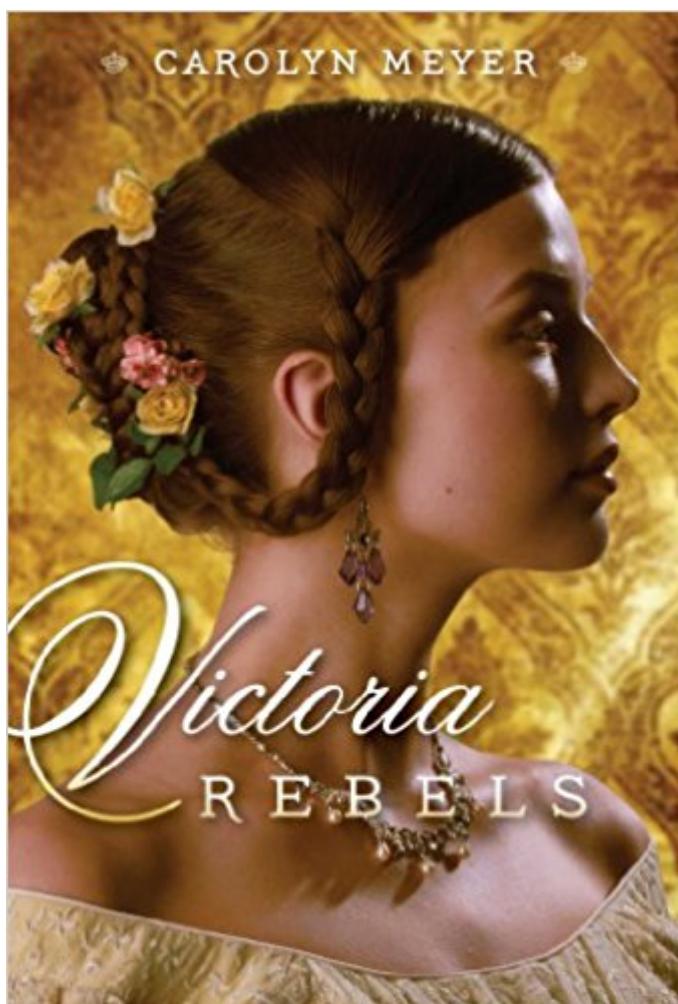


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Victoria Rebels (Paula Wiseman Books)



Synopsis

Queen Victoria's personal journals inform this "intimate and authentic portrait" of one of history's most prominent female leaders. Queen Victoria most certainly left a legacy under her rule as the longest reigning female monarch in history. But what was she really like? To be a young woman in a time when few other females held positions of power was to lead in a remarkable age—and because Queen Victoria kept personal journals, this historical novel from award-winning author Carolyn Meyer shares authentic emotional insight along with accurate information, weaving a fascinating story of intrigue and romance.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Meyer ably reconstructs Queen Victoria's childhood in this mild historical novel, in which a young princess struggles to reconcile her desires with her place in history. Stifled by a controlling mother and placed in the center of a power struggle between that mother and King William, Victoria longs for the day when she can be her own woman. Her inevitable marriage is another threat to her independence, until she meets Prince Albert and falls in love. Once she is queen, her passionate but self-righteous childishness gives way to a more balanced woman willing to admit mistakes, in part thanks to Albert's equally passionate opinions. Though Queen Victoria's life

was tumultuous, Meyer's narrative often lacks drama and excitement, smoothing the story into a diarylike recital of events. Distracting stylistic choices—the use of all capitals and underlining—were taken from Queen Victoria's own diaries but lack some context. However, Meyer's intimate and authentic portrait will engage readers looking for a personal connection or proof that history's largest figures were once just like them. Grades 6-9. --Krista Hutley --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This absorbing, fictionalized first-person account of Queen Victoria's early life reveals the hardships she endured as a child and young woman. Readers meet Victoria at age 8, growing up under the strict supervision of her mother, a woman completely under the influence of one Sir John Conroy, a man so ambitious he schemes to rule England through Victoria. Kept under observation virtually all the time, young Victoria struggles to escape total domination. After her half sister marries and moves to Germany, her former governess remains as her only private confidant. When 18-year-old Victoria is crowned, she banishes Conroy and assumes control of her life, but not without some hiccups. Basing the story on Victoria's diaries, Meyer writes convincingly as the young princess and queen, imitating the girl's writing style but keeping the narration accessible to modern readers. The story follows Victoria from childhood and adolescence through the births of her first three children. Although written entirely from Victoria's viewpoint aside from a few brief letters, it conveys the young queen's inappropriate political biases, her initial reluctance to marry and her terrible temper. As it turns out, though Victoria's early life was stifling to her, it comes across as an engrossing tale. The author does not enhance or alter the history; she simply and convincingly translates it into a lively narrative. (Historical fiction. 12 & up) (Kirkus Reviews) Meyer ably reconstructs Queen Victoria's childhood in this mild historical novel, in which a young princess struggles to reconcile her desires with her place in history. Stifled by a controlling mother and placed in the center of a power struggle between that mother and King William, Victoria longs for the day when she can be her own woman. Her inevitable marriage is another threat to her independence, until she meets Prince Albert and falls in love. Once she is queen, her passionate but self-righteous childishness gives way to a more balanced woman willing to admit mistakes, in part thanks to Albert's equally passionate opinions. . Meyer's intimate and authentic portrait will engage readers looking for a personal connection or proof that history's largest figures were once just like them. (Booklist) --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

