



## The Queen's Husband

*Jean Plaidy*

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## **The Queen's Husband** Jean Plaidy

From the cradle Victoria and Albert were destined for each other. Albert, as the younger son of a minor German duke, was acutely aware of what marriage to the Queen of England would mean in terms of his personal ambitions. Victoria wrestled with her desire for independence—until she saw Albert at Windsor in 1839. Then Queen Victoria fell in love.

Together they forged the Victorian Age—the impetuous Queen and her indomitable consort. Through the stormy first years, Victoria was in almost perpetual revolt against any encroachment on her powers of state and against the continual pregnancies she had to endure. Albert, who battled for supremacy in the relationship, was forced to take stock of his wife's nature, the clinging femininity that disguised a will of iron and a searing streak of vengefulness.

Gradually concessions were made, and as the Prince became instrumental to the management of the monarchy, the Queen blissfully settled into family life.

These were significant years, when British history was shaped by statesmen such as Sir Robert Peel and Lord Palmerston, and by such events as the Crimean War and the Indian revolt. On more than one occasion the Queen narrowly escaped assassination.

Yet her life increasingly was dominated by her husband and family. There was naughty Bertie, brilliant Vicky, placid Alice, frail Leopold, along with five other children of the royal marriage. For Victoria, no diplomatic crisis or domestic scandal could overshadow her love for a single man—Albert, *the Queen's Husband*.

Jean Plaidy's novel zestfully portrays the private lives and public deeds of Victoria and Albert in a royal tale of romance destined to captivate its readers.

## **The Queen's Husband Details**

Date : Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons (first published January 1st 1973)

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Author : Jean Plaidy

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## **From Reader Review The Queen's Husband for online ebook**

### **Carla Guzman says**

I realize this book is dated, and the subject is also quite dated, but, I read about 3/4 of it before i noticed a pattern--Victoria loses her temper, Albert becomes eerily calm, they make up (speaking constant lovey-dovey platitudes to each other), there's a political problem and then they have another baby. I suppose their life was mostly like this, but after their seventh child, I got so bored that I had to put it down. I love the beginning though--after watching the Young Victoria, it's nice to see someone's interpretation of Albert.

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### **Diana says**

A good read if you're at all interested in Queen Victoria. Plaidy definitely did her research, weaving actual political and cultural events in with Victoria's story, and while the writing is dated once you get into this book (and the series), she brings Victoria and her era to life.

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### **Andrea says**

At last the part of the story I've been waiting for – Victoria and Albert together! I thought this one was well developed and I found Victoria's utter devotion to her Albert, sometimes to the detriment of her children, really interesting. I'd seen things about the working relationship they formed wherein each had an area of total authority, but seeing them navigate everyday life really made the careful balance clear. As the book went on, I began dreading reaching the end as the title of the next one made it clear that Albert would not be joining us for the next installment. Overall, this was a good read though I was hoping for more of the dynamic between the two over historical touchstones.

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### **Sarah Grant says**

Even though I really enjoyed this book, and yes shed a tear at the end. I felt that half way through the book Jean Plaidy started to rush through the years a little quickly and only slowed down for the occasionally historical moment! The ways she tackled the politics of the time got a little confusing at times too.

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### **Kinsey Crosby says**

I loved this book so much, it was so interesting to see Albert's life before he married Victoria and how he dealt with her tantrums and things and how he changed her.

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## **Patricia Reynolds. candy Buckmaster. Josie Webber says**

### **I have just downloaded the next book**

I began with the Princess of Celle as I had never read about the Georgians I enjoyed them so much i have continued to read through to Victoria. Brilliant way to learn history. Plaidy was a wonderful writer you feel you are there.

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### **June Louise says**

I absolutely love Jean Plaidy's books; she brings history alive. I wish she had been my history teacher at school!

"The Queen's Husband", as the title suggests follows the life of Albert, from antisocial, spoiled and frequently-caned child to Queen Victoria's "rock" during her reign. Albert's role underwent huge changes following his marriage into the UK Royal household, and whereas Victoria could often be petulant and short-tempered, Albert was always calm and diplomatic. An ideal marriage!

