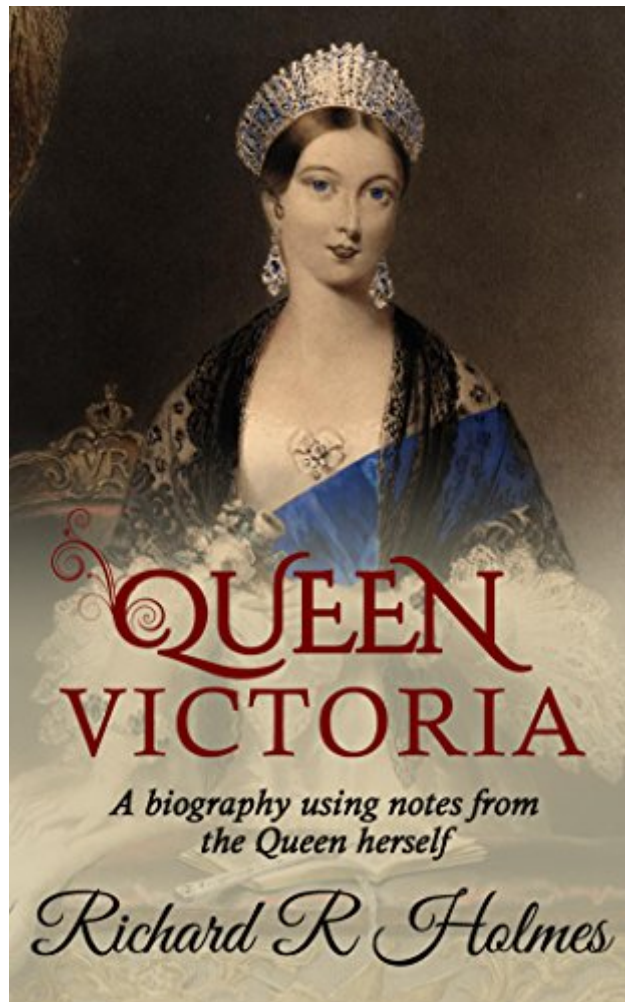


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Queen Victoria



Synopsis

“Her Majesty most graciously consented to supply notes on her childhood and youth | I am, therefore, enabled to present, for the first time, an accurate account of the childhood and youth of Queen Victoria.” To commemorate Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee in 1897, the Queen’s librarian compiled her biography. Queen Victoria gives us a contemporary Victorian insight into the Queen, her peers, her background and her heirs. Holmes also gives a thorough explanation into the lineage of the Queen, and how she came to inherit the throne. As Librarian to the Queen, Holmes gained access to what was then new and private material, including notes written by the Queen herself for Holmes to use. What made Victoria into the Queen she was? What were her key successes? How did the Queen react to key Victorian events? Written in her 60th year on the throne, Queen Victoria provides a detailed account of her reign in those 60 years and before from an intimate perspective, and a personal source. Sir Richard Rivington Holmes (1835-1911) was a British archivist and courtier, best known for being Librarian to the Queen at Windsor Castle. He was reappointed this role in 1901 by King Edward VII. He is also well known for his large Ethiopian artefact collection that has been catalogued into the British museum. Holmes is buried in Buckinghamshire.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Strachey's book was published originally in 1921 and was a pivotal biography according to Linda Wagner-Martin in "Telling Women's Lives - The New Biography". This book broke away from tradition and provided a deeper look at the Queen and all those around her by abandoning the notion of promoting a person's success and strengths and instead paints the portrait of a human with weaknesses, motivations, strengths, and struggles. The reader sees the Queen in relationships that become history and see the impact of personality in making decisions. The book is engaging especially once Victoria moves beyond childhood and becomes Queen. The portrait of Edward and Victoria's relationship is vivid. The story provides a rich understanding of places in the lives of the royal family that continue today, namely Balmoral, and give a glimpse at the royal family culture that can be seen in current events. It is more than a book about Queen Victoria. Enjoy!

Giles Lytton Strachey was an early 20th century writer and biographer who developed a reputation for writing biographies that dealt with individuals as people, rather than the events they were associated with. His 1921 biography of the British monarch, Queen Victoria, is a highly readable insight into this long-reigning queen. Many public domain books can be slow to read, with language that is sometimes archaic when compared to contemporary writing. This is not the case with Strachey's work. Not only does it thoroughly cover Victoria's life from childhood to death, but it is an engaging read that explores Victoria's relationships, both personal and professional. I particularly liked reading of the love between Victoria and her husband, Albert, much of which is detailed in Victoria's journals and letters. I also enjoyed Strachey's turn of phrase and his ability to create such effective word-pictures of this fascinating monarch and her life. If you have any interest in history or curiosity about British monarchs I think you will enjoy this book. I certainly did - far more than I expected to.

A readable and fairly brief account of Victoria. Frequent passages from Victoria's girlhood diary and letters make Victoria's early life particularly vivid reading. Also fascinating is Victoria's relationship with her government, and her tendency to cling to the current prime minister and despise the Opposition, whoever they might be. The enigmatic Prince Albert, and his evolving relationship with Victoria, is presented well. Strachey makes some startling suggestions about what Britain might have turned into, had Albert lived longer (answer: Prussia). This book is elegantly written, and free of

the psychobabble one might expect from a more modern book. The book is not boring. Although Victoria is always proper, there is plenty of adultery and dysfunctional family behavior among her many adult children.

Brings Queen Victoria into a very different light, shows that she's a woman above all, the book touches the love story of the century gone that was her marriage to Albert

I found this book interesting. I did not know what Queen Victoria was able to do during her long tenure. Certainly was informative, but became only a repetition of details of who was involved with each decision. I would have liked to know more about her personal life.

This is (I'm ashamed to say) the first biography I've read since high school. It was well written, engaging and descriptive without being boring. I'm so glad I stumbled across this book. It has inspired me to find other biographies of the royal family. The only drawback, in my opinion, is that a third of the book was essentially a biography of Prince Albert. However, the book also eloquently gives a tangible picture of who she was as a young woman before the throne and how she matured as a daughter, a wife, a mother and the Queen of England.

This book has some biographical information about Victoria, particularly her early years, but the book soon becomes more about Albert. I was more interested in Victoria's life and there wasn't much about it after she and Albert married.

It was good to read this "on the hop" as it were, on my iPhone. I have a treasured hard copy (with better spelling and proper placement of Umlauts etc) but Strachey's very readable style comes through well in the modern medium.

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