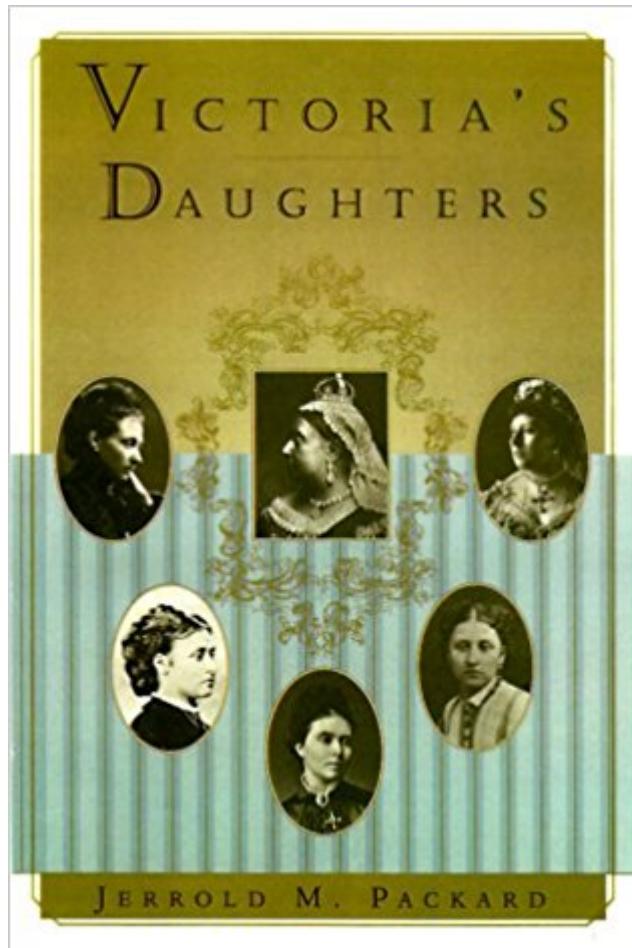


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Victoria's Daughters



Synopsis

Five women who shared one of the most extraordinary and privileged sisterhoods of all time...Vicky, Alice, Helena, Louise, and Beatrice were historically unique sisters, born to a sovereign who ruled over a quarter of the earth's people and who gave her name to an era: Queen Victoria. Two of these princesses would themselves produce children of immense consequence. All five would face the social restrictions and familial machinations borne by nineteenth-century women of far less exalted class. Researched at the houses and palaces of its five subjects-- in London, Scotland, Berlin, Darmstadt, and Ottawa-- Victoria's Daughters examines a generation of royal women who were dominated by their mother, married off as much for political advantage as for love, and passed over entirely when their brother Bertie ascended to the throne. Packard, an experienced biographer whose last book chronicled Victoria's final days, provides valuable insights into their complex, oft-tragic lives as scions of Europe's most influential dynasty, and daughters of their own very troubled times.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Incisive character studies of Queen Victoria's five daughters provide the framework for a lively survey of 19th-century European history. With three brothers securing the English throne, the princesses' royal duty was to further Britain's interests through marriage. Vivacious, intelligent Vicky (1840-1901), the spoiled eldest, had a happy union with Hohenzollern prince Frederick William, though her liberal views were unpopular in Prussia and vehemently resisted by her son Willy, who eventually became the emperor of Germany. Sensitive, altruistic Alice (1843-78); dutiful, dull

