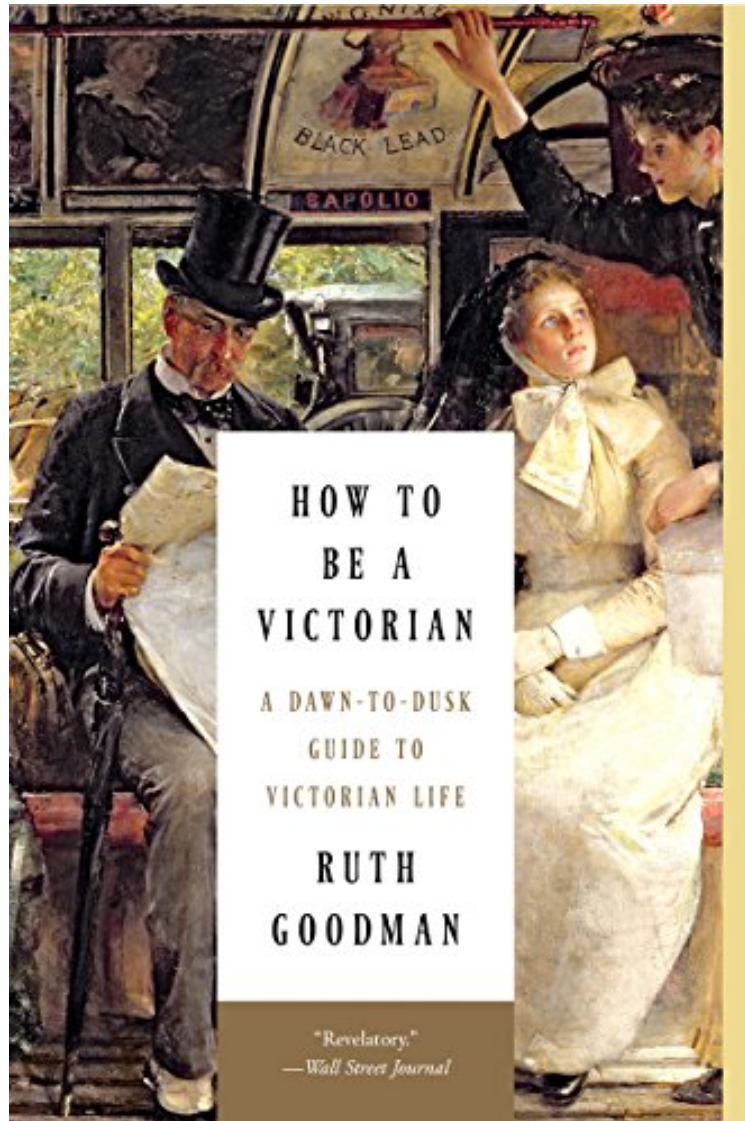


[FREE] How to Be a Victorian: A Dawn-to-Dusk Guide to Victorian Life

How to Be a Victorian: A Dawn-to-Dusk Guide to Victorian Life

Ruth Goodman

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Ruth Goodman : How to Be a Victorian: A Dawn-to-Dusk Guide to Victorian Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Be a Victorian: A Dawn-to-Dusk Guide to Victorian Life:

144 of 146 people found the following review helpful. Absolutely fascinating By Nancy I found this book absolutely fascinating. It's all about the everyday things you wonder about but don't get to learn from most history books - how you would have kept yourself clean, washed your hair, done laundry, cooked, cleaned, etc. The author's experience

