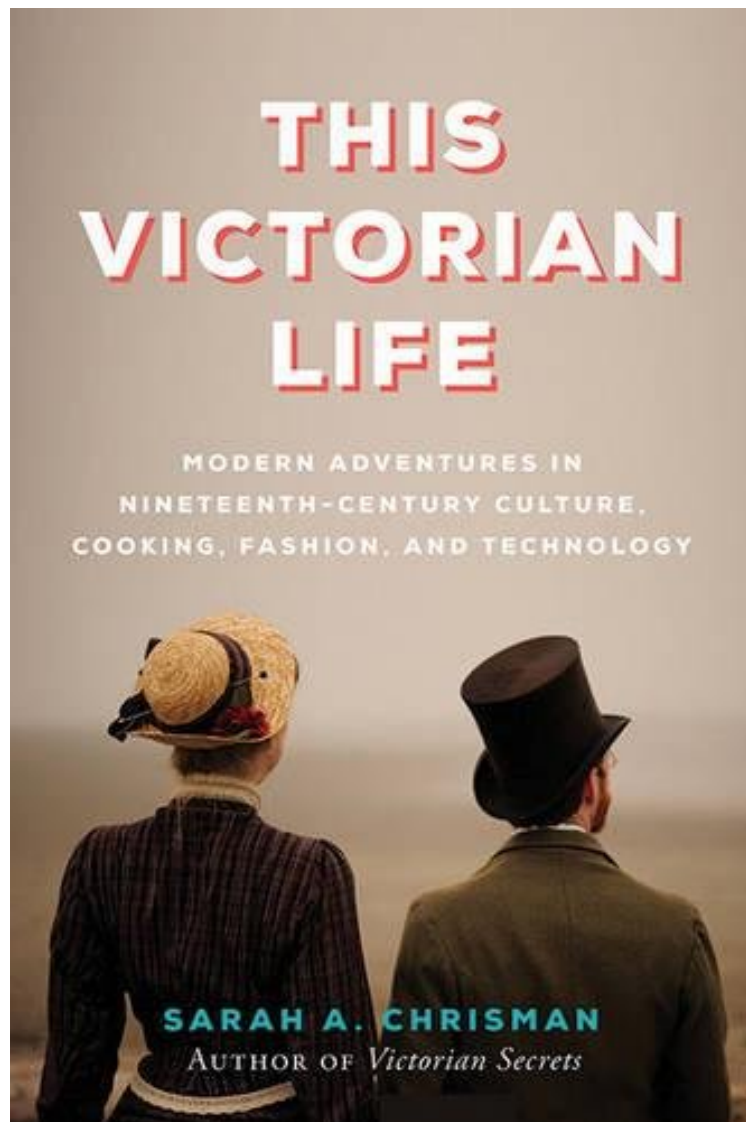


[Ebook free] This Victorian Life: Modern Adventures in Nineteenth-Century Culture, Cooking, Fashion, and Technology

This Victorian Life: Modern Adventures in Nineteenth-Century Culture, Cooking, Fashion, and Technology

Sarah A. Chrisman

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Sarah A. Chrisman : This Victorian Life: Modern Adventures in Nineteenth-Century Culture, Cooking, Fashion, and Technology before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised This Victorian Life: Modern Adventures in Nineteenth-Century Culture, Cooking, Fashion, and Technology:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Tiring instead of captivatingBy aphrotriteI really enjoyed Victorian Secrets by Sarah A. Christmas, and, because of that book decided to give this one a chance. This book just isn't as well written or engaging as Victorian Secrets. The book rambles and jumps about making it tiring (instead of engaging) to read. There's a lot of big, obscure, words used - just because you can - in everyday scenes and simple dialogue that makes those bits awkward to read. I REALLY wanted to love this book, to get swept up in it, and get lost in a journey back to Victorian times but sadly now I'm wondering if I'll be able to tough it out to the end of the story.