I would highly recommend this series to anyone interested in history of the monarchy. The characters are engaging and the book is hard to put down. Now I'm off to read the last in the series, "The Widow of Windsor".

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### **Naomi Bowen says**

I've always been a fan of Jean Plaidy. She has a way of bringing history to life without the unnecessary sexually explicit scenes Phillips Geregory seems to use so much.

Someone leant this to me because I'd just started watching series 1 of *Victoria* (which is fab by the way).

As a result, the Victorian era is quickly becoming one of my favourite historical eras, along with the Tudors.

This book demonstrates the wide range of fascinating personalities who played vital roles in a time when Britain was changing quickly - Victoria, Albert, Melbourne, Peel, Duchess of Kent, Baroness Lehzen & more. They aren't just names, they were people like us. I wish more people realised how interesting parts of history can be!

Victoria & Albert's marriage was quite something. Arranged early on & yet became a love match with two people devoted to each other. (I wasn't sure about Plaidy's suggestion that Albert only married out of ambition).

The couple certainly faced a lot - changing prime ministers, 9 children - including the troubled man who would become the next king -, assassination attempts, Crimea eat & so on.

Surely the strength of their marriage played an important part in the growth of the power of Britain.

This book shows why Victoria was so devastated when Albert died - a shadow which hangs over the book. It certainly was a tragedy - & she would face many more years alone afterwards.

But that's another story...

This part of her story is a good one in a compelling time of British history.

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### **SSShafiq says**

This was the first book on Albert and Victoria I read - and in hard cover no less. For nostalgia reasons alone - as I don't remember the writing or plot exactly but it generally follows common beats of Victoria's marriage which are now on film as well - I rate this a 4 stars. I still love this book for reminding me of my tween years. Plus the cover - I had that book.

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### **``Laurie Henderson says**

The third book in Jean Plaidy's 4 book series about Queen Victoria.

This informative and interesting book covered the romance and marriage of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, a German prince.

Prince Albert had integrity and character and served England in any way his wife would allow - which sometimes wasn't very much.

The Prince was also intellectually inclined and much more intelligent than his wife. He wanted to invite the current authors and artists to Court but Victoria wouldn't allow it since she feared she would look dumb in comparison.

Albert did all he could to keep the queen happy, since she was capable of tantrums at times. They were rumored to fight often and loudly. They were also reputed to have had a very passionate marriage.

So passionate that Victoria had 9 children. Since Queen Victoria was so tiny and petite with Albert being much larger I'm surprised she had no difficulty with childbearing.

The kingdom was in good hands with the Prince when Victoria was on maternity leave though.

Victoria, by all accounts, was a kind and loving mother unless her children happened to disappoint her (which would bring on more tantrums), so they were generally well behaved, except for Prince Edward, the future King of England. And that's another subject altogether!

Victoria always put her kingdom first and took her duties seriously.

Prince Albert died at the age of 39 of typhoid fever, although some said he worked himself to death. He wanted the best for England although the English didn't particularly like the German prince. Which is a shame since Albert never spared himself in his duties and practically ran the country when

Victoria was having babies.

The Queen was distraught at his death. Her older daughters would bring Victoria's youngest daughter, Beatrice, to hold when she became particularly despondent. Her 3 year old daughter was such a great comfort.

Too bad there weren't anti-depressants back then because if anybody needed them it was the Queen after Albert's death. She would only wear black until her death several decades later and tended toward being a recluse. She ruled from 1837 to 1901 and is the longest ruler in English history.

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### **Amanda says**

Loved the third book in Jean Plaidy's Queen Victoria series "The Queen's Husband"!!! :D Being a fan of the tv show "Victoria" it's great to read these as I'm finding out even more about her and the people in her life, while this also being more historically accurate. This one focused more on her marriage to Prince Albert and included more of his backstory. Changed my thinking a bit on him as well as their son Bertie/King Edward VII. Loved all the scenes we still got too with Victoria and Lord Melbourne as it was more than the show even had. Also had things that'll probably happen if the show gets a 3rd season. So sad with all the deaths though but also loved they included so many of the people from the show and that haven't been in the show. Looking forward to reading the final book in the series soon about the rest of her life as a widow.

