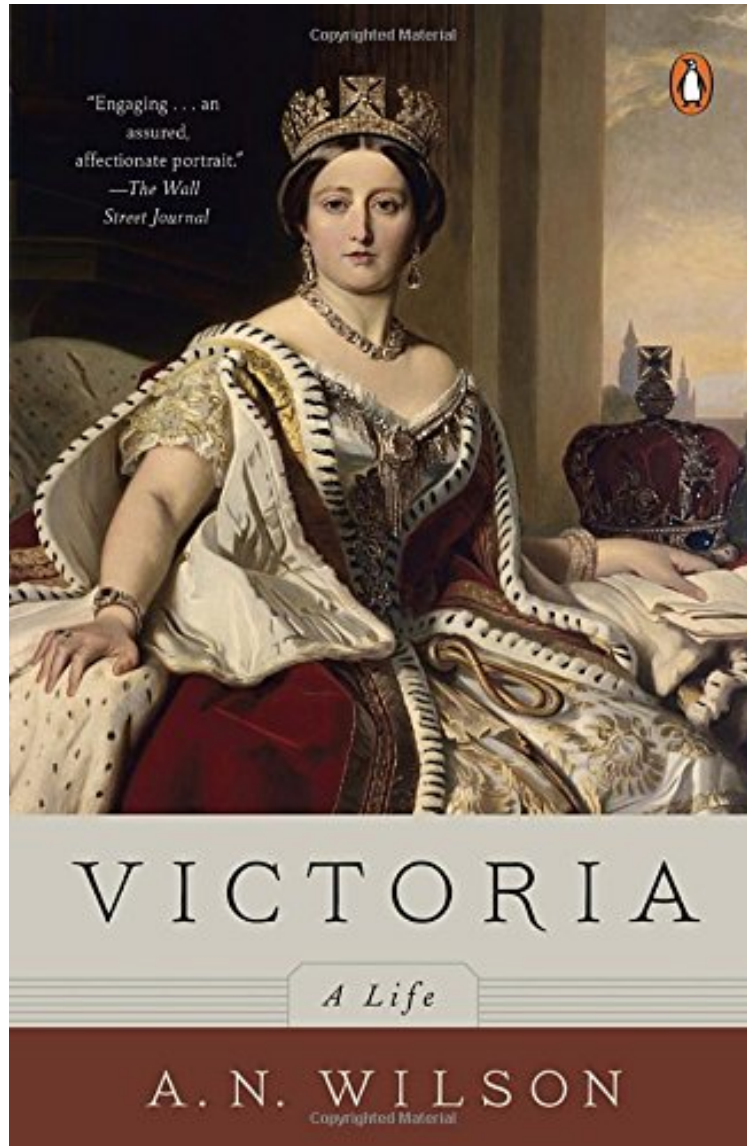


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Victoria: A Life

A. N. Wilson

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A. N. Wilson : Victoria: A Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Victoria: A Life:

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0 people found the following review helpful. A story of a Queen and Nine children
By Doug Sutherland
I am thoroughly enjoying this story of an extraordinary lady. This book captures a very special part of history much of which we are still experiencing today. A very well researched account of the way royalty worked in the 1800 's.
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By William D. Bygrave
Excellent biography of Queen Victoria. It gave me lots of new insights. It's difficult to follow all the persons who are mentioned in the book. But that is not surprising because Queen Victoria had so many children and grandchildren.

[A] shimmering and rather wonderful biography. The Guardian (London)
When Queen Victoria died in 1901, she had ruled for nearly sixty-four years. She was the mother of nine and grandmother of forty-two and the matriarch of royal Europe through her childrens marriages. To many, Queen Victoria is a ruler shrouded in myth and mystique, an aging, stiff widow paraded as the figurehead to an all-male imperial enterprise. But in truth, Britains longest-reigning monarch was one of the most passionate, expressive, humorous, and unconventional women who ever lived, and the story of her life continues to fascinate.
A. N. Wilsons exhaustively researched and definitive biography includes a wealth of new material from previously unseen sources to show us Queen Victoria as shes never been seen before. Wilson explores the curious set of circumstances that led to Victorias coronation, her strange and isolated childhood, her passionate marriage to Prince Albert and his pivotal influence even after death, and her widowhood and subsequent intimate friendship with her Highland servant John Brown, all set against the backdrop of this momentous epoch in Britains history and the worlds.
Born at the very moment of the expansion of British political and commercial power across the globe, Victoria went on to chart a unique course for her country even as she became the matriarch of nearly every great dynasty of Europe. Her destiny was thus interwoven with those of millions of people not just in Europe but in the ever-expanding empire that Britain was becoming throughout the nineteenth century. The famed queen had a face that adorned postage stamps, banners, statues, and busts all over the known world.
Wilson's Victoria is a towering achievement, a masterpiece of biography by a writer at the height of his powers.
VICTORIA, an eight part miniseries about Queen Victoria is coming to PBS in the Downton Abbey slot, premiering January 8th (trailer). The series stars Jenna Coleman (DR. WHO) as Queen Victoria, Rufus Sewell (PILLARS OF THE EARTH), and Tom Hughes (ABOUT TIME).

