The acting is superb, the costumes and settings were incredible and PRINCE ALBERT IS IN MORE THAN HALF OF IT, SO THERE'S THAT. He comes in at the end of episode 3 and there's 8 episodes in total in the first season, so get on that!

Overall I gave it a 3 out of 5 stars!

---

## Célia says

A Rainha Vitória é uma figura incontornável da monarquia britânica, após ter ocupado o trono durante mais de 63 anos, entre 1837 e 1901. Nesse período, também apelidado de época vitoriana, ocorreram mudanças profundas no país, das quais o maior exemplo será a Revolução Industrial. Já li várias coisas sobre este período (gosto particularmente de *North and South*, de Elizabeth Gaskell), mas a verdade é que tinha uma lacuna no que respeita à Rainha propriamente dita.

*Vitória – A Jovem Rainha* foi escrito pela também argumentista da série televisiva, cuja segunda temporada acabou de estreiar, e aborda a sua ascensão ao trono e os dois primeiros anos do reinado, antes de se ter casado. Vitória tinha vivido toda a sua infância e adolescência isolada em Kensington, porque perante a perspectiva de ser herdeira ao trono, a sua mãe e o ambicioso mordomo John Conroy desejavam que ela se tornasse dependente e necessitasse, por isso, do apoio de ambos assim que chegasse a uma posição de poder. A regência nunca se concretizou, porque Vitória completou os 18 anos antes do falecimento do Rei Guilherme IV, seu tio.

A partir do momento em que se torna Rainha, Vitória assume o papel sem medos, apesar da sua inexperiência, libertando-se das amarras da mãe e do pérfido Conroy. Para isso, recorre à ajuda do Visconde Melbourne, primeiro-ministro à data, que a aconselhou e ajudou em muitas das obrigações que Vitória

encontrou a seu cargo. Lorde M, como Vitória o apelidava, depressa passou de conselheiro a amigo, e a relação entre os dois revelou-se fundamental para a estabilidade de Vitória.

Abarcando um período muito específico da vida da Rainha Vitória, este livro pretende mostrar as dificuldades que sentiu ao chegar à posição mais importante do país, enquanto lutava por se tornar uma mulher, independente, e com direito às suas próprias emoções. Acho que Daisy Goodwin fez um bom trabalho em retratá-la, tendo para isso recorrido aos diários que Vitória escreveu ao longo da sua vida. O livro tem um enfoque muito emocional e familiar, centrando-se nos acontecimentos do dia-a-dia de Vitória e com a relação nas pessoas que a rodeavam, deixando para segundo plano os acontecimentos sociais e políticos (como os acontecimentos no Afeganistão, por exemplo).

Vitória quis, desde o início, tornar-se uma grande Rainha, à semelhança de uma das suas antecessoras, Isabel I, tendo o tempo provado a concretização do seu desejo. *Vitória – A Jovem Rainha* retrata muito bem aqueles que foram os primeiros anos do seu reinado e abrem o apetite para futuras publicações da autora que ajudem o leitor a vislumbrar mais do que foi a vida desta importante figura histórica.

---

## Gabry says

Se avete amato la serie TV, questo libro è perfetto! Ora però datemi un libro su Victoria ed Albert <3

---

## The Books Blender says

Questa recensione è presente anche sul blog/per i riferimenti delle immagini->  
<http://thebooksblender.altervista.org...>

- *Ho ricevuto una copia di questo libro in cambio di un'onesta recensione* -

La giovane **Alexandrina Victoria** - Drina per gli intimi - è destinata a un grande futuro - se lo zio Guglielmo le farà il dono di lasciarle il trono quando lei avrà raggiunto i diciotto anni così da essere libera dall'assurdo "**Sistema Kensington**", una serie di regole imposte dalla madre e dal di lei... *amichetto Lord Conroy*, i quali le hanno praticamente impedito di godere del mondo esterno e della altolocata società inglese (per la cronaca, la futura regina dorme ancora in camera con la madre).

Insomma, ecco arrivare il giorno sperato. Drina è diciottenne da un mese; è teoricamente libera dalla tutela opprimente della madre e... è appena diventata regina.

Ma su di lei le chiacchiere dei notabili e del popolino già si sprecano: è **nana**, è isterica, è inesperta, analfabeto e impreparato, troppo giovane, inadeguato al ruolo che sta per assumere, un burattino nelle mani della madre e di Lord Conroy (e la madre, a sua volta, è a dir poco succube del fascino di Conroy).

Dopo «un imbecille, un dissoluto e un buffone», tocca ad Alexandrina Victoria salire sul trono d'Inghilterra e **dimostrare al mondo di poter essere una regina** e non una sciocca ragazzina con una corona in testa.

Ma sarà effettivamente in grado?

Tra malelingue, sotterfugi, complotti Drina, anzi Victoria da adesso, troverà un inaspettato alleato nel suo Primo Ministro (dalla dubbia reputazione), **Lord Melbourne**, il quale la guiderà nel difficile protocollo reale e legislativo («È sempre più facile dare consigli che ascoltarli.», Lord Melbourne *docet*).

