

# Victoria Penguin Monarch: Queen, Matriarch, Empress

Victoria: Penguin Monarchs, Queen, Matriarch, Empress is an inspiring and insightful biography of Queen Victoria, one of the most influential monarchs in British history. This book provides a comprehensive look at her life and reign, from her early years as a young princess to her long and prosperous reign as queen.

Drawing on a wealth of primary and secondary sources, this captivating volume meticulously chronicles Victoria's personal and political life, offering a nuanced understanding of her complex character and the challenges she faced as a woman and sovereign. This book is a must-read for anyone interested in British history, the Victorian era, or the life of one of the most iconic monarchs in history.



## Victoria (Penguin Monarchs): Queen, Matriarch, Empress

by Jane Ridley

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5



### Early Life and Accession

Victoria was born on May 24, 1819, at Kensington Palace in London. She was the only child of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, and Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld. Her father died when she was just eight months old, and her mother raised her in relative isolation. Victoria's education was overseen by her governess, Baroness Lehzen, who instilled in her a strong sense of duty and responsibility.

Victoria became heir presumptive to the throne in 1837, when her uncle, King William IV, died without any legitimate children. She ascended to the throne on June 20, 1837, at the age of 18. Her coronation took place at Westminster Abbey on June 28, 1838.

## **Marriage and Family**

In 1840, Victoria married Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. Albert was a brilliant and ambitious man, and he quickly became Victoria's closest advisor and confidant. The couple had nine children together, including the future King Edward VII, King George V, and Empress Frederick of Germany.

Victoria and Albert were devoted to each other, and their marriage was a happy one. Albert died in 1861, at the age of 42, and Victoria was devastated by his loss. She wore black for the rest of her life and never remarried.

## **Reign and Legacy**

Victoria's reign was a time of great change and progress for Britain. The country experienced unprecedented economic growth, industrialization, and territorial expansion. Victoria herself became a symbol of the Victorian era, and her reign is often referred to as the "Golden Age of Britain."

Victoria was a popular and respected monarch. She was known for her strong work ethic, her devotion to her family, and her commitment to her country. She was also a patron of the arts and sciences, and she helped to establish many important cultural institutions, including the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Royal Albert Hall.

Victoria died on January 22, 1901, at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight. She was 81 years old and had reigned for 63 years, longer than any other British monarch. Victoria's death marked the end of an era, and she is remembered as one of the greatest monarchs in British history.

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