The Washington Post: Wilsons [biography of Queen Victoria] may be the best I have read
This volume is surely the capstone of his career so far as that particular subject is concerned, not merely a persuasive, unsentimental but admiring and engaging portrait of the great woman herself, but a vivid account of the world in which she lived and to which she contributed so much.
The Wall Street Journal: [An] engaging biography
Mr. Wilson takes on the long journey of the queens life with an assured, affectionate portrait written in accessible prose. His Victoria is a vivid personality, kindly, combative and impetuous by turns, deeply conscious of the dignity of her office and, for all her faults, loveable."
Seattle Times: Masterful
Wilson has crafted a thoughtful often deliciously entertaining tale of a unique monarch and a woman of unexpected quirk and charm
Wilson, one of those rare biographers who knows something of wits
smoothly takes us through Victorias long journey: her love match with her beloved Prince Albert, her operatic mourning after his early death, her up-and-down relationships with a caravan of prime ministers, her transformation in her later years into a figure whose influence was felt far beyond Britain, her complex feelings toward her children, her ultimate embrace by her subjects.
Financial Times: What to call [A. N. Wilson] now? 'Eminent Victorianist' seems appropriate. Lytton Strachey, the acerbic author of Eminent Victorians as well as a biography of Victoria far less good than this, is never far away when Wilson writes about a period that, in several books, he has made very much his own... Wilson is an excellent history teacher. He orders and narrates the hugely complex socio-political events and party infighting of the 19th century with a rare clarity... Wilson sums up his feelings about Victoria in a single word: 'Awe'. His own achievement, sustained by a lifetimes scholarly fascination with the Victorian era, is also, in its way, awesome.
Minneapolis Star Tribune: Stately
[Wilson is] a superb biographer [It is his] great achievement is that he has liberated Victoria from the protective raiment of her family and the British establishment.
Kirkus s(starred): A shimmering portrait of a tempestuous monarch
[Wilson] lends a lively expertise to his portrayal of the forthright, formidable, still-enigmatic sovereign
During her long reign, Victoria had come to embody the experience of an entire age, overseeing great reform and the strengthening of ties between India and the British Empire.
A robust, immensely entertaining portrait from a master biographer.
Booklist(starred): Few if any previous biographers have viewed [Queen Victoria] as incisively and absorbingly as Wilson does
in his lengthy but smoothly flowing treatment of the queens long life. The considerable detail he brings to his greatly balanced portrait not only strengthens his estimation of the significance of the queen in British governmental history but also successfully conveys for the general reader all the nuances of character that Wilson so carefully shares.
Library Journal(starred): [A] comprehensive, highly accessible work
rooted in the complex political and international details of the era
Wilson is most successful in identifying and highlighting the monarchs paradoxes: the contrasts between the little woman in a bonnet and the queen who proudly controlled the British empire.
Highly recommended for readers fascinated by the lives of notable individuals and British royalty.
Publishers Weekly: More than a Victoria biography, Wilson skillfully weaves the vast

narrative of the Victorian landscape. The Guardian (UK): Subtle, thoughtful Wilson picks up the pieces and puts the jigsaw back together again, creating in the process a Victoria for our own times [A] shimmering and rather wonderful biography. The Spectator (UK): Superb The book that [Wilson] was born to write Wilson clearly loves and admires his subject, but this is a critical biography funny, insightful, original, and authoritative. At last Victoria has been rescued from her widows weeds. The Sunday Times (UK): A.N. Wilson brings his novelists perception and immense knowledge of the era to his effervescent biography of the tiny woman (4ft 11in) who ruled Britain for 61 years... This wont be the last biography of Victoria but it is certainly the most interesting and original in a long time. The Times (UK): "A.N. Wilson has written a sympathetic but by no means hagiographic biography of her that will probably overturn many peoples prejudiced conception of her... Wilsons picture of her is a rounded one, with her vices and virtues." The Evening Standard (UK): [A] splendid biography this book is a gem: thoughtful, witty, insightful, striking a balance between political commentary and personal gossip ... As this terrific biography shows, there really was a human being behind the gloomy portraits. The Daily Telegraph (UK): As Hamlet is to actors, Victoria is to writers. The Queen Empress is the ultimate biographical challenge, a role to be taken on only at the apex of a literary career. Ninety-five years ago, the standard was set by Lytton Strachey's lucid and moving Queen Victoria, but A. N. Wilson has now raised the bar What a pity [Victoria] never met A. N. Wilson: she shines in his company [An] expansive and victorious book. From the Inside Flap A.N. Wilson does for the Victorians what Peter Ackroyd did for London. People, not abstract ideas, make history, and nowhere is this more revealed than in this superb portrait of the Victorians in which hundreds of different lives have been pieced together to tell a story. In an entertaining and often dramatic narrative, A.N. Wilson shows us remarkable people in the very act of creating the Victorian age. The industrial-capitalist world came into being because of actual businessmen, journalists and politicians. We meet them in the pages of this fascinating book. Their ideas were challenged by the ideas of other people, such as Karl Marx, William Morris and George Bernard Shaw. Here are the lofty and the famous -- Prince Albert, Lord Palmerston, Charles Dickens, Gladstone and Disraeli -- and here too are the poor and the obscure -- doctors ministering to cholera victims in the big cities, young women working as models for the famous painters, the man who got the British hooked on cigarettes, the butchers and victims of conflict in Ireland, India and Africa. In this authoritative, accessible and insightful book, A.N. Wilson tells a great story -- one that is still unfinished in our own day. "From the Hardcover edition. About the Author A.N. Wilson is the author of biographies on Jesus, Milton, Tolstoy, C.S. Lewis, and Dante. His acclaimed histories The Victorians and Gods Funeral have made him an authority on Victorian-era Great Britain. A contributor to a number of British newspapers, he lives in London.