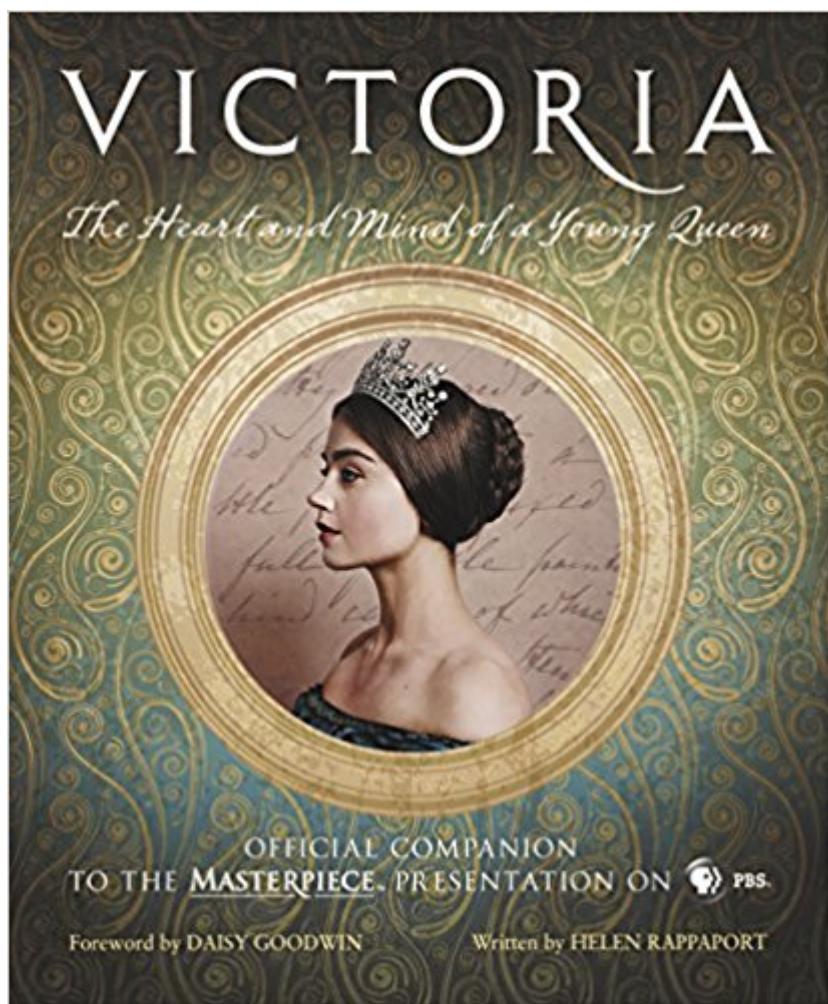


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# **Victoria: The Heart And Mind Of A Young Queen: Official Companion To The Masterpiece Presentation On PBS**



## Synopsis

The official companion to the Masterpiece presentation on PBS, Victoria delves into the private writings of the young Queen Victoria, painting a vivid picture of the personal life of one of England's greatest monarchs. From the producers of Poldark and Endeavour, ITV's Victoria follows the early years of the young queen's reign, based closely on Victoria's own letters and journals. Now explore this extensive collection in greater depth, and discover who Victoria really was behind her upright public persona. At only eighteen years old, Victoria ascended the throne as a rebellious teenager and gradually grew to become one of the most memorable, unshakeable and powerful women in history. The extensive writings she left behind document this personal journey and show how she triumphed over scandal and corruption. Written by author and Victoria historical consultant, Helen Rappaport, and including a foreword by Daisy Goodwin, "acclaimed novelist and scriptwriter of the series" Victoria details the history behind the show. Revealing Victoria's own thoughts about the love interests, family dramas and court scandals during her early reign, it also delves into the running of the royal household, the upstairs-downstairs relationships, and what it was like to live in Victorian England. Full of beautiful photography from the series and genuine imagery from the era, Victoria takes you behind the palace doors and discover the girl behind the queen.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

âœRappaport's text beautifully and chronologically guides the reader through the early years of Victoria's reign. This is a volume fans of the Masterpiece series will look at again and again.â•

(Newark Star Ledger)â œA marvelous companion to this series, with wonderful illustrations and an engaging backstoryâ • (New York Journal of Books)

Discover the world of the young Victoria, a world of court drama, sumptuous splendor, and the epic tale of an unexpected queen. At only eighteen years old, Victoria was a rebellious and headstrong teenager when she ascended the throne as Queen of Great Britain, but she grew to become one of the most memorable, unshakable, and powerful women in history. Tracing the coming-of-age of one of Britainâ™s greatest monarchs, this official companion to the Masterpiece series on PBS reveals her triumphs over scandal and corruption, and the intimate loves, heartbreakng losses, fallouts, and family dramas that accompanied her early reign. Written by internationally bestselling author and Victoria historical consultant Helen Rappaport, and including a foreword by Daisy Goodwinâ™acclaimed novelist and screenwriter of the seriesâ™Victoria details the history behind the show. It includes fascinating letters from the Queen, her family, confidants, and Prince Albert, offering truly authentic insight into the private life of the young Queen and the inner workings of the royal household, and painting a vivid picture of life in Victorian England. Go behind the palace doors and discover the girl behind the Queen, as youâ™ve never seen her before.â