It's not my favorite of Meyer's--that would be "Mary, Bloody Mary"--but it's still a pretty good book. For those interested in Victoria's early life, it's probably an excellent book, but for me her life just wasn't as interesting as that of Mary or Elizabeth Tudor. Victoria was under very strict control as a young teenager before she came to the throne and Conroy, her mother's closest adviser, was determined that once she became queen, he would be the real power behind her. Meyer does do a good job of capturing what Victoria sounds like in her own writing--rather excitable and school-girlish. If you're looking for a good historical fiction read, particularly about Victoria, this would be a good choice, but again, just because of the subject, I didn't find it quite as enjoyable as some of Meyer's earlier work.

"Victoria Rebels" is a fascinating portrait of the young Queen Victoria, before she was queen.. The author's meticulous research and the use of Victoria's own journals shines a fascinating light on the emotional struggles she faced with a controlling mother, who was in turn controlled by the ambitious Sir John Conroy. An excellent, well-researched historical novel.

Great story. I love historical fiction. Meyer offers this genre at its best.

Any story concerning any Royal has my immediate vote. Victoria definitely has my vote. I have always been intrigued by stories following the Queen Victoria and this one mainly revolves around a younger Victoria and her time before she was actually Queen. Victoria's older sister, Feodore is about to be married and move away to Germany with her new groom, leaving Victoria with her mother and the awful Sir John, who advises her mother on every subject pertaining to her young daughters. The only pleasantries that Victoria has to look forward to is the company of her governess, Daisy. This book is mostly read like a diary and follows the daily lives of Victoria and those that she interacts with the most. I have read some reviews that did not like the fact that this book was written in diary format from the perspective of Victoria. I have a few things to say to that. First of all, this is Victoria's story and she can tell however she wants to. Secondly, she does interact with others and you always know what is going on around Victoria. This is not solely Victoria's voice. You will hear from many others and conversations are all noted in Victoria's diary. I did not mind this at all because I found it to be very informative. I loved being inside Victoria's mind because of her rebellious tendencies and it was hilarious to read what she really thought about the political system, other Royals, and her own mother. This was truly a beautiful piece of literature that could be enjoyed by young adults or even a younger audience. I am just mesmerized by the amount of research that

Carolyn Meyer has put into this novel and how much information she was able to rely through one single story. I loved how she portrayed Victoria's character and made her really relatable for readers. I in no way felt that this was an overload of information, but rather I looked at it as killing two birds with one stone. I was able to read a great fictional historical novel while retaining all sorts of information. I pulled out one quote above the described the attire of Victoria as well as others at a certain ball, and this is a very vivid description that Meyers fills the pages full of. I enjoyed every second of Victoria's palace life. Victoria's rebellious nature and her inability to behave herself had me laughing throughout the story. This is just not how you picture the great queens of England, but I would wager that a lot of them had a lot of the same tendencies. Victoria especially! This was a quick, charming read that will forever sit on my historical fiction shelf!***A huge thank you to the publishers at Simon & Schuster for providing me with a copy of this book in exchange my honest and unbiased review***

This is an excellent read. I really enjoy Carolyn Meyer's books as they are pretty historically accurate while still entertaining, but not terribly graphic regarding the more intimate details of her subject's lives. If you have seen the movie "The Young Victoria" this book is similar in a lot of ways, but starts earlier in her life and ends later in her life. I think a lot of quotes must be quotes from Queen Victoria's diaries as they are the same if not very close in both this book and the movie, although of course the book goes into much more detail about most things the movie only touched on. For example in the movie you see Albert removing Victoria's stockings, but in the book you read he did that and undid her corset etc almost every night. In the movie, when the old king yells at Victoria's mother in the middle of his birthday dinner, it's almost word for word what he says in the book, which leads me to believe it is what he actually said. You also understand why her mother dislikes the king so much and why they are so rude to each other. Also, it explains much better the tension between Lehzen and Albert. You only catch a few snippets of it in the movie. In the back section after the true novel is over is an informative section that explains things I never quite understood, like Victoria's parent's story and how Victoria and Albert are related, where her siblings came from, Lord Melbourne's story etc. Though these would have been easy to include in the actual book, it's nice that it's in there to clarify. Parts of the book are very romantic and I think it is intended to read like her diary. All in all a very entertaining read.

My least favorite of Meyer's books. My biggest complaint was the overuse of all caps and underlining which made the book read very young. Probably more appropriate for young readers -

her other books about princesses are good for young readers and older teens/adults.

Here's an author who clearly did her research before writing. Victoria Rebels is rich with historical details and events in a way that isn't at all info-dumpy or chunky, told from the point of view of Queen Victoria's diary and detailing her life before and after she became queen. Diary-format stories are a hit or miss for me, and in the case of Victoria Rebels, it was definitely a miss. I just COULDNT GET into the story AT ALL, especially when AT LEAST A THIRD of the novel was WRITTEN IN CAPS as if the main character was SCREAMING BLAND DETAILS AT ME.

This is a fascinating look into the early life of Queen Victoria. A history buff will love the factual account of the events leading up to Victoria's ascent to the throne.

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