Disappointing....9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Eminent VictorianBy John DrakeIn this fascinating book, Sarah Chrisman describes what she has learned so far by living with Victorian-era technology. She and her husband Gabriel have been studying the late Victorian era in a unique way--by immersing themselves in the tools and materials of the time. This has afforded them a unique perspective on that long-lost world. We learn what is involved in such everyday activities as "turning on" a light, getting a good night's sleep on a winter evening, and writing a letter with a 100 year-old fountain pen. Along the way, Chrisman debunks a lot of received notions about people of that era, who turn out to have been far more practical--and hardly as stuffy or blinkered--than we typically believe. For anyone interested in getting an intimate, fine-grained feel for what life in the past was like, this is a gold mine.I give it four stars instead of five because the book left me wanting more. The Chrismans have put themselves in a rare position, not only to understand the past but to judge the present. There's the potential for them to make a truly Thoreau-like critique of things we take for granted as the price of "progress" (or as we prefer to say today, "disruption"). Sarah Chrisman has started to do this in some of her online publications. This book might have been a good opportunity to do even more. Hopefully in the future she will write another book focusing on these issues--with a fountain pen, no doubt.7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating read for any history buff, especially someone interested in the late Victorian years.By Kathy DavenportI've been enjoying Sarah Chrisman's website and Facebook page for some time, but this book gives greater insight into the how's and why's she and her husband Gabriel have decided to live full time as Victorians. In these pages, she shares their inspiration as well as the details of finding or reproducing items that will fit into the particular era they've chosen as their inspiration. I admire their persistence. How many of us would choose to hand sew our own clothes to say nothing of our own mattress? She describes their search for the right house, researching its history, and their efforts to make it conform to their ideals. I admire the fact that they didn't just walk into the right house with all the right furniture and fixtures already in place. For some things in their lives, they've searched long and hard. For others, they've learned there are many items that originated in the late 1800s that are still available today. The author does not try to convince the reader to follow in her footsteps or try to glamorize this lifestyle. Instead, she is very honest about the struggles and personal joys of non-conformity. The two of them do careful research and the epilogue includes lists of sources of information as well as sources where many items discussed in the book may still be obtained.

Part memoir, part micro-history, this is an exploration of the present through the lens of the past. We all know that the best way to study a foreign language is to go to a country where it's spoken, but can the same immersion method be applied to history? How do interactions with antique objects influence perceptions of the modern world? From Victorian beauty regimes to nineteenth-century bicycles, custard recipes to taxidermy experiments, oil lamps to an ice box, Sarah and Gabriel Chrisman decided to explore nineteenth-century culture and technologies from the inside out. Even the deepest aspects of their lives became affected, and the more immersed they became in the late Victorian era, the more aware they grew of its legacies permeating the twenty-first century. Most of us have dreamed of time travel, but what if that dream could come true? Certain universal constants remain steady for all people regardless of time or place. No matter where, when, or who we are, humans share similar passions and fears, joys and triumphs. In her first book, Victorian Secrets, Chrisman recalled the first year she spent wearing a Victorian corset 24/7. In This Victorian Life, Chrisman picks up where Secrets left off and documents her complete shift into living as though she were in the nineteenth century.

A journey to the past through the eyes of the future, both educating and enthralling with Chrismans oftentimes humorous adventures with the Victorian Era. Grace Gold, beauty and wellness expert and journalist The Chrismans give our shared history a shocking tangibility and help us see that the past is much more present, everyday, than we might realize. Britt Sondreal, host of BreakThru Radios Sew Tell "Sarah Chrisman's foray into a lifeway of Victorian foods, furnishings, an technologies deftly avoids romanticizing this 188090s era while presenting pleasures and challenges. . . . These are fascinating reflections on how each Victorian object shapes understandings of everyday life." Jeanne E Arnold, lead author, Life at Home in the Twenty-First Century