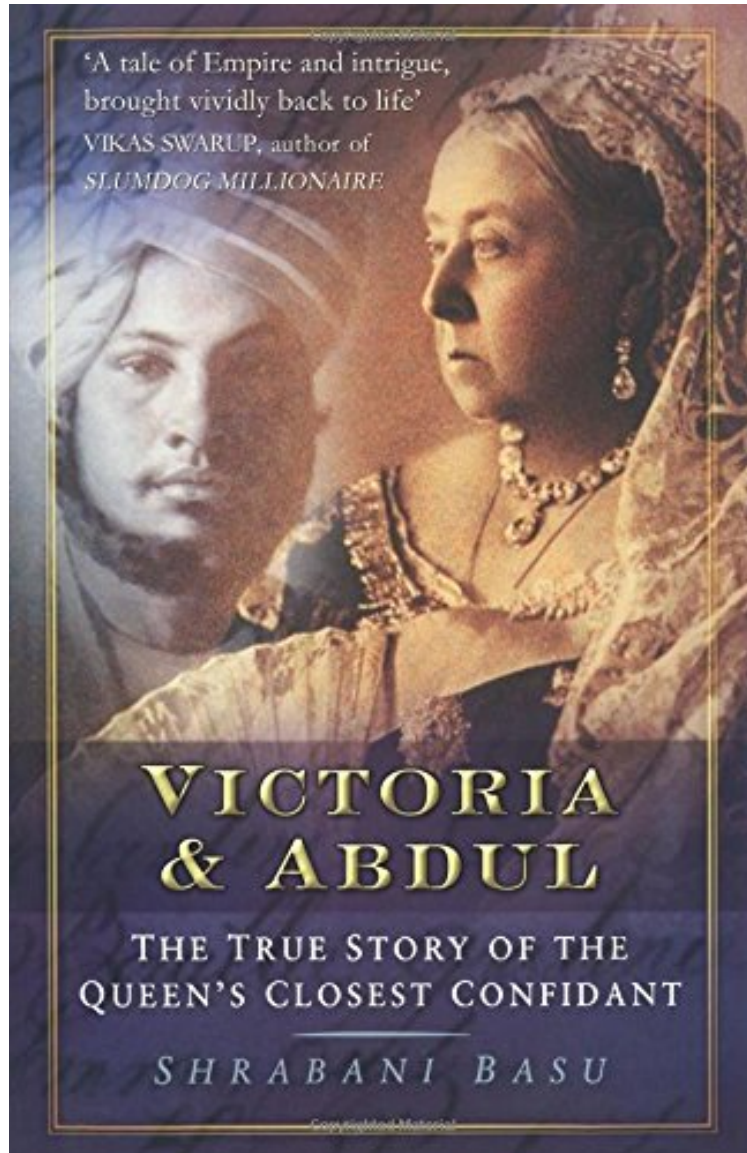


(Read ebook) Victoria Abdul

## Victoria Abdul

*Shrabani Basu*

*DOC | \*audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1312075 in Books 2011-02-02 2015-09-01 Original language: English 8.50 x .64 x 5.51, 1.10 #File Name: 812911755X272 pages | File size: 46.Mb

**Shrabani Basu : Victoria Abdul** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Victoria Abdul:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. and sets out the history and the supporting evidence in an easy to follow logical manner By anettej This is a well researched and written account of a true story I knew little about. It discusses the relationship between the aging Queen Victoria and her beloved companion and teacher of Urdu, Abdul Ma a young Indian man who travelled to England as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations and rose from the status of