Ma un regno non si governa con i consigli altrui o in preda ai bisogni del cuore e all'esaltazione della libertà riconquistata. Victoria dovrà, in primo luogo, imparare a servire la Corona e i suoi sudditi.

Nell'immaginario comune, Victoria è associata alla **figura austera con l'abito a lutto** e la cuffietta bianca in testa. Ma ci si dimentica - almeno io mi ero dimentica prima di leggere questo romanzo - che la regina Victoria è salita al trono all'età di diciotto anni.

Si sarebbe rivelata una giovane ragazza nelle cui mani sarebbe rifiorito uno degli imperi più grandi di sempre, ma, al momento in cui ce la presenta Daisy Goodwin, Victoria è solo una ragazza inesperta e un po' sognatrice - come ogni ragazza di diciotto anni - con un paese da gestire.

**Un metro e quarantanove di giovinezza e caparbietà** chiuso per diciotto anni nel polveroso Palazzo di Kensington, libero da una parte ma legato dall'altra a un rigido protocollo, costantemente osservato da mille occhi pronti a individuare un suo tentennamento.

Quindi, questa è la storia della liberazione di un'adolescente costretta dalla propria madre e dal di lei amichetto al rispetto di rigide (e un poco assurde) regole; è la storia di come Buckingham House si trasformò in **Buckingham Palace**; è la storia di una grandiosa regina che dette il nome a un'epoca.

Ma è anche la storia di intrighi, maldicenze, dicerie, gelosie; di piccoli fatti ingigantiti dalle chiacchiere; di orecchie costantemente in ascolto e di **occhi costantemente in agguato**; di doveri, politica, obblighi e di rispetto della tradizione.

Tra una madre opprimente, uno zio che medita vendetta e l'altro che le cerca marito, una Corte pronta a **cannibalizzare le spoglie del vinto**, un popolo che cambia i propri beniamini come una banderuola segnamento e un Parlamento gestito da soli uomini, la giovanissima sovrana sembrerebbe destinata a fallire tra chi la vorrebbe pazza e chi solo frivola.

Ma Victoria riesce a **incunarsi in un mondo a misura d'uomo**: non solo la circonferenza della corona è "da uomo", ma persino la dimensione delle stoviglie.

Ho un debole per i romanzi storici che riadattano eventi reali alle esigenze della storia raccontata e ho anche un vena romantica - ogni tanto vien fuori anche quella - che qui si è sciolta di fronte al rapporto tra Victoria e il suo Primo Ministro.

Ovviamente, vorrei precisare che si tratta di una storia molto (*mooolto*) romanzata. Ma, come scrivevo poco sopra, gli eventi base sono suppergiù tutti veri.

Ad esempio,

- esisteva davvero il "**Sistema Kensington**", una rigida disciplina fatta di svariate regole (tra cui anche il dormire nella stessa stanza della madre) alla quale Victoria era costretta;
- è vero, anche se si svolse con dinamiche differenti, lo **scandalo di Lady Flora Hastings**. Uno stesso

appunto nel diario della regina Victoria indica che lei sospettava il colpevole (non lo scrivo per non spoilerare la storia);

- è vero anche che le chiacchiere circa il rapporto tra Victoria e il Primo Ministro furono davvero argomento del secolo; tanto che alla regina fu affibbiato il nomignolo di **Mrs. Malbourne**.

E visto che mi sono sbrodolata in complimenti su questo romanzo, concludo con un paio di appunti. Il primo riguarda la scrittura che non mi ha particolarmente esaltata, essendo molto scarna e sbrigativa.

L'autrice ha scritto il libro mentre curava la sceneggiatura della serie televisiva Victoria (con **Jenna Coleman** nel ruolo di Victoria e **Rufus Sewell** in quello di Lord Melbourne) e questa impronta da *script*/sceneggiatura si riverbera nello stile usato nel romanzo.

Anche perché Daisy Goodwin È sceneggiatrice; nella serie tv si perdono alcuni passaggi davvero deliziosi del libro, ma si guadagna uno sguardo sul mondo della servitù e dei domestici non affrontato nel libro... ma la cosa non è poi così determinante.

In secondo luogo, l'altro appunto riguarda la parte finale del romanzo: per certi verso meno approfondita e più tirata via rispetto al resto.

Detto questo - e concludo davvero - i reali inglesi esercitano un certo fascino nell'immaginario collettivo da sempre e la Goodwin riesce qui a dargli una rilevanza interessante, piegando gli eventi necessari per una storia tutto sommato credibile e appassionante.

Insomma... signora Goodwin, ci fosse un seguito (sarebbe bello seguire Victoria fino alla fine del suo lunghissimo regno), io mi prenoto fin da ora!

---

## Pamela says

My initial thought - based on the synopsis and the gorgeous cover - this would be a seriously drawn story, a condensed life saga, a foray into the colorful (sometimes contradicting) life and reign of Queen Victoria. And I was all in. Greatly looking forward to a meaty good read. However, it turned out to be more of a "People Magazine" sort of story; a bit light, sensational, and gossipy. Plus Goodwin only covers Victoria's life from the age of seventeen until about twenty - prior to her first marriage.