As its subtitle indicates this book is meant to accompany the mini-series "Victoria" now being shown on PBS in the United States. Starring Jenna Coleman, Rufus Sewell, Tom Hughes, and a galaxy of other excellent British performers, "Victoria" covers the early years and the beginning of the reign of Queen Victoria. It is a magnificent production filmed with meticulous attention to sets and costumes. The companion is just as sumptuous, filled with stills of the cast in full costume. But this companion is far more than just a guide to "who plays whom." It includes contemporary prints and paintings of Queen Victoria and her forebears, as well as excerpts from her own diaries and letters. Most importantly, the companion contains superb historical commentaries by Helen Rappaport, a highly regarded historian well known for her twelve books on Victorian England and revolutionary Russia. Queen Victoria might never have been born. Her father was Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, a younger son of King George III who had lived happily with his mistress for many years until 1817 when Princess Charlotte of Wales, at the time the King's only legitimate grandchild, unexpectedly died in childbirth. The necessity for an heir to the throne forced Edward and several of his brothers to abandon their mistresses and make suitable royal marriages. In Edward's case, his bride was a widowed German princess named Victoria who came from a large but impecunious family that ruled the small duchy of Saxe-Coburg. In May 1819 Victoria gave birth to a daughter who was named for

her. In early 1820 the Duke of Kent suddenly died and his widow and small child were left alone at Kensington Palace, disliked and distrusted by the rest of the Royal Family. In such circumstances it was not surprising that the Duchess of Kent came under the influence of unscrupulous advisers like Sir John Conroy, and that the young Princess Victoria led a lonely childhood, depending on her German governess Baroness Lehzen for emotional support and friendship. Fortunately the young Princess was intelligent and self-reliant. As a teenager she faced down Sir John Conroy's attempts to dominate her, and when she succeeded to the throne in June 1837 at age 18 she was quick to take command. She removed herself from her mother's orbit by taking up residence in Buckingham Palace, formed a strong friendship with her first prime minister Viscount Melbourne, and established herself as a powerful voice in Government. She made many missteps, becoming overly infatuated with Melbourne and refusing to accept the realities of parliamentary politics, was involved in a sordid whispering campaign against one of her mother's ladies-in-waiting who appeared to be pregnant but was actually mortally ill, and was booed and hissed in public. One of Victoria's most important duties was to marry and produce children. She had two British cousins of suitable age, Prince George of Cumberland and Prince George of Cambridge, but fancied neither them nor a son of the King of Holland. She was tempted by the visiting Grand Duke Alexander of Russia, but eventually she was steered towards two German cousins, Princes Ernest and Albert of Saxe-Coburg, by her uncle King Leopold of the Belgians. As the television series depicts, Victoria's interest in and opinion of her cousins was mercurial and at first dismissive, but eventually she fell deeply and permanently in love with Prince Albert. They married in early 1840 and produced their first child, a daughter, later that year. That's where both the series and this companion end. The companion contains a great deal of interesting commentary from Rappaport, not only on the characters themselves but on Victoria's dog Dash, her wedding cake, and even the royal wet nurse. The commentary should deepen viewers' interest in many of the characters, such as the Duchess of Sutherland and Lord Alfred Paget, who are seen only briefly in the series but who Rappaport reveals to have been intelligent and multi-faceted people in their own rights. There is a final section dealing with the making of the series, showing some of the sets and featuring stills from the production. This book is a well designed and scholarly work which will satisfy not only fans of the series but serious students of Queen Victoria's reign as well.

A beautiful hardback thick book!!! My daughter loves the show and this book was a must for her!! I like that it includes so much history and pictures of actual letters written by Victoria.

Watching the Masterpiece Theater production of Victoria made me curious about Queen Victoria and her life. This book identifies what is accurate and what was added for interest. It includes copies of Victoria's letters and describes the many people in her life. I recommend it.

A truly interesting read with TONS of photos and reference pictures. A great companion for the series and it sheds a lot more light on things that would be boring in a show.

This book is EXCELLENT! I loved the Masterpiece series and had just finished reading Victoria-the Queen by Julia Baird, which went more in depth about Victoria from her birth up to her death. I decided to buy this book also and discovered has a lot of interesting information about the Queen and her life. The end of the month I'm going to MegaCon in Orlando and hope to have Ms. Coleman autograph it for me!

Love the Masterpiece movie. Had to have the book! It is beautifully done. Love the photos and letters of Queen Victoria.

So well written and a great companson to the series!

beautiful book! high quality. lovely pictures. well written.

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