a royal servant to become one of the Queen's most beloved and trusted companions, a relationship which lasted right up to her death. The friendship seemed unlikely, and was often criticised by her family and other members of the Royal Household, and even somewhat hushed up after her death. The book is clearly and concisely written, and sets out the history and the supporting evidence in an easy to follow logical manner. The writer is very balanced and does present the full story, including details about the opposition to the unlikely friendship. This was a quick and interesting read, and one I would recommend to anyone with an interest in the Victorian era, or Royal History. 11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. I would recommend it to anyone keen to fill in more detail ...By davidreads I read this book with interest as I had previously been looking at Victoria's life story. The author has done a very thorough job of describing events in the final stages of the reign. Through this work we see a clearer picture of the elderly queen as she comes once more to rely on a male figure in her life, this time what turns out to be a controversial character who provokes a high degree of prejudice and racism from both the monarch's advisors and staff. Just how this affects the royal situation and compares with today's attitudes is very interesting and it gives us further insight to Victoria's personality. The book is somewhat long and the detail becomes a little repetitive but the author certainly covers the ground meticulously. I would recommend it to anyone keen to fill in more detail about the life and times of a great historical figure. 15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. A MUST READ By Simrit Singh Victoria Abdul is a wonderful account of Queen Victoria of England with one of her closest confidante's Abdul Karim. The author Shrabani Basu has obviously researched the topic, in depth and her work has paid off. This book is quite capturing and gives a wonderful look into the personality of Queen Victoria, as well as, the amazing rise and fall of Abdul Karim's social status and power. In 1887, Queen Victoria requested for some Indian servants to be on attendance as she expected many of the Indian Royals for her Jubilee Celebrations. Along with Abdul, another servant Muhammed Buksh came. However, as soon as Queen Victoria saw Abdul, she was almost in awe of him. Almost immediately, he was singled out to become her Hindustani (Urdu) tutor and as he must have hardly known English, he was given tuition for that. From being a hand help, he started doing secretarial jobs and soon afterwards became known as The Munshi. Prior to Abdul coming to England, the Queen had a servant, John Brown, with whom she was extremely close. There have been strong suggestions throughout history that they may have had a sexual relationship and might have married secretly, as well. As would have been obvious, the Household disliked him. He was a rude, course man but was completely devoted to the Queen. Unfortunately for her, John Brown died in 1883 and left a void in her heart which seemed to heal after Abdul's arrival. The household became jealous of Abdul's position and they all tried desperately to open the Queen's eyes to his faults. But no matter how hard they tried, she was completely blinded by Abdul. Abdul was obvious of the power he held over the Queen and in fact, he took advantage of his position. In 1890, only 3 years after his arrival, the Queen became determined to grant the 'Munshi' a generous amount of land in his home town Agra. In order to achieve this, she began a long drawn out communication with the Viceroy of India - Lord Landsdowne, and the secretary of state for India, Lord Cross. It was to the point of harassment for the 2 gentlemen. Her purpose was to ensure that Karim and his family would be comfortable after her death. Finally, the land grant was given and his father was given a title equivalent to the Knighthood, i.e. 'Khan Bahadur'. In 1894, The 'Munshi' had further climbed the social ladder. When the Queen travelled, he was never placed with the Indian servants. In Europe, he was given his own carriage with a footman on board. By now, his wife and mother in law were also in England and every time there were female visitors for the Queen, she made it a point that they must also call upon the Munshi's wife, which further enhanced his social status. Abdul Karim was decorated with many medals and honours. He was given the CIE ( Companion of the Indian Empire) and the CVO ( Companion of the Royal Victorian Order) despite much outcry from the Royal Household. There must have been prejudice against him as well. Indians were still looked down upon by the British. Yet, he was further given a few cottages and homes in England. Not only was Abdul unaffected by all the ill will directed at him, he became extremely arrogant and made it a point to correct media reports whenever he was referred to as a servant. And he made it a point that he was mentioned specifically, in the Queen's entourage, with his full decorations. After the Queen's death in 1901, as per her wishes, after her family and members of the household, the Munshi was allowed to spend a moment alone with his Queen. He was the last person to see her alone. He was given the further privilege of walking in her funeral procession along with her family. Those were the last of the privileges seen by Abdul, as the new King - Edward VII, sent him back to Agra after burning whatever correspondence they found between Abdul and the Queen. In 1909, at the age of 46, Abdul Karim passed away childless. He had spent the last few years of his life comfortably in Agra, near the lands granted to him by the Queen. It must have been hard after all the power he had held back in England. I found this book absolutely fascinating and not to be missed if one likes historical books.

Tall and handsome Abdul Karim, a former assistant clerk at Agra Central Jail, arrives in England at the age of twenty-four to serve at Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Becoming a personal attendant to the Empress of India, within a year, he establishes himself as a power to be reckoned with at the English court, instructing the queen in Indian languages and affairs. Their intense and controversial relationship leads to turmoil in the royal household. Victoria and Abdul examines the amazing journey by which a young Indian Muslim came to play a central role in the heart of the great

British Empire and his influence over its queen at a time when independence movements in the subcontinent were gaining great momentum. Amidst the political intrigue and conflict that influence this period, the novel tells the story of a tender love between an Indian servant and his elderly queen, a love that survived all attempts to destroy it.

'totally absorbing' The Telegraph 'An extraordinary story of affection, friendship and loyalty' Hello Magazine 'masterfully told' OR 'a melange of history, drama and fantasy' The Dawn  
About the Author Shrabani Basu was born in Kolkata and grew up in Dhaka, Kathmandu and Delhi. She moved to London in 1987 and is a correspondent for the Kolkata-based newspapers Ananda Bazar Patrika and The Telegraph. She is the author of Curry: The Story of the Nation's Favourite Dish and the critically acclaimed biography Spy Princess: The Life of Noor Inayat Khan.