Which was okay, as I found it entertaining and kept me turning pages. But it just wasn't what I was looking for in a regent-themed book.

In all fairness, though, I must say the writing is quite good. The author's decorum in handling 'scandalous' details is most commendable. And if Goodwin were to write another installment into Queen Victoria's life, as this novel eludes to, I'd certainly consider reading it. In the same way I have with Jeffrey Archer Jeffrey Archer cliffhanger sagas.

4 Stars as Women's Fiction

3 Stars as Literary Fiction

3.5 Stars as Historical Fiction

4 Stars as Popular Fiction

FOUR \*\*\*\* IT IS.....

---

### **Erin says**

3.5 stars

Well, this was just pure reading pleasure. More historical romance than historical fiction, "Victoria " swirls around the early days of the English monarch's reign, her struggles for independence and her attachment to Prime Minister, Lord Melbourne that sparked many rumours. Although there were times that I wavered in liking the depiction of Victoria as an angst ridden teenager with a "crush" on a much older man, I lapped it all up. Like other reviewers, I would have liked an author's note to explain certain writing decisions in the book.

---

### **Andrea says**

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I am a big fan of historical fiction and found this book to be delightful and a page-turner. The young Queen Victoria is endearing, annoying, youthful and an old soul all at once. She sees her foes and learns to handle them easily.

I was rooting for Lord M throughout the book- such a wonderful male character! Loved him!

Like all Daisy Goodwin books, this is a delightful must-read!

I received an Advance Review Copy. All opinions are my own.

---

### **Maddie (Heart Full Of Books) says**

Had so much fun consuming this story in novel form. I'm such trash for Victoria and Albert, just thinking about the fact they didn't spend their lifetimes together makes me want to cry. (Actually, I have spontaneously cried about it once.)

This has definitely sparked an interested in more historic royal tales, too! But, right now, it's time for me to start re-watching season 1 before diving into season 2.

---

### **Frank Phillips says**

I absolutely loved this book. The attention to detail, the character development, the overall splendid writing and Drammatic plot earned a 4-4.5 star rating! Not only is it spot-on factually, the writing is just simply great. Who would have thought that a royal would be raised under such strict conditions? I mean, having to hold one's hand anytime you go down the stairs?! Can we say paranoid much?! I am German, and absolutely loved/hated The depiction of Victoria's strict German mother in this! I felt like I was actually reading someone's diary at certain points in this novel. I wasn't as interested in this specific monarch largely due to the lack of drama compared to her predecessors (Plantagenets, Tudors, Stuarts), however I walked away

feeling like I really learned quite a bit and gained much more of an interest in this era. I read this novel before the miniseries came out and I am thankful for it as I have a better understanding of the events that are not necessarily as broken down and explained when converted to the silver screen. I had never read a book by Goodwin before and see that she has several published prior to this one and will be going out and picking them up as she has just gained a new fan!

---

### **abby says**

A coming of age story. But with crown jewels.

Princess Alexandrina Victoria, or Drina as her family calls her, knows that she will be queen one day. A complicated line of succession has cleared her path to the throne-- but she can only hope her ailing uncle, the current king, holds on until her eighteenth birthday. Because like many teenagers, this princess is looking to get away from her overprotective mother.

When she's crowned she takes on a new name, Victoria, and finally gets her own bedroom. She pulls away from her mother and her mother's power-hungry "personal companion" and instead leans heavily on her prime minister, the charming but scandal ridden Lord Melbourne. Victoria's relationship with the man she affectionately dubs Lord M grows from a student-teacher dynamic into a friendship and then into something more. There's a lot of pressure on the Queen to find a husband and settle into a family. The thinking of the time was that young women were prone to a serious medical condition known as "hysteria"-- marriage and motherhood were the only known cure. But even being the monarch of a great empire does not mean a young woman can marry just anyone. The powers that be have decided it's her destiny to marry her cousin (gag) Prince Albert. Too bad Victoria finds Albert bland and uninspiring.

Historical fiction isn't my favorite genre, but this book focused a bit more on romance and family drama than it did on history. The timeline of the book centers on the two years between Queen Victoria's coronation and her engagement, and not a great deal happens of historical significance in that window. I certainly did not feel transported back to the early nineteenth century while reading this. It was pretty light on period details. I wouldn't say I *loved* this book, but it was nice enough to read. The writing is just ok, and it did have a bit of a YA feel to it. My 4 star rating is more a lack of finding anything wrong with this book as opposed to finding much right. So even though this was a bit of a lightweight for me, my interest is piqued, and I'm excited to watch the show when it airs on PBS.

I received a copy of this book courtesy of the publisher and NetGalley.

---

### **Billie says**

I'll watch the miniseries, which will probably be gorgeous. However, the writing on the novel is lackluster and there's not really enough story to justify a 350+ page novel.

---