living as a Victorian in BBC reality shows has enriched this book immensely. She tells us that corsets are surprisingly comfortable, although itchy, and describes how you had to learn to sit and move properly in a crinoline or bustle. The tricks and etiquette of using chamber pots, how privies were kept clean and sweet smelling, dealing with menstruation, looking after babies, cooking on a coal range are all covered. I would recommend this book to anyone who finds the small details of the past as interesting as I do. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I feel like the focus is on earlier stuff. By Kakashi Hatake I haven't finished this, but it is a very interesting read! I only wish it were more clear about when in the Victorian timeline things were happening. After all, anything from 1837-1901 is "Victorian." That's a lot of decades of change. I feel like the focus is on earlier stuff, but she does touch on some later developments. There are some images in the middle pages, which are kind of tiny, but nice references. The focus is on English life, but there was at least one mention of an American invention relating to hygiene, which was interesting to me, as an American. The author goes into detail of why things were done or made the way they were--everything from leaving windows open at night to the fabrics worn by common folk to how women dealt with their periods. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. If you're a Victorian fan who asks "I wonder what was it REALLY like to...." then this is the book for you!! By NJB Great book - I don't know why it's getting knocked for too much detail... 'dawn to dusk' kind of implies it's looking at the minutiae of everyday Victorian life, doesn't it?? I think the BEST PART is the commentary that Ms. Goodman inserts into every section/portion of the day. For everyone who has ever read history then asked "I wonder what it was like to use an outhouse in the winter??" or "what would it be like to lace tightly into a corset, every day, no matter what you were doing?" or "just how bad was it to wash clothes with tubs and mangles?" - well...read this book to hear from one who has!! It was amazing - so many of us history buffs wish we could 'go back for a while live in that time' - Ms. Goodman has done it!! Her research is spot on, her 'user' commentary is thoughtful and realistic - this was a fun book to read one of those books that you look forward to when enough time passes so that you can read it again!! I was able to live vicariously through Ruth Goodman's experience and I'm very thankful that she shared it with us! I will definitely read more of what she writes!!

A revelatory (Wall Street Journal) romp through the intimate details of Victorian life, by an historian who has cheerfully endured them all. Lauded by critics, *How to Be a Victorian* is an enchanting manual for the insatiably curious, the the cheapest time-travel machine you'll find (NPR). Readers have fallen in love with Ruth Goodman, an historian who believes in getting her hands dirty. Drawing on her own firsthand adventures living in re-created Victorian conditions, Goodman serves as our bustling guide to nineteenth-century life. Proceeding from daybreak to bedtime, this charming, illustrative work imagines the Victorians as intrepid survivors (New Republic) of the most perennially fascinating era of British history. From lacing into a corset after a round of calisthenics to slipping opium to the little ones, Goodman's account of Victorian life makes you feel as if you could pass as a native (The New Yorker). 131 illustrations, 8 pages of color

Delightful. - Seattle Times Exuberant, absorbing. - A. N. Wilson Goodman's impeccably researched account will raise readers' eyebrows with her adventures living history [Her] charming guide richly illustrates what daily life was like for common people undergoing the massive social changes of the time and succeeds in presenting a more intimate, personal and physical sort of history." - Publishers Weekly, Starred review A triumph. - Judith Flanders Goodman skillfully creates a portrait of daily Victorian life with accessible, compelling, and deeply sensory prose Compulsively readable. - Erin Entrada Kelly, Library Journal, Starred review If the past is a foreign country because they do things differently there, were lucky to have such a knowledgeable cicerone as Ruth Goodman. Goodman's fascination with the objects of the past doesn't lead her to fetishize or romanticize them. She is admirably matter-of-fact. Revelatory. - Alexandra Kimball, Wall Street Journal [E]ntertaining Goodman mixes historical context with technical know-how; in addition to explaining why women wore corsets she tries wearing and even making one herself [T]he book's accumulation of detail on matters as diverse as purchasing a ticket for the new underground railway, administering an opium-based tonic to a baby, and signaling interest in a homosexual affair makes you feel as if you could pass as a native. - The New Yorker Goodman's research is impeccable, and she attacks the topic with gusto, taking the reader through an average day and presenting the oddities of life without condescension Although the book lends itself to being read in segments, I read it straight through like a novel, panting to know what would happen next. - Patricia Hagen, Minneapolis Star Tribune [A] witty account of life during the monarch's reign [Goodman's] interest in historical accuracy leads her to experiment with corsets and home cures. Research for the book led her down harrowing avenues of hunger, disease, overwork, and abuse. Among the most upsetting are accounts of small children working harder than most adults do now, sometimes in dangerous and frightening environments, and on empty stomachs. Often a very funny read, the book takes seriously the suffering of these kids and their families. - Kate Tuttle, Boston Globe About the Author Ruth Goodman is the author of *How to Be a Victorian*. An historian of British social and domestic life, she has presented a number of BBC television series, including *Tudor Monastery Farm*. She served as a historical advisor on the BBC's miniseries *Wolf Hall*. She lives in England.