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### **Piyangie says**

The story through life events of Queen Victoria from her marriage to Prince Albert till his death. There is a good insight into the the relationship between the Queen and her husband and especially of their love and devotion towards each other. And it is also interesting to note that while Queen Victoria wielded power over an empire who the real power was behind close doors!

However, informative as it was, there was no story to read but only a biographic account of the life of one of the most prominent royal couples of yesteryear.

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### **Victoria says**

This is the third in the Queen Victoria Series by Jane Plaidy, but could very well be a brilliant stand-alone. It chronicles the very human romance and marriage of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. I found that their love story, and their constant development of their marriage, was blended very nicely with the numerous political moments of Victoria's reign. I found it well researched.

I found the description of both characters very human and very easy to connect to.

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### **Alice says**

Mlle Alice, pouvez-vous nous raconter votre rencontre avec The Queen's Husband?

"Le tome précédent s'étant achevé sur le mariage d'Albert et Victoria, j'avais hâte de les suivre dans leur nouvelle vie ensemble et j'ai enchaîné directement sur celui-ci."

Dites-nous en un peu plus sur son histoire...

"Ce troisième tome se concentre sur la vie de la Reine Victoria, du jour de son mariage avec Albert, à la mort de celui-ci."

Mais que s'est-il exactement passé entre vous?

"Le début de l'histoire nous fait délaisser quelques temps Victoria pour nous raconter l'enfance et l'adolescence d'Albert. Si j'avoue avoir trouvé cette partie un peu longue et moins captivante, elle est effectivement essentielle à la compréhension du caractère du futur Prince Consort. Et, bien qu'après la lecture de cette série, je n'ai plus beaucoup de sympathie pour lui, je crois que sans cette explication de son passé, je l'aurais profondément détesté. La suite nous dévoile effectivement un homme rigide, qui ne rie jamais, ambitieux et orgueilleux. Il ne resort pas grand chose de l'amour qu'il est censé ressentir pour sa femme et il est particulièrement odieux avec son fils aîné. Heureusement, pour contrebalancer cela, on le plaint aussi parfois du caractère exécrable de sa femme et de sa stupidité constante qu'il doit supporter stoïquement. Une fois encore, je me demande si on ne tombe pas dans la caricature. Si le livre reste toutefois agréable à lire, ce n'est pas vraiment ce que je m'attendais à découvrir en choisissant de lire l'histoire romancée de la vie de Victoria. J'aimais je n'aurais cru qu'en refermant ce tome-ci, mon favori entre tous serait ce pauvre Bertie."

Et comment cela s'est-il fini?

"Autant le tome précédent se répétait sans cesse et traînait en longueur, autant celui-ci, qui pour à peine plus de pages couvre une période quatre fois plus longue au moins, est parfois un peu rapide. D'un chapitre à l'autre, il peut s'être écoulé deux ans. Pourtant, lorsqu'Albert meurt dans les dernières pages, c'est presque un soulagement..."

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<http://booksaremywonderland.hautetfort.com/2013/07/the-queens-husband.html>

### **Precious Maiquez says**

I was really glad to have unearthed Jean Plaidy in the historical-fiction shelves. I had really had enough of the overrated Tudors and Philippa Gregory has not wrote anything about the Victorian Era just yet.

The book painted a colorful love and life story of Prince Albert and Queen Victoria. People always say that "Behind every success (and failure) of a man lies a woman;" I never thought that this also goes the other way around. The first years of Victoria's reign, though very trying, would not be successful without the wisdom and guidance of Albert.

Apart from the couple's love story, the book also spoke of the political and power struggles that the Victorian

regime faced. Truly a book that both hopeless romantics and political scientists (such as myself) can enjoy.

I may note a few historical inaccuracies (is William VII the "Bertie" that stammered? Wasn't it George VI?) but I am not really a scholar in the matter so I will keep most of these complaints to myself.

4.5 stars

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