Lenchen (1846-1923); and shy baby sister Beatrice (1857-1944) all married minor German royalty--though Beatrice, intended to be her domineering mother's spinster companion, didn't marry until she was 28 and continued to live in England at Victoria's beck and call. Centuries-old custom dictated that princesses must not wed subjects, but artistic, rebellious Louise (1848-1939) married a Scottish nobleman anyway and managed to lead a slightly less restricted life than her sisters, particularly as a strong supporter of charitable organizations for women. Jerrold Packard, a veteran historian-biographer with six previous books to his credit, spins an enjoyably old-fashioned narrative emphasizing personal relationships among Europe's royalty and their impact on political developments. --Wendy Smith --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert had nine children?five of them daughters?and 40 grandchildren. In this engaging group biography, Packard (*Farewell in Splendor*) writes about scores of lives and several generations of this fecund couple's progeny?which is why the book is best devoured in small bites and why the comprehensive list of "Principal Characters" is indispensable. As a family, the V&As make for a story as dramatic as any fictional saga, but Packard also shows real sympathy and affection for these royal individuals, including the vastly complicated Queen Victoria herself. Packard combed the daily correspondence the sovereign required of her eldest daughter, Vicky, as well as letters, journals, memoirs and biographies of the other principals involved. In addition, his loving (or disparaging) descriptions of the five daughters' residences in London, Argyll, Berlin, Darmstadt and Ottawa reflect his eager research. History was no mere backdrop to these lives: Vicky's eldest child, Willy, grew up to become Kaiser Wilhelm II, to her great despair, and Alice's daughter Alexandra married Tsar Nicholas II. Packard's narrative is accessible, unpretentious and solidly written (except for one particularly bad pun on a widow's peak). He manages to treat historical events succinctly while emphasizing the princesses' individual lives and family relationships, their talents in music and art, their patronage of schools and hospitals and their pioneering advocacy of women's education and employment. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

This is an absolutely fascinating book. I learned a great deal more about Victoria's famous daughters. First their childhood with their very difficult mother. Then their marriages, sometimes more politically expedient than love matches. And finally their very different later lives. Some became important and powerful, others just faded away, but none were able to completely disconnect from their mother's influence, often made clear in daily letters. If you are at all interested

in this period this is the book for you.

This book will remain permanently in my library. I have always found Victoria's family to be interesting as there is hardly a royal around Europe who is not related indirectly to this iconic queen of England. The text thoroughly covers all five of her daughters' lives, and I learned a great deal about the lineage of each. In an easy to read text, the writer takes the reader through a chronological tour of the family's fortunes and misfortunes, weaving each daughter into the saga as the years pass.

I learned new details about Victoria's daughters, and it's a good read. I wanted to learn even more, but when writing about 5 people as opposed to just one, a writer must limit what to write or the book would be in volumes. It's a great book to start with, then look for other books on each individual daughter might be the way to go. If you begin, the book will peak your interest and hold you're attention: and you will likely want to finish it.

Very good book on queen Victoria and how she raised her daughters. Very interesting how Victoria paired her daughters off for marriage to the appropriate European families. Really good history on which countries at that time had a monarch ruling over their countries. Also of all the wars that were ongoing in Europe at that time. A good read for anyone interested in British royal history - lots of information and not a boring book at all kept my interest to the very end.

I have long been a fan and serious student of the British monarchy and have quite a fine collection of books on the subject. This one seemed to me a fine addition to that collection. I am nearly finished with the book and it is absolutely wonderful! It is very well written and the research is superb! The author writes in such a way to pique the reader's interest without seeming at all stuffy, the way some biographies are. He goes into great detail of the lives of Victoria's daughters while weaving all the history of the period into the drama. We don't just get Victoria's daughters but the entire history of the time as well. It is way, way interesting. I am going to look into buying more of Packard's books now that I have read this one. It is a wonderful book to purchase and my advice is, you don't want to miss this one.

Good book. pretty easy to read. helped to connect the dots of royal connections throughout Europe. Also how these daughters helped Victoria cope and reign after death of Albert. Nice follow-up to the

current PBS show. I wonder now if Victoria has a second season?!

An interesting book which covers too much territory, so that it seems superficial at times, but for anyone interested in these women and their time, it makes a good introduction.

Long and enjoyable read. So many interesting events to read about. A few times I even had to laugh at some of the descriptions of the children. Other times much